

A Community Guide to Commemorating Maine's Bicentennial



Kittery-Portsmouth Bridge Opening, 1923



Created by the Maine Historical Society

www.mainememory.net/bicentennial

INTRODUCTION

This downloadable **Community Guide to Commemorating Maine's Bicentennial** is designed to support the efforts of Maine communities as they plan activities to commemorate the Bicentennial of Maine Statehood in 2020.

The Bicentennial provides an incredible opportunity to explore, document, and share YOUR COMMUNITY's story and the contributions it makes to Maine's history, identity, and sense of place. As importantly, it is an opportunity to focus on the needs and interests of your community today, and to prepare for the future.

This Guide is intended to provide a menu of potential activities, to connect you to resources that can support those activities, and to plug your community's Bicentennial activities into broader efforts throughout the state. The Guide is designed to be suggestive and provide inspiration.

The energy and impact of the Bicentennial will come from the creativity, spirit, and energy of Maine communities and grassroots activities throughout the state.

This Guide is created by the Maine Historical Society whose mission is to preserve and share Maine's story to enrich life in contemporary Maine.

489 Congress Street

Portland, ME 04107

(207) 774-1822

www.mainehistory.org

info@mainehistory.org

THE BICENTENNIAL MOMENT

The Bicentennial of Maine Statehood is a once-in-a-lifetime strategic opportunity for Maine!

Maine Historical Society (MHS) is helping lead a participatory statewide commemoration of Maine's Bicentennial (1820-2020) that will celebrate Maine, explore how 13,000 years of history shapes the state today, and support efforts to prepare Maine for the future.

Maine history doesn't just reflect Maine's past. It also illustrates how the state's diverse people and communities contribute to the identity, vitality, and well-being of Maine. Your stories provide guidance, inspiration, and examples of what it takes to build, nurture, and sustain strong communities—a key perspective as Maine prepares for the future.

Maine Historical Society's goals for the Bicentennial include:

- Encouraging the participation of all Mainers— individuals, organizations, and communities throughout the state
- Using history to inspire, inform, and support forward-looking thinking and action
- Opening the doors to historical and cultural destinations throughout the state
- Highlighting and honoring Maine's diverse people, communities, regions, and natural environment and how they contribute to the special character of the state

Please visit www.mainememory.net/bicentennial to learn more about Statehood, explore Maine history, and how you can partner with Maine Historical Society during the Bicentennial.

13 THINGS YOUR COMMUNITY CAN DO TO COMMEMORATE MAINE'S BICENTENNIAL

- 1. Connect**
- 2. Form a Local Bicentennial Committee**
- 3. Plan Your Town's Events and Activities**
- 4. Catch Up on Maine History**
- 5. Think, Talk, and Learn About Maine**
- 6. Mobilize Students**
- 7. Do a Digital History Project: Explore, Document, and Share Your Town's History**
- 8. Collect Your Community's Stories—Document Maine at the Bicentennial**
- 9. Develop an Exhibit**
- 10. Go to an Exhibit**
- 11. Participate in Statewide Events**
- 12. I Think About the Future**
- 13. Join, Support, and Celebrate your local historical society**

1. CONNECT

Visit the Maine Bicentennial Commission's website, www.maine200.org, to learn about Bicentennial activities throughout the state and to share information about Bicentennial events, exhibits, and programs in your community.

The State of Maine's efforts to commemorate the Bicentennial of Maine Statehood is being led by the Maine Bicentennial Commission which was appointed by the Maine State Legislature.

The Commission's mission is to plan, administer and coordinate programs and projects that commemorate Maine's 200th anniversary of Statehood.

The Commission will organize several major events to commemorate the Bicentennial and seeks to be a clearinghouse for information about activities going on throughout the state. The Commission is also exploring the development of additional programs, including a Bