Volume 13, Issue #3

August 2010

MAINE ARCHIVES & MUSEUMS

NEWSLETTER

Value Assessment and Conservation Planning

by Ron Harvey, Conservator & Principal, Tuckerbrook Conservation LLC

As part of an L.C. Bates Museum IMLS CPS grant, the museum partnered with MAM and conservator Ron Harvey to present an L.C. Bates Museum/MAM workshop on the process of collection care (June 21, 2010) and this MAM Newsletter *article.*

LEFT: Conservator Ron Harvey examines a mounted passenger pigeon, now extinct, in the collections of the L.C. Bates Museum.

A review of collections using the "value" of the items as assessed by the curator, as well as the condition of the items as assessed by the conservator, may result in a more accurate and rational identification of the long-term preservation of the collections. Often the choice of an object in the collection targeted for conservation is the result of an exhibit or due to an accident that has resulted in damage to the item. The choice to conserve an item may be the result of the identification of that object or item as the "most important" piece in the collection, therefore warranting treatment.

Assessing your collection, preservation, and conservation needs requires a foundation of collection knowledge as well as grounding in preservation principles and methods. Typically, institutions engage a conservator to address preservation planning. We are suggesting partnering with a conservator to address preservation and conservation issues associated with your collections.

Prior to continuing the process of collection preservation, it is necessary to define terms. The following appears on the American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works (AIC) website (www.conservation-us.org) in the Frequently Asked Question and Answer section:

What is conservation?

Conservation encompasses actions taken toward the long-term preservation of cultural property. Conservation activities include examination, documentation, treatment, and preventive care, supported by research and education.

How is conservation different from restoration?

Sometimes confusion arises about the terms "restoration" and "conservation." Restoration *is actually a type of conservation treatment. It specifically refers to an attempt to bring cultural property closer to its original appearance. The other type of conservation treatment is* stabilization, *which refers to an attempt to maintain the integrity of cultural property and to only minimize deterioration.*

What is a conservator?

Conservators are professionals who work to physically save our cultural property from the ravages of time, the threats of pollution, and the devastation brought by natural disasters. A conservator may be trained at a conservation graduate training program or by lengthy apprenticeship with experienced senior colleagues. Working in museums, other cultural institutions, research labs, and in private practice, conservators combine unique skills gained through ongoing study and advanced training in art history, science, studio art, and related disciplines to care for and preserve our tangible history.

Because of the increasingly technical nature of modern conservation, conservators usually specialize in a particular type of object, such as: paintings, works of art on paper, rare books, photographs, electronic media, textiles, furniture, archaeological and ethnographic materials, sculpture, architectural elements, or decorative arts.

AIC has defined the following in the Guidelines for Practice of the AIC:

Preventive Conservation

The conservation professional should recognize the critical importance of preventive conservation as the most effective means of promoting the long-term preservation of cultural property. The conservation professional should provide guidelines for continuing use and care, recommend appropriate environmental conditions for storage and exhibition, and encourage proper procedures for handling, packing, and transport.

Treatment

Suitability: The conservation professional performs within a continuum of care and will rare-

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Maine Archives and Museums
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Maine Archives and Museums
P.O. Box 5024, Augusta, ME 04332-5024
207-441-1410 • Fax 207-621-8048
www.mainemuseums.org

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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(207) 287-2724, www.mainearts.com —
Call for deadlines.

MAINE HUMANITIES COUNCIL (MHC)
(207) 773-5051, www.mainehumanities.org
Discretionary Grants (up to $500), reviewed on a rolling basis. Outreach Grants (up to $1,000), reviewed quarterly. Major Grants (up to $6,000), reviewed twice a year.

NEW ENGLAND FOUNDATION FOR THE ARTS
(617) 492-2914 — Call for deadlines.

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF MUSEUMS
(202) 289-9118, www.aam-us.org — Call for deadlines.
Museum Assessment Programs I: Operations
Museum Assessment Programs II: Collections
Museum Assessment Programs III: Public Perception

HERITAGE PRESERVATION
Conservation Assessment Program
1625 K St., NW, Suite 700, Washington, DC 20006
Phone (202) 634-1422 • Fax (202) 634-1435
www.heritagepreservation.org

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES
NEH Consultation Grants for Libraries, Museums, or Special Projects — Sept. 16.
NEH Preservation & Access Research & Development Grants — Oct. 1.
NEH Stabilization of Humanities Collections — Oct. 1.
(202) 606-8400, www.neh.gov

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS
NEA Artistic Creativity & Preservation and Heritage & Preservation — Aug. 18.
NEA Challenge America: Access to the Arts — Aug. 18
(202) 682-5400, www.arts.gov

INSTITUTE OF MUSEUM & LIBRARY SERVICES
General Operating Support — Call for deadlines.
(202) 606-8539, www.imls.gov
Conservation Project Support —
110 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20506
(202) 606-8539 — Deadline March 5.
IMLS Conservation Project Support — Oct. 15. NEH Exemplary Education Projects — Oct. 15.

ODIORNE GRANT PROGRAM
Supports projects combining archives and archaeology.
Maine State Archives, #84 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333-0084 — deadline March 1.

NATIONAL HISTORIC PUBLICATIONS AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION (NHPRC)
Application guidelines and forms may be requested from NHPRC, National Archives & Records Administration,
700 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Room 106,
Washington, DC 20408-0001
(202) 501-5610
fax (202) 501-5601
e-mail nhprc@arch1.nara.gov
or web site at http:www.nara.gov/nhprc
Deadline is October 1.
Information and advice available from State Archives — (207) 287-5793.

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION (NSF)
(202) 357-9498
www.nsf.gov

NATIONAL TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION
(617) 523-0885
www.nationaltrust.org

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NEXT ISSUE: NOVEMBER 2010
Only submissions received by the Editor by September 30, 2010, will be considered for publication.
Jessica Skwire Routhier
Saco Museum, 371 Main St., Saco, ME 04072
207-283-3861, ext. 114
www.sacomuseum.org

MAM NEWS

MAM Board Meeting Highlights from April 12, 2010

(Bangor Public Library)

Treasurer's report: The decision was made to modify MAM's membership in Maine Tourism association: MAM will pay only the $140 membership fee and not the $135 brochure display fee, now that our primary means of communication is the website.

Membership renewals and other initiatives: A simplified membership form has been created for the website, which was distributed and discussed.

Corporate/business memberships were discussed with the consensus that this category would include archives/museum service providers and culturally relevant corporations/businesses. These are distinct from sponsors of particular initiative (eg., newsletter or conference). Suggested annual rate: $40. Potential benefits to include: hyperlink on MAM site to corporate/business website; opportunity to advertise in *MAM Newsletter*; vendor table at MAM conferences. The Membership Committee will draft a proposal for this category for the July Board meeting.

The new website data entry form for member institutions was reviewed and approved; Edna will begin to put it in use. She will also seek suggestions from participating institutions about how to improve the information uploading process.

Maine Council of Social Studies solicitation: MAM has been asked to solicit its members for funds to cover the cost of teacher substitutes, to allow teachers to attend conference. Ultimately, it was resolved that, while MAM is sympathetic to the goals of the organizations involved, we decline to solicit our members for the MCSS fund as requested.

Other Business

Annual conference: Jessica offered to host at the Dyer Library/Saco Museum. She will work in collaboration with Program Committee. Consensus: Friday, 29 October does not conflict with NEA or NEMA fall meetings.

Edna has created MAM Google Group as site for working documents and exchange of internal news. Board members should create accounts to access the site.

Jessica informed Board that the EC had agreed to participate in the Maine Drawing Project.

Regional reps: George has made contact with potential regional reps on MDI and in Washington County.

Executive Committee Meeting Highlights from May 3, 2010

This meeting was one of the first to be conducted successfully via TokBox. Attending (remotely) were Jay Adams, George Squibb, Niles Parker, Edna Comstock.

Minutes of 5 April 2010 EC meeting were approved.

Membership: Edna reported membership at 223. Discussion followed of ways to continue reaching out to 2009 members who have not renewed and former members from 2007 and 2008. Jay shared his concern that we need to reach out to these folks by the end of June.

Business Membership proposal: George presented his draft of a business membership for MAM which was discussed by the group in terms of what steps might be needed to get it up and running.

1. Gather a list of potential members.
2. Develop page on website for the resource list. Edna charged with contacting Todd about adding this page (and getting the membership form fixed).
3. Offer businesses an opportunity to be on the list before memberships become available and differentiate as we do with our institutional members. Non-member listed but without link to their web page.
4. Develop rates for discounted ads and exhibits fees for member businesses.

Conference Program discussion: The group agreed that while the annual meeting was a necessary piece of the event, the focus should be more on ways to celebrate the work and those in the field as well as providing a place where general concerns could be addressed. With that in mind, the consensus was to make the theme for the Conference a "Celebration of What We Do." And that instead of having regular vendors we ask attendees to bring/share something from their organization as part of a celebration exhibit. Jay will contact Joanna to start fleshing out this idea with the Program Committee.

–continued on page 4

Technical Assistance for Historical and Cultural Institutions from the Cultural Resources Information Center

CRIC

The Cultural Resources Information Center is a collaborative project of the Maine State Museum and the Maine State Archives funded through the New Century Community Program. The CRIC Office serves as an information clearing house and a technical assistance office in support of Maine's historical and cultural institutions and collections. CRIC works very closely with Maine Archives and Museums.

Contact the CRIC office for museum or historical collections issues, including:

- collections care and conservation
- a list of professional consultants
- sample policies (collections, personnel, etc.)
- how to start a museum
- a list of microfilm vendors
- accessibility issues
- trusteeship
- just about anything else you could possibly think of!

The CRIC office is staffed one day a week (usually Tuesdays) and will provide you with answers via telephone, mail or email. Just contact:

CRIC
#84 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0084
maine.cric@maine.gov
207-287-7591

GET EXTRA NEWSLETTERS

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Maine Archives & Museums
207-441-1410

MAM NEW MEMBERS

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Deer Isle-Stonington Historical Society

Desiree Butterfield-Nagy
UMaine Special Collections Department

Jocelyn Leadbetter
Maine Medical Center Archives

JoAnne Harbourt
Denmark Historical Society

Mary Henderson
Dead River Historical Society

Lori Benson

Holden Historical Society

Nancy Hoffman
The Umbrella Cover Museum

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Orono, ME 04469-5787
207-581-4100
patricia_henner@umit.maine.edu

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39 Second Street, Presque Isle, ME 04769
207-764-2571 or 2572
richardasam@presqueisle.lib.me.us

Jane Bianco (2010)
Farnsworth Art Museum
16 Museum Street, Rockland, ME 04841
207-596-6457 x104, jbianco@farnsworthmuseum.org

Amelia Chamberlain (2006)
19th Century Willowbrook Village
PO Box 28, Newfield, ME 04056
207-793-2784, director@willowbrookmuseum.org

Niles Parker (2010)
Penobscot Marine Museum
PO Box 498, Searsport, ME 04974-0498
207-548-2529 x201
nparker@penobscotmarinemuseum.org

Candy Russell (2008)
Moosehead Historical Museum
PO Box 1116, Greenville, ME 04441
207-695-2909, mooseheadhistory@myfairpoint.net

Jessica Skwire Routhier (2009)
Saco Museum
371 Main Street, Saco, ME 04072
207-283-3861 x114, museum@sacomuseum.org

Joanna Torow (2007)
Maine State Museum
83 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333-0083
207-287-2301, joanna.torow@maine.gov

MAM News, *continued from page 3*

Executive Committee Meeting Highlights from June 7, 2010

In attendance (via TokBox) were Jay Adams, Pat Burdick, Edna Comstock, Carolin Collins.

Minutes from the May 3 Executive Committee meeting were approved.

Membership: Membership (234) has already surpassed last year's number of 230. In general, MAM's financial situation is very good.

Website: Work continues on the MAM website; the contractor is ready to add a "resources" page as soon as Board members can provide content. The website now has the capacity to accept images (jpgs only) from member institutions. Edna will contact institutions that indicated they would like an image with their listing.

Regional Reps will be encouraged to contact institutions that have never been members.

Carolin Collins announced that she has accepted a new position in Massachusetts, and must therefore resign from the MAM Board. The Board wishes her well in her new endeavors. The Nominating Committee will discuss finding her replacement at the July 12 meeting of the full board.

The theme of this year's annual meeting is "Celebration." The program committee will develop the idea further in time for the next meeting of the full board.

***Minutes of the July 12, 2010 meeting of the MAM Board of Trustees were not available at press time for this issue of the* MAM Newsletter.**

Save the Date: MAM Annual Conference and Meeting

"Ideas and Inspiration: A Celebration of Maine's Museums and Archives"
Dyer Library and Saco Museum, Saco
Friday, October 29, 2010

Join us for this year's revamped annual conference and meeting! The theme, *Ideas and Inspiration,* celebrates the field of museum and archive work by highlighting the accomplishments of member institutions. Among these institutions are the Dyer Library and Saco Museum themselves, which have just opened a new, permanent exhibition dedicated to 400 years of history in the Saco River Valley. An opportunity to tour *Making History: Art and Industry in the Saco River Valley* will be a highlight of the conference agenda.

In addition to another engaging slate of sessions, including a keynote address and an opportunity to make your voice heard at the annual meeting session, there will be new and exciting ways for organizations to share their achievements with the MAM community. A full conference agenda and registration forms will be mailed to MAM's membership in the early fall; in the meantime, keep your eye on MAM's website—www.mainemuseums.org—and on your email and snail-mail inboxes for more information.

Picture This!

The MAM website is now ready to display images of your organization! Gather together the images you want to use—up to four—in jpg format, and then contact Edna Comstock at the MAM office for more information:

mam@gwi.net
info@mainemuseums.org
or 207-441-1410 •

EXHIBITIONS & EVENTS

ART AT MARRETT
Marrett House, Route 25, Standish
Sat., Oct. 2, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Sun., Oct. 3, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Join us for an autumn celebration of art at the 1789 Marrett House, one of Historic New England's Maine properties. The Saco River Art League and other Maine artists will be on hand displaying and selling their works. Marrett House will be open for tours both days. Come see Maine art at its best! Free tours. Artwork for sale. For more information: 207-882-7169.

BETHEL HISTORICAL SOCIETY
The Art of Helen Anna Morton
July 3 through Oct. 29, 2010

A dedicated, long-time Bethel Historical Society volunteer and house museum guide, the late Helen Anna Morton (1913-2009) of Newry, Maine, produced numerous artworks during her lifetime. She was well known in the New England area and worked in oil, watercolor, pencil, pen and ink, crayon, pastels, and scratchboard. Exhibiting for many years at local galleries, she participated in art shows all over Maine each summer and was a founding member of the Western Maine Art Group. In conjunction with the 2010 Mahoosuc Arts Council's "Bethel Art Fair" being held in honor of Mrs. Morton, the society will display some twenty paintings by this talented artist. FMI 800-824-2910; www.bethelhistorical.org.

Umbagog Lake from New Hampshire, *about 1985, oil on canvas, 24x30 in. Collection of the Bethel Historical Society.*

"War & Pieces"
Civil War Reproduction Sampler
July 1 through Sept. 18, 2010

Displayed in conjunction with the recent publication of *Write Quick: War and a Woman's Life in Letters, 1836-1867*—a book based on Civil War era letters and documents in the society's collections—as well as the upcoming sesquicentennial of the American Civil War, this modern adaptation of an 1860s appliquéd sampler quilt was designed by B. Brackman and K. Menaugh and is based on "pictorial" Civil War quilts that featured patriotic images and were created, for the most part, by Union supporters. The image on each of the nine 15-inch squares in this reproduction quilt was taken from a design that represents a special phase of the War. Surrounding the blocks is a wide border containing designs that represent post-war hopes for peace and forgiveness: shields representing the Union, doves of peace, and an entwined rose and lily that represent re-Union. The "War and Peace" quilt was appliquéd by hand by society members Mabel Kennett, Lee Barth, and June Abbott, and hand-quilted by Mable Kennett. Measuring nearly seven feet square, the quilt was presented to the Bethel Historical Society in 2002. FMI 800-824-2910; www.bethelhistorical.org.

"War & Pieces" Civil War Reproduction Sampler, on view through Sept. 18 at the Bethel Historical Society.

ANNA SEWELL'S BLACK BEAUTY
Skyline Farm Carriage Museum
95 The Lane, North Yarmouth
Sundays through Aug. 22
1-4 p.m., or by appointment

Skyline Farm Carriage Museum's summer exhibit is based on Anna Sewell's 1877 classic. The exhibit, in collaboration with Bound By Books of Brunswick, covers several periods during this famous horse's life, showcasing its New England carriages similar to the ones mentioned in the book which was set in Old England. Free admission; donations gratefully accepted. www.skylinefarm.org.

Related Program: *Black Beauty Book Discussion: Lisa M. Winfrey of Bound By Books leads the discussion, delving into all aspects of Sewell's book. Sun., Aug. 15, 3:30 p.m. FMI contact Sheila Libby Alexander, 207-799-7614 or info@skylinefarm.org.*

THE GREAT FIRE OF 1911
Bangor Museum and History Center

Bangor Museum and History Center's featured exhibit this season at the Thomas A Hill House & Civil War Museum is the "Great Fire of 1911." Curator Dana Lippitt worked with fourth-graders who researched and wrote labels that describe historic photographs through the people's voices that experienced the fire. Students donned period clothing reproductions for a presentation on the fire. Betts Swanton was the consulting exhibit designer. 159 Union Street, Bangor, 942-1900, www.bangormuseum.org.

COLLECTIONS AT HISTORY HOUSE
Parsonsfield-Porter Historical Society
Sun., Sept. 5, 3-5 p.m., and
Sun., Sept. 19, 1-3 p.m.

Parsonsfield-Porter Historical Society's exhibit at "History House" this season—"Collections"—will display some of our seldom seen hobby collections as well as a few private collections. All of "History House" will be open for tours. Demonstrations by local craftsmen will also be featured. Location: 92 Main St., Porter, Me. (Kezar Falls), pphs@parsonsfieldporterhistorical.org.

SUMMER AT COLONIAL PEMAQUID
Colonial Pemaquid, through Sept. 5, 2010

In 2010, Colonial Pemaquid once again will host a series of living history events, lectures, and an archaeology workshop to showcase various aspects of life in Midcoast Maine during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries and, more specifically, Pemaquid's place in that colonial world. Sponsored by the Friends of Colonial Pemaquid, these events draw expertise from historians, authors, and archaeologists to help build an accurate picture of the place on the map known as Pemaquid. Most living history events take place outdoors on the

Colonial Pemaquid at twilight.

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weekends, and while there is no charge, donations are gratefully accepted. History lectures are held on Monday evenings in the site museum at Colonial Pemaquid State Historic Site, where a modest fee of $5 is charged for nonmembers. The popular archaeology discovery workshop is a hands-on, family-friendly event that offers participating youths and adults the chance to try out a simulated dig, reassemble broken ceramics, and learn the basics of historic archaeology. Summer 2010 will also see the initial construction of authentic replicas of two 1600s dwellings. Join other history lovers in supporting this summer's close look at a time and a place so important to the European development of the New World. Reservations for school or group tours can be made by calling 207-677-2423. FMI visit the park's website at www.friendsofcolonialpemaquid.org.

"Uneasy Alliance: Trade and Conflict in Seventeenth-Century Coastal Maine"
Sat./Sun., July 31 - Aug. 4, 1-4 p.m.
Europeans and Native Americans, featuring living history interpreter Ken Hamilton. Donations welcome.

"Ambivalent Allegiances in Revolutionary Maine"
Mon., Aug. 2, 7:30 p.m.
Evening lecture by University of Maine history professor Liam Riordan. $5 donation or free to members.

Angel Gabriel Day at Colonial Pemaquid
Sat., Aug. 7, 2 p.m.
Official dedication of memorial to the Furber Family.

"Martha Ballard, Eighteenth-Century Midwife"
Mon., Aug. 9, 7:30 p.m.
Evening lecture by Old Fort Western educator Patti Violette. $5 donation or free to members.

Evening Lantern Walk
Wed., Aug. 11, 8 p.m.
Step into the past as you tour a seventeenth-century village and meet an eighteenth-century soldier on duty at Fort William Henry. Rain date Aug. 12. Donations welcome.

"The Age of Pirates"
Sat./Sun., Aug. 14-15, 1 and 3 p.m.
Re-creation of the infamous Dixie Bull by living history presenter and local author James Nelson. Olde Bristol Days event. Donations welcome.

"12,000 Years in Maine: Pemaquid's Place in Maine History"
Mon., Aug. 16, 7:30 p.m.
Evening lecture by Bates College anthropologist Dr. Bruce Bourque. $5 donation or free to members.

"They Came to Fish: Exploring Early Pemaquid's Transformation from Seasonal Fishing Station to Permanent Settlement"
Mon., Aug. 23, 7:30 p.m.
Evening lecture by historical archaeologist Dr. Neill DePaoli. $5 donation or free to members.

"Early Shipwrights Along the Damariscotta"
Mon., Aug. 30, 7:30 p.m.
Evening lecture by historical archaeologist Tim Dinsmore. $5 donation or free to members.

Castlebay in Concert: Season's End
Sun., Sept. 5, 1 and 3 p.m.
Celtic music performed outdoors by popular local duo Fred Gosbee and Julia Lane. Rain date Sept. 6. Donations are welcome.

CREATING CHOSEN LAND: OUR HOME 1783-2010
Sabbathday Lake Shaker Museum
New Gloucester
Through 2011
This exhibit and accompanying catalog tells in personal terms the village's history through the communal structures and lives of the Shakers who have lived there as well as the present Shakers, the only active Shaker community in the country. The exhibit will be open in both the 2010 and 2011 seasons. The exhibit and catalog are funded by the William Penn Foundation, the Maine Community Foundation, the Davis Family Foundation, and private individuals. FMI www.shaker.lib.me.us.

IN A PLACE BY HIMSELF: THE GRAPHIC WORLD OF WINSLOW HOMER
Saco Museum
June 26 through Nov. 14, 2010
The year 2010 marks the 100th anniversary of Winslow Homer's death. In recognition of the fact that this most iconic of all American artists spent the second half of his career right here on Saco Bay, the Saco Museum is pleased to present this celebration of his work as a graphic artist. Though Winslow Homer is known today as perhaps the greatest American painter of all time, he was also involved in printmaking throughout his career. This exhibition presents a full view of his achievements in the graphic arts, from his earliest lithographs produced when he was still a teenager, to the wood engravings publications like *Harper's Weekly* and *Appleton's Journal,* to his little-known book illustrations, to the late, great etchings that he created in his studio on Prouts Neck, Maine. "In a Place by Himself: The Graphic World of Winslow Homer"—which includes prints from the collections of the Dyer Library and Saco Museum, the Farnsworth Art Museum, the University of Maine Museum of Art, and the unparalleled collection of Dr. and Mrs. Harold Osher—was made possible by a grant from Saco & Biddeford Savings Institution. FMI 207-283-3861, www.sacomuseum.org.

Winslow Homer (1936-1810), Eight Bells, *1889, etching. Farnsworth Art Museum, Museum purchase, 1943.*

READFIELD WINE AND CHEESE
Readfield Historical Society will host its Third Annual Wine and Cheese Social on Friday, Aug. 20, from 5 to 7 p.m. at their building at 759 Main Street (Rte. 17) in Readfield Depot. It is free to RHS members, with new members happily accepted at the door. Annual membership is $10. The Social will feature wine and non-alcoholic beverages and an assortment of finger foods. Our aim is to catch folks coming from a hard week at work, get them into the building for a little relaxed visiting and refreshments, and maybe pick up some new members. FMI http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~mecreadf/rdfldrhs.htm.

SWAN'S ISLANDERS AT PLAY
Swan Island Educational Society, Aug. 17
The Swan's Island Educational Society is presenting a Listening Night and Exhibit. On Aug. 17, come listen to an audio show of stories about *Swan's Islanders at Play.* Show starts at 7 o'clock at the Odd Fellows Hall on Harbor Rd., Swan's Island, Me. Learn more at www.swansisland.org/simp.

A seaside picnic on Swan's Island, early 1900s.

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EXHIBITIONS & EVENTS

SUMMER WITH WISCASSET'S HISTORIC NEW ENGLAND PROPERTIES
Twilight Tours
Castle Tucker, 2 Lee Street, and Nickels-Sortwell House, 121 Main Street
Thurs., Aug. 19, 5-7 p.m.

Come tour two 1807 mansions at a very special time of day. Admission includes a tour of both houses. See rooms not usually open to the public for a deeper view of how the families used these unique homes. At Nickels-Sortwell House, for the first time in fifty years, see additional rooms that offer a view into how the Sortwell family used the house as a summer home. Admission: $8 Historic New England members, $15 non-members. *Please note:* Preregistration for a specific tour is required. Call 207-882-7169 or visit www.HistoricNewEngland.org to reserve your space now.

Lecture Series:
Celebrating the 150th Anniversary of the Colonial Revival Movement in America
Sponsored by the Maine Humanities Council.

"Charles Eliot and the Nickels-Sortwell Garden"
Nickels-Sortwell House
212 Main Street, Wiscasset
Sun., Aug. 8, 3-4:30 p.m.

Landscape historian and author Marta McDowell talks about Charles W. Eliot II, one of this country's pre-eminent landscape architects and a member of the Olmsted design firm. Eighty-five years ago, Eliot designed the Colonial Revival garden at Nickels-Sortwell House, one of his earliest private commissions. This series is sponsored by the Maine Humanities Council. The final lecture takes place Sun., Sept. 1. $5 Historic New England members, $10 non-members. Please call 207-882-7169 for additional information or visit www.historicnewengland.org.

"The Colonial Revival Image: Lincoln County Architectural Landmarks as Pictured by Early Twentieth-Century Post Card Photographers"
Nickels-Sortwell House
121 Main Street, Wiscasset
Sun., Sept. 19, 3-4:30 p.m.

Continuing the celebration of the 150th birthday of the Colonial Revival movement, Earle Shettleworth, Maine State Historian, Director of the Maine Historic Preservation Commission, and State Historic Preservation Officer, will present a collection of photo postcards from 1910 to 1940 of the architectural landmarks of Wiscasset. The choice of images and their interpretation reflect the growing popular awareness of Wiscasset as "Maine's Prettiest Village" and the effect this Colonial Revival mystique had on preserving the town to the present day. $5 HNE members, $10 non-members. Please call 207-882-7169 for more information or visit www.historicnewengland.org.

Early color postcard of Castle Tucker.

UPTON SESQUICENTENNIAL

The town of Upton is celebrating its Sesquicentennial this year on Aug. 21, starting with a 10 a.m. parade from East B Hill Road to Mill Road where the historic Grange Hall, Upton Union Church, Ladies Aide Building, and School House, site of the new Upton Historical Society *(see story below)*, are located. There will be activities all day long, including a quilt display, horseshoe tournament, arts and crafts to buy, historic items and documents to peruse, genealogy information, buildings to tour, food to buy, a community spaghetti supper to share, square-dancing after supper, and music into the night to celebrate. FMI call Deborah Judkins at 533-2331. •

New MAM Member: The Upton Historical Society

by Deborah Judkins

The Upton Historical Society is a nonprofit organization that strives to collect (by ownership or loan), preserve, display, and research historically significant artifacts, photographs, and documents that pertain to Upton and surrounding areas, including but not limited to Grafton Township, Magalloway Plantation, and Township C, in order to preserve the history and achievement of the people and culture of our town and surrounding areas.
—Upton Historical Society Mission Statement

A SMALL GROUP of current and former residents of Upton, Maine, have been meeting monthly since January, 2010, to organize and incorporate a new historical society in the Western White Mountains of Maine. The town of Upton is celebrating its Sesquicentennial this year on August 21 (the actual date of incorporation was February 9, 1860), starting with a 10 a.m. parade from East B Hill Road to Mill Road where the historic Grange Hall, Upton Union Church, Ladies Aide Building, and School House are located. There will be activities all day long, including a quilt display, horseshoe tournament, arts and crafts, historic items and documents, genealogy information, building tours, food, a community spaghetti supper, square-dancing, and music.

Newly elected officers and trustees include President Joe Bernier; Vice President Bob Folsom; Treasurer Lou Bernier; Secretary Jennie Bernier; Trustees Jim Rector, Leslie Aron, and Deborah Judkins (who has also been appointed curator). Other people who have helped with the establishment of this new historical society are Doris Williamson Fraser, Richard Fraser, Mary Douglass Davis, Richard Angevine, Judy Bennett, Avery Angevine, Aldro French, Marie Johnson, Leslie Fuller, Jeanne Abbott, Earnest and Alberta Angevine, Scott Wight, and Ginny Williamson.

Permission has been granted by the Selectmen for Upton Historical Society to use the upstairs floor of the school house. Membership applications are available online on the Facebook page for Upton Historical Society with a membership fee of $10.00. Memberships can be mailed to Joe Bernier on Back Street, Upton, ME 04261. For more information or to talk to someone directly, please call Deborah Judkins at 533-2331. •

Umbagog Lake from the highlands of Letter B Township, now Upton, Maine. Photo courtesy Bethel Historical Society.

DISPATCHES

BETHEL

Bethel Historical Society receives grant to fund William Bingham II biography.

William Bingham II, 1879-1955.

Over the years, the society has developed one of the most active publishing programs of any historical organization of its size in northern New England. That agenda has recently received a substantial boost with the news of a $15,000 grant from The William Bingham Foundation "for research, writing, and publication of a biography of William Bingham II." This much-anticipated project is being carried out by Stanley R. Howe, the society's associate director, with the society's executive director, Randall H. Bennett, serving as project director. This ambitious project, scheduled to take place over the next three years, will require additional funds from other sources, and society staff are currently exploring various avenues of support. A shy and reclusive man whose great wealth profoundly influenced Bethel's twentieth-century character, William Bingham II first visited Bethel in 1911, where he benefited from the therapeutic skills of Dr. John George Gehring. In the early 1920s, Bingham purchased a fine Shingle Style home at the south end of Broad Street and returned each summer until his death in 1955. The positive effects of his philanthropy in Bethel and throughout the Northeast will certainly be a major focus of the planned biography. FMI 800-824-2910, www.bethelhistorical.org.

Bethel Historical Society
Strategic Plan Progress Report

A recent evaluation of the society's 2009-13 Strategic Plan confirms that significant progress has been made over the past year in achieving many of the plan's goals. Divided into various subject areas—including collections, facilities, programs and exhibits, community relations, and budget—the strategic plan lists some 40 specific "action steps" that, once accomplished, will move the society into a position where it will be a financially stable organization that carefully preserves and manages its collections, serves the varied members of its community with appealing and informative programs, exhibits, and publications, and keeps its facilities accessible and in sound condition. While a handful of action steps still need attention, 19 out of 40 have been carried out, and 14 more are "in process and on schedule." Thanks to the work of many hands, the society is making solid progress on numerous fronts, while weathering an uncertain economy that has affected all nonprofit organizations.

Among the major goals of the plan that have been addressed successfully are the following:

- Develop a plan and get board approval for balancing the society's operating budget.
- Establish a collections management plan that addresses collection uses, priorities, staffing and resource needs.
- Clearly define the society's constituencies.
- Increase collaboration with other nonprofit organizations through the Institute for Civic Leadership.
- Develop a brand identity and consistent signage.
- Provide for better physical accessibility at the society's Robinson House.
- Develop protocols for programs, exhibits, and publications.

FMI 800-824-2910, www.bethelhistorical.org.

WILSON MUSEUM BULLETIN

Winter 2008 Vol. 5, No. 1

Looking Forward Strategically

CASTINE

The **Wilson Museum** was recently recognized by the New England Museum Association for publication excellence. The newly redesigned *Bulletin* was awarded a Second Place Publication Competition Award in the category of Newsletters and Magazines (budget under $750,000). The new *Bulletin* format incorporates a drawing of the Wilson Museum's front door drafted by Sherman Hutchins, Buildings & Grounds Manager. The layout, including center pages in full color, was done by Debbie Morehouse, Administrative Assistant. Overall, 241 publications from 78 museums were entered in the competition in 19 different categories. Winners are being announced in the summer issue of *NEMA News,* and the publications will be exhibited at NEMA's annual conference in Springfield, Mass., in November. Following the conference, all entries will be donated to the Boston Public Library.

Darren French

The Wilson Museum is also pleased to announce the appointment of Darren French as Education Coordinator. Darren, a 2005 graduate of the University of Maine at Orono with a B.A. in Cultural Anthropology, has recently completed his M.A. in American and New England Studies at the University of Southern Maine. His experience includes work at the **Page Farm and Home Museum** and the **Saco Museum.** The position of Education Coordinator is a new position for the museum. Thanks, in part, to last fall's successful community collaboration to bring the *Abraham Lincoln: Self Made in America* traveling exhibit to Castine, the museum recognized a need in the community for quality educational experiences—a role that fits the Wilson Museum's mission perfectly. The responsibilities of the Education Coordinator will include developing, implementing, and promoting programming aimed at school-age children as well as summer programming for the general visiting public. Executive Director Patricia Hutchins, Board of Trustees, and museum staff look forward to Darren's close collaboration with area educators and other cultural institutions in order to develop complementary programming that will address the needs of schools and the community. Darren was formally introduced by Education Advisory Chairman Barbara Jackson at the June 13 Members' Reception and joined the staff on June 14.

CORINTH

Corinth Historical Society & Museum are working closely with Corinth's Bicentennial Celebration Committee in preparation for Corinth's 200th anniversary of incorporation. The actual date of the incorporation is June 21, 2011, but there are plans for year-long events and celebrations with a parade and fireworks planned for July 15-16, 2011. The centennial (100 years) celebration took place in August 1911, with many of the Main Street businesses decked out in banners for the event.

NEW GLOUCESTER

The **New Gloucester Historical Society** dedicated their new History Barn last fall. The ground level is being used as a display area for

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parts of its history collection, most notably the society's vehicle collection. The second floor serves as a work and storage area and was completed in July. The barn was made possible by generous donations of dozens of town residents, including one generous contributor whose donations helped not only in the barn's construction but in the establishment of an endowment fund for the facility. FMI: P.O. Box 531, New Gloucester, ME 04260, newgloucester.com.

Corinth Town Hall
1911 Centennial Celebration.
Corinth Historical Society Collection.

The **Sabbathday Lake Shaker Museum** has partnered with a group of local artisans named Creative New Gloucester. Several of the 70 members of the group have on display and for sale at the museum's reception center some of their creations, ranging from vocal CDs, handwork from sheep, angoras and special papers, hand-spun yarns, quilts, shoulder bags, and hand-painted oval boxes. The display and sale are open during the museum hours. FMI: www.shaker.lib.me.us.

NORTH YARMOUTH

Erin Bishop

Skyline Farm's new program developer, a position generously funded by the Davis Family Foundation, is Erin Bishop, who is developing educational programs that effectively integrate with Skyline Farm's museum exhibits and community events. She is the former Director of Education for the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum in Springfield, Illinois, and has served as a Historic Programs Specialist for the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency Sites Division. Erin obtained her M.A. and Ph.D. in History from University College, Dublin, Ireland.

On June 9, 2010, community members gathered at Skyline Farm to celebrate the unveiling of a new website (cny.mainememory.net) that gives a synopsis of the history of two towns: North Yarmouth, including Skyline Farm, and Cumberland, Maine. Steve Hill, eighth grade history teacher at Greely Middle School, told the audience about the impact that this project had on his students. They especially enjoyed a recent field trip to **Cumberland Historical Society's** headquarters, the Old Town House owned by the North Yarmouth Historical Society, and Skyline Farm, where the students learned more about antique carriages from trustee John Sowles.

Steve Bromage and Larissa Vigue Picard, both from the **Maine Historical Society**, shared their perspectives on the project's results. Thomas Bennett, Prince Memorial library director and team leader, hit the highlights of the new Cumberland and North Yarmouth website, and then the audience broke into small groups at laptops set up around the room. Celebration attendees were surrounded by antique carriages while viewing historical images on laptops, a perfect backdrop for the new online exhibit, *Skyline Farm: Making and Preserving History.*

In June, Skyline Farm Trustee John Sowles gave a tour of Skyline Farm's museum to 60 eighth graders from Greely Middle School in Cumberland, Maine. The students were participating in the Maine Community Heritage Project. Photo by Steven Hill.

READFIELD

The **Readfield Historical Society** currently has one of its items on loan to the **Farnsworth Museum** in Rockland. It is a punch-needle rug (most of us non-experts would describe it as a hooked rug) given to RHS by the Readfield Grange when it closed in the fall of 2008. The rug was made probably in the 1920s and is punch-needled with a chenille yarn. According to Mildred Peladeau, curator of the exhibition *Rug Hooking in Maine and Beyond,* on view at the Farnsworth Museum through December 31. "While it is symbolic of the Grange, it likely was made as a backdrop for an exhibit at an agricultural fair. The misplacement of the period which should come after the 'H' was appropriately applied by the maker who did place it after the 'H,' but she was working on the reverse of the rug," which further identifies it as a punch-needle rather than hooked creation. FMI about the Farnsworth exhibition: 207-596-6457, farnsworthmuseum.org.

Punch-needle Rug, *1920s, collections of the Readfield Historical Society, on view at the Farnsworth Museum through Dec. 31.*

SACO

The **Dyer Library** and **Saco Museum** will be one of 75 communities nationwide to host programs for "The Big Read" in 2011, a National Endowment for the Arts initiative that is designed to restore reading to the center of American culture. The DLSM, the only organization in Maine to participate in The Big Read during this grant cycle, received $7,500 to support an array of month-long programs for June 2011 inspired by Mark Twain's *Tom Sawyer.* Events and activities include *Splendid Days and Fearsome Nights,* a kickoff event featuring theatrical readings from the book; *Tragedy in the Graveyard,* a tour of Laurel Hill cemetery inspired by Tom and Huck's graveyard experience; *Happy Camp of the Freebooters,* a children's day at the Saco Museum featuring a newly reinstalled period bedroom; *Eloquence and the Masters Gilded Dome,* a panel discussion with representatives from the Mark Twain House; *Seeking the Buried Treasure,* a citywide scavenger hunt based upon Tom's own treasure hunt; *Showing Off in Sunday School,* a Tom Sawyer film festival; *A Pirate Bold to Be,* a cardboard regatta on Saco's Ferry Beach; and much more. The NEA presents The Big Read in partnership with the Institute of Museum and Library Services and in cooperation with Arts Midwest. The Big Read brings together partners across the country to encourage reading for pleasure and enlightenment. FMI: 207-283-3861, dyerlibrarysacomuseum.org.

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Dispatches,
continued from page 9

SKOWHEGAN

The **Margaret Chase Smith Library** is pleased to announce the top prize winners in its 2010 essay contest. First place and a prize of $500 went to Kacie Rioux *(top photo)* of St. Dominic Regional High School in Auburn. Receiving the second prize of $250 was Lizzy Barker *(middle photo)* of Marshwood High School in South Berwick. Third-place finisher and recipient of $125 was Lee Smith *(bottom photo)* of Acadia Christian School in Trenton. The essay topic this year was health care reform. The top three essays in the 2009 contest recently appeared in the *Maine Policy Review* (http://mcs policycenter.umaine.edu).

WISCASSET

Historic New England's Wiscasset Properties have been awarded a $1000 Community Outreach grant from the Maine Humanities Council to help offset costs of the 2010 centennial lecture series on the Colonial Revival movement. See *Exhibitions and Events* for details on the remaining lectures.

On June 10 and 11, Historic New England hosted its annual Members' Month programs in Wiscasset. The program began with a Nooks and Crannies Tour of **Castle Tucker** given by site manager Peggy Konitzky. These programs are deliberately small to offer members a more intimate experience of the Wiscasset properties. Fifteen members saw rooms not normally on any public tour, including the third floor of the mansion. This was followed by a Walking Tour of Wiscasset led by Earl Shettleworth, Maine State Historian, and Historic New England interpreter Dan Stevens. The tour ended at Wiscasset Bay Gallery where Cordelia Oehmig and Danielle Triffit hosted a lovely reception for the group. The following day, the members enjoyed an architectural tour of **Nickels-Sortwell House** led by Earle Shettleworth. This is the second year in a row that these programs were the first to sell out in Historic New England's Members' Month programming.

On June 14, Historic New England hosted a meet-and-greet reception at the Nickels-Sortwell House for the new executive director of the New England Museum Association (NEMA), Dan Yaeger. After enjoying a whirlwind tour of the house by Dan Stevens and Peggy Konitzky, Yaeger spoke about his goals and aspirations for NEMA to 16 representatives from the Maine museum world from Freeport to Rockland. Everyone enjoyed the opportunity for lively, informative, and enjoyable conversation and networking. •

OPPORTUNITIES

Civil War Workshop

Did you miss the fantastic workshop on how to teach the Civil War, hosted by the Fifth Maine Regiment Museum on Peaks Island in June? Or was it too far away for you to attend? You're in luck—the workshop will be repeated on Saturday, Sept. 25, at the Newport Cultural Center and will feature many of the same strategies for making the history of the Civil War come alive for young learners.

For a full schedule, fees, and more information: 207-368-5074, www.newportculturalcenter.com.

NUCMC Seeks to Describe Civil War Collections

As part of the Library of Congress observance of the forthcoming sesquicentennial of the American Civil War, the National Union Catalog of Manuscript Collections (NUCMC) is seeking the assistance of eligible repositories in identifying and describing archival collections relating to the conflict. Eligible repositories must (1) be located in the United States or its territories; (2) regularly admit researchers; and (3) lack the capability of entering their own archival cataloging into OCLC.

Also part of the NUCMC observance of the Civil War sesquicentennial will be a five-year/five-part exhibit on our website entitled "NUCMC and the Documentary Heritage of the American Civil War." The exhibit will highlight program cataloging of the last quarter century and will also contain related visual content. Initial plans call for the first exhibit (2011) to focus on the election of Abraham Lincoln, the secession crisis, the outbreak of hostilities, mobilizing for war, and foreign public opinion. Succeeding exhibits will feature personal narratives of members of the Union and Confederate armed forces (2012); the sesquicentennial of the Emancipation Proclamation and the African American experience from slavery to the end of the war (2013); the home front, women in the war, the role of charitable organizations, economic aspects of the war, and patriotic societies (2014); and the sesquicentennial of the death of Abraham Lincoln, Reconstruction, Confederate exiles, and the rise of veterans' organizations (2015).

For more information about NUCMC program participation, please visit our website at http://www.loc.gov/coll/nucmc or contact us at Library of Congress, Cooperative and Instructional Programs Division, NUCMC, 101 Independence Ave., S.E., Stop-4230 Washington, DC 20540-4230. Email: nucmc@loc.gov. Telephone: 202-707-7954. Fax: 202-252-2082.

American Association for State and Local History Annual Meeting in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

September 22-25, 2010

Choose from over 80 sessions and workshops that will show you the latest in developing, delivering, and marketing history. We've packed four days in OKC with insightful and thoughtful programming given by leaders in the history field. This year, we're focusing on how changes in direction can refresh and reinvigorate your institution. Learn new and innovative ways to tackle financial sustainability during tough economic times; creative fund-raising ideas; visitor experience and value; effective web-presence; cutting-edge digitization projects; family and school programming; special collections care; and more! For more information on registering and to download the preliminary program with the full list of sessions, speakers, and workshops: http://www.aaslh.org/am2010.htm. For tips and strategies on how to get permission to attend: http://www.aaslh.org/documents/StrategiesforGainingApprovaltoAttendtheAASLHAnnualMeeting.pdf. Register by August 6 to receive the Early Bird Rate.

American Association of Museums Professional Development

Don't miss these exciting remaining offerings from AAM's "Museum Essentials 2010" we-

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binar program! For details and more information: 202-289-1818 or www.aam-us.org/getinvolved/learn.

Step-by-Step Collections Acquisition

Sept. 22—Take a "basics" look at the step-by-step process of bringing an object into your collection.

Understanding the Three Dimensions of Your Board

Oct. 20—Understand board members' fiduciary role and how they can be generative and strategic for the organization.

And a face-to-face opportunity:

Museum Management Seminar

Sept. 30 - Oct. 1: "Strategy in Action." Join museum management and administration colleagues for two days of sessions, information sharing, and networking during the Current Issues in Museum Management Seminar 2010: Strategy in Action at the Atlanta History Center. Registration: AAM member - $295; nonmember - $395.

SAVE THE DATE MAM Annual Conference and Meeting

"Ideas and Inspiration: A Celebration of Maine's Museums and Archives"

Dyer Library and Saco Museum, Saco
Friday, October 29, 2010

Join us for this year's revamped annual conference and meeting! The theme, *Ideas and Inspiration,* celebrates the field of museum and archive work by highlighting the accomplishments of member institutions. A full conference agenda and registration forms will be mailed to MAM's membership in the early fall; in the meantime, keep your eye on MAM's website—mainemuseums.org—and on your email and snail-mail inboxes for more information.

SAVE THE DATE New England Museum Association Annual Conference

"Museums Matter, Yes They Do; The Proof is in the Pudding, Too!"

Springfield, Mass., November 3-5, 2010

Join us for the 2010 NEMA Annual Conference in Springfield, Mass., home to the much-loved Theodor Geisel, known around the world as "Dr. Seuss." No one needs "proof" of the impact of Dr. Seuss books on our culture, but museums are often asked to "prove" their value as collection stewards, educators, community centers, and contributors to the economy. It's incumbent upon all of us to help find the best ways to promote museums' value. This "proof" will take many forms, from benchmarking data to the eyewitness account of a delighted six-year-old. FMI: 781-641-0013, www.nemanet.org.

2011 Conservation Assessment Program Applications Available This Fall

Heritage Preservation is currently celebrating the Conservation Assessment Program's (CAP) twentieth year of helping museums obtain general collections assessments. To mark the occasion, we have created a special feature on our website (www.heritagepreservation.org/CAP) called "Twenty Years of Conservation Improvements Through CAP." It showcases one museum from each year in the program's 20-year history, and demonstrates how each museum used their CAP recommendations to improve collections care.

CAP funds a professional collections assessment for small to mid-sized museums of all types, at a minimal cost. In addition, CAP funds historic buildings assessments for institutions with buildings that are 50 years or older. The assessment process helps museum professionals better understand and improve their institutions' policies and procedures, learn conservation and historic preservation best practices, and forge relationships with conservators and historic structures assessors. The resulting CAP report can help your institution develop strategies for improved collections care, long-range planning, staff and board education, and fund-raising. In 2010, 107 museums in 40 states were selected to participate in CAP, including the Stanley Museum in Kingfield, Maine. To view the entire list of current CAP participants, visit www.heritagepresevation.org/CAP/10recipients.html.

The 2011 CAP applications will be mailed on *Friday, Sept. 3, 2010,* to museums on the CAP mailing list and will also be available on Heritage Preservation's website at www.heritagepreservation.org. The postmark deadline for applications is midnight on Dec. 1, 2010. Participants are identified on a rolling basis, and site visits for participants can begin as early as Jan. 1, 2011. Final reports must be submitted to Heritage Preservation by Nov. 1, 2011. CAP is administered by Heritage Preservation and supported through a cooperative agreement with the Institute of Museum and Library Services. To be added to the CAP application mailing list, or for more information, please contact CAP staff at cap@heritagepreservation.org or 202-233-0800.

Upcoming Institute of Museum and Library Services Grant Deadlines

FMI: 202-653-4674, imls.gov

American Heritage Preservation Grants

Bank of America is partnering with the Institute to provide grants to small museums, libraries, and archives. The grants will raise awareness and fund preservation of treasures held in small museums, libraries, and archives. Grants will help to preserve specific items, including works of art, artifacts, and historical documents that are in need of conservation. Applicants will build on completed conservation assessments of their collections to ensure that the grants are used in accordance with best practices in the field and underscore the importance of assessment planning. Grant awards are up to $3,000 with no matching requirement. Deadline: Sept. 15, 2010.

Conservation Project Support Grants

The Conservation Project Support program awards grants to help museums identify conservation needs and priorities, and perform activities to ensure the safekeeping of their collections. Conservation Project Support grants help museums develop and implement a logical, institution-wide approach to caring for their living and material collections. Applicants should apply for the project that meets one of the institution's highest conservation needs. All applications must demonstrate that the primary goal of the project is conservation care, and not collection management or maintenance. Grants are available for many types of conservation activities, including surveys (general, detailed condition, or environmental); training; treatment; and environmental improvements. Museums are encouraged to share the impact of conservation activities with their communities through outreach and programs. Grant awards are up to $150,000 with a 1:1 match requirement. Deadline: Oct. 1, 2010. •

SEEN & HEARD

LEFT: On Sat., May 22, nearly 40 people were on hand at the Bethel Historical Society's Dr. Moses Mason House to enjoy talks and a book signing by the two editors of *Write Quick: War and a Woman's Life in Letters, 1835-1867,* which is now available from the society's Museum Shop. L. to R.: Ann Fox Chandonnet, Roberta Gibson Pevear, and Jane W. Hosterman of West Bethel. FMI 800-824-2910, www.bethelhistorical.org

RIGHT: "Max" contemplates a future as an objects conservator at a collections care workshop held at the L.C. Bates Museum, Hinckley, on June 21, 2010.

ABOVE: The Saco Museum's new permanent exhibition, *Making History: Art and Industry in the Saco River Valley,* opened with a special reception on Friday, May 28. Museum Director Jessica Routhier, far left, made some brief remarks. Also pictured: Peter Morelli, trustee; Leslie Rounds, executive director; and Camille Smalley, education and program manager.

ABOVE: Lyn McKenzie and Nancy Merrill discuss the "Hitty" doll at Opening Day for the Falmouth Historical Society's Heritage Museum.

BELOW: Tues., June 8, was Opening Day for the Falmouth Historical Society's Heritage Museum, a 180-year-old home with a rich history. Here, Rod Duckworth is giving a tour to Opening Day visitors. FMI on Falmouth Historical Society: 207-781-4727, falmouthmehistory.org

RIGHT: Penny Eskra, Rose Marie Ballard, and Corinne Sze talk at a Historic New England event at the Wiscasset Bay Gallery.

Value Assessment and Conservation Planning

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ly be the last entrusted with the conservation of a cultural property. The conservation professional should only recommend or undertake treatment that is judged suitable to the preservation of the aesthetic, conceptual, and physical characteristics of the cultural property. When nonintervention best serves to promote the preservation of the cultural property, it may be appropriate to recommend that no treatment be performed.

Materials and Methods: The conservation professional is responsible for choosing materials and methods appropriate to the objectives of each specific treatment and consistent with current accepted practice. The advantages of the materials and methods chosen must be balanced against their potential adverse effects on future examination, scientific investigation, treatment, and function.

Compensation for Loss: Any intervention to compensate for loss should be documented in treatment records and should be detectable by common examination methods. Such compensation should be reversible and should not falsely modify the known aesthetic, conceptual, and physical characteristics of the cultural property, especially by removing or obscuring original materials.

Other categories outlined and identified are: Examination and Scientific Investigation, Documentation, Emergency Situations, Professional Conduct, Supervision, Education, and many other subsets.

Currently within the AIC the following areas of specialization have been identified: Architectural Materials, Archaeological Objects, Book and Paper, Conservation Administrators, Conservation Education, Conservation Science, Electronic Media, Ethnographic Objects, Natural Science, Objects, Preventive Conservation, Photographic Materials, Paintings, Sculpture, Textiles, and Wooden Objects.

Conservators are trained to look at cultural heritage items in terms of materials and construction, physical condition including degree of loss, deterioration, and missing elements, as well as photodegradation from long-term exposure to light (both visible and ultraviolet). They are trained to understand the most conducive environment for the long-term stability of the item while in storage, the conditions that are required for the preservation of the item while on exhibit, and the requirements for crating and transport of the items.

The Canadian Conservation Institute has formally identified ten agents of deterioration that challenge the preservation of collections *(After Michalski,* 1990). The Agents of Deterioration are available online at www.preservation.gc.ca and can be found in the section of the web page identified as Conservation Resources, review listings of information under this heading.

Physical Force
Fire
Water
Criminals
Pests
Contaminants
Light & UV Radiation
Incorrect Temperature
Incorrect Relative Humidity
Dissociation

And I will add one:
Money

We use these references as touchstones when reviewing an objective, a set of collections, or the entire collection of an institution. The Agents of Deterioration provide a framework within which to compare, contrast, or place value on the condition of the item being reviewed, assessing the risk to the item or identifying the reason(s) that have resulted in the condition of the item. Using the Agents of Deterioration will provide a logical framework and common language when assessing collections and discussing risk to the collections. The Agents of Deterioration will also prove useful when undertaking the writing of a Disaster Plan for your institution.

Although conservators are trained to understand the physical and chemical elements that threaten the short- and long-term stability of collections, we are but one side of the preservation equation. Equally important is the curator, director, or other person responsible for the preservation of the collection. When addressing the needs of the collection it is necessary to partner curation and conservation to address long-term preservation strategy and the "value" of the collection items. As was stated earlier, the conservator brings to the table the ability to review material types and determine what agents have affected or will affect the physical stability of the collection items. The curator is the person responsible for the intellectual control, and the historic or scientific information associated with the collection brings another point of view to the collection preservation table. The conservator and the curator provide a parallax view of the collection, combining two angles of view to effectively provide a three-dimensional "whole" view of the collection. The dialogue between the curator and the conservator regarding the collection's long-range preservation will result in the most effective planning for the types of collections within the institution.

Dr. Robert Waller, President and Senior Risk Analyst, Protect Heritage Corp., has championed the partnership of the curator and the conservator concept and developed a process that has been presented at many locations and professional meetings throughout the Americas, a workshop entitled "Assessing and Managing Risks to Your Collections." Dr. Waller had been employed for 33 years with the Canadian Museum of Nature and served as chief of Conservation Services Division. He has presented and published widely on the topic of Risk Assessment in the Society of the Preservation of Natural History Collections, the International Council of Museums Conservation Committee, the International Institute for Conservation, and The National Archives.

The knowledge of the "value" of the collection, the conservation guidelines, and assistance from a conservator provide the foundation to establish a long-range conservation/preservation plan for the collection. A good source for information when undertaking preservation planning is the publication *Preservation Planning: Guidelines for Writing a Long-Range Plan*, by Sherelyn Ogden, American Association of Museums Technical Information Service 1997.

Undertaking an internal long-range preservation plan can be accomplished if the institution has adequate training and experience in the fields of both curation and preservation/conservation. *Preservation Planning: Guidelines for Writing a Long-Range Plan* outlines a step-by-step self-guided form to undertake internal formation of the plan. There are also several sources of outside assistance, workshops are offered through the New England Museum Association (NEMA), the Maine Archives and Museums (MAM), the Northeast Document Conservation Center (NEMA), and on a national level at the American Association of Museums (AAM) annual meeting.

Also available are entrance-level grants such as the Conservation Assessment Program, supported by Heritage Preservation (www.heritagepreservation.org) and the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) *(see page 2 for more information)*. The CAP grant provides for an assessor to address collection needs, and if you are housed in or have a historic structure as part of your institution, then a building or architectural preservation specialist will also be involved in the assessment. The CAP grant will provide information that can be used to formulate a five-year preservation plan.

Written reports can be used as support documentation to address funding (grant applications, foundation financial support, or fund drives) and will provide guidance to the immediate, short- and long-term needs as observed and discussed with the institution staff. Other sources of funding and grants include the Conservation Project Support Grant, financed by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (www.imls.gov), or the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) (www.neh.gov). •

Norlands Rising From the Ashes

Part Two of Three Articles

by Kathleen Beauregard, Executive Director, Washburn-Norlands Living History Center

"LIVING HISTORY" methods are the cornerstone of the museum education programs at the 37-year-old Washburn-Norlands Living History Center (Norlands). Staff, volunteers, and visitors are engaged in life much as it was experienced on a late 1800s farm in rural Maine. Both the venue and the artifacts "come alive" when daily chores, school, worship, or social gatherings begin.

In this second of three articles about the lessons learned after a disaster at our museum, I'll share a key area of the recovery process: collections. In 2008, the museum experienced the devastating loss of the historic barn and attached farmers' cottage, originally built in 1867. These buildings were the major environments for Norlands' "living history" participants as they were involved in farm or domestic work. As Norlands recovers from the recent loss of these buildings, the true heartbeat of a living history program is made clear. Without the authentic work—and play—of everyday life, the lessons of lived history are quieted.

Yet, using hand tools and implements to accomplish genuine tasks, just as our ancestors did 140 years ago, visitors to Norlands begin to hear the message of history in the humming of the spinning wheel. After trudging tired legs through spring's snow and mud, the taste of time drips slowly for us down a maple spile, or spigot, into heavy buckets. Living history requires us to rough our knuckles on a scrub board and read by the dim oil lamp.

As Norlands rises from the ashes, we strive to re-create that time in 1870 when the Washburn family built the Norlands estate three years prior. On this old homestead we are interpreting typical farm life of the era and the particular experiences of the Washburn's neighbors, such as the Pray, Waters, and Pratt families. Their stories were not lost in the fire. The curriculum remains. The structures within which their stories will be enlivened must be rebuilt. Artifacts and tools that can bring history to life will need to be found and put into service in the hands of children and other visitors to the Norlands.

We are well on our way to rebuilding the historic buildings, with architectural plans drawn up by Barba and Wheelock Preservation, and construction managed by Wright-Ryan Construction with a team of Livermore-area subcontractors. Though the historic 1867 barn cannot be completed without additional funds, the Norlands will soon be able to reopen the Farmers' Cottage for period public suppers, the well-known "live-in" programs, and expanded groups of Maine school children. Other outbuildings can serve to host livestock until the barn can be raised. Living history can continue.

Yet Norlands has a great challenge in order to reopen these doors. It is a challenge that the community has already started to heed, for which we are very grateful. We need your help finding "edu-facts," those artifacts meant to be in the working hands of our visitors:

- Wash tubs, glazed jugs, wooden bowls, and bushel baskets.
- Potato baskets, potato barrels, and potato hoes.
- Egg-collecting baskets, kerosene lamps, and bull rakes.
- Dressers with mirrors and rope beds with keys.
- Chamber pots, iron stands, and dry sinks.
- A large kitchen table, ice chisels, and ice saws.
- Buck saws, a corn grinder, a grain cradle, a winnower, and ox muzzles.
- Cast iron pans, bowls of all sizes, and a glass butter churn.

Our recovery process included a major conservation project to protect Norlands' large Victorian textile collections. You can read about that project on our website (www.norlands.org). To learn more about our list of needed edu-facts or to learn how you can help with the barn rebuilding, please visit our website or call us at 207-897-4366.

Loom and antique dresser in the guest bed chambers at Washburn-Norlands Living History Center. Photo from Norlands collections.

Washburn-Norlands Living History Center is a nonprofit museum dedicated to preserving the heritage and traditions of rural life in Maine's past, to celebrating the achievements of Livermore's Washburn family, and to using living history methods to make values, issues, and activities of the past relevant to present and future generations.

The 445-acre property is comprised of working land and buildings relating to the site's role as the nineteenth-century homestead of the Washburn family. It includes a preserved 1828 Universalist meeting house, the Washburn's mansion, an 1885 granite library built by the Washburn brothers, eighteenth-century cape, sap house, carriage house, and restored one-room school house.

MAINE ARCHIVES & MUSEUMS

PURPOSE

Maine Archives and Museums is a membership organization 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.

MEMBERSHIP

Students, trustees, volunteers, entry-level or experienced paid and unpaid professionals, museum and historical society members, the interested public and service providers — all are welcome as members of MAM.

BENEFITS

Quarterly Newsletter

Provides information on funding opportunities; books and publications; statewide museum, historical society, archives news and activities; shared resources; all-volunteer organizations; ideas that work in Maine; computers; conservation; technical questions; ethical matters.

Listings

On the Department of Tourism's Internet/World Wide Web Home Page (free!).

Annual Conference

Opportunities to gather with fellow professionals, volunteers and other colleagues in the state to share ideas, network and review and acquire the skills to manage our state's cultural resources.

Regional Workshops

Conference topics listed above are also available as local and regional workshops to make attendance easier and to tailor needs to local issues and groups of societies, museums and archives.

Discounts on Museum and Archival Supplies

Offered to all MAM members by Brodart, Gaylord, and University Products.

JOIN/RENEW TODAY!

Your support and participation enable MAM to provide ever-improved services to Maine's cultural community of historical societies, archives, museums and galleries. We have very important work to do. By working together, we can realize our vital dreams and visions.

★ JOIN MAINE'S CULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS E-MAIL LIST!

This is a great opportunity to share with others what we are all doing and to get information about problems, resources, grant opportunities, and more.

Maine's cultural community has an e-mail based discussion forum available through the Internet. Intended for archives, museum, historical society, preservation, arts, library, etc., organizations, their professional staff and active volunteers, the Maine Cultural Organization List Serve is a way of keeping in touch. If you're not familiar with this type of thing, it's a way of sending an e-mail message to everyone who has joined "the list." When you join, you also receive any message posted to the list by others. You can read, ignore, or respond as you please. You need to subscribe before you can send and receive list messages.

To subscribe, point your web browser to http://lists.maine.edu/archives/mcultr-l.html. Click on "Join or leave the list," and follow the directions. Then, whenever you send mail to the list at MCULTR-L@lists.maine.edu, all subscribers will see your message and will be able to respond to the list in general or to your own address. If you have problems subscribing, e-mail janet.roberts@maine.gov.

Maine Archives and Museums – Membership Application

Renewal_____ RETURN TO: Maine Archives & Museums • P.O. Box 5024 • Augusta, ME 04332-5024

Tel. 207-441-1410 • Fax 207-621-8048

New_____ Address change?_____

Membership Year is January-December. Applications received in Oct., Nov., Dec. will include the following year.

Name _____

Institution_____Type (historical society, archive, etc.)_____

Address_____

City_____State_____Zip_____County_____

Tel._____ Fax_____ E-mail_____

Interested in serving on a committee?

___ Membership
___ Finance/Development
___ Long-Range Planning
___ Conference/Programs
___ Marketing
___ Maine Heritage Day
___ Newsletter
___ Regional Rep.

MEMBERSHIP FEES

Personal:

☐ Individual $25
☐ Family $40
☐ Patron $75
☐ Benefactor $150

Institutional Memberships (based on museum and/or archive annual budget):

☐ 1A: $0 - $15,000 $25 (1 conf. or wksp. attendee at member price)
☐ 1B: $0 - $50,000 $40 (up to 4 conf. or wksp. attendees at member price)
☐ $50,000 - $100,000 $50 (unlimited conf. attendees at member price)
☐ $100,000 - $500,000 $75 (unlimited conf. attendees at member price)
☐ Over $500,000 $150 (unlimited conf. attendees at member price)

Send names of friends or colleagues — individuals, associations and/or institutions — that might need or want MAM!

Maine Archives and Museums
P.O. Box 5024
Augusta, Maine 04332-5024

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This newsletter is partially underwritten by a grant from the Maine Humanities Council.

1968: Gone But Not Forgotten

by George Squibb, Belfast Historical Society and Museum

Preparing for the '60s: (from L. to R.) Rachel Keyes, Damien Saucier, Ricky Morgan, (top) Luke Merrithew, (front) Patrick Howard.

THE BELFAST HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND MUSEUM is collaborating with The Game Loft in Belfast to produce The Game Loft's program, "1968: Gone But Not Forgotten." Suggested by a high school student who wanted to know more about the 1960s, the program will examine the period and its legacy with a series of events that will take place in Belfast during the week of August 23-28.

The Game Loft provides an after-school venue and programs for middle and high school students, some of whom may be considered at risk. Using the social connections formed through gaming, The Game Loft seeks to imbue self-confidence, problem-solving skills, and overall positive development of youth. "1968: Gone But Not Forgotten" is part of The Game Loft's ongoing Maine history enrichment program for high school students.

"1968: will involve youth and adults from The Game Loft as well as groups and organizations from around Waldo County. Seven at-risk students, using both primary and secondary sources from the Belfast Museum's archives and elsewhere, will undertake a study of the 1960s. The Belfast Museum will present a PowerPoint program and an exhibit focusing on the period. The "game" will then be taken to the streets of Belfast, where its "players" will gain real-life perspectives through a town-wide historical adventure. The Game Loft will moderate role-playing games based on 1960s topics, bands will play 1960s music, merchants' windows will feature 1960s themes, and the museum will provide a kiosk where people can record their memories of the period. On August 28, there will be a day-long event in downtown Belfast with children's activities, food, games, concerts, an antique auto show, dance contests, and fashion shows featuring 1960s fads and more.

Mark your calendar!

For more information, go to www.thegameloft.org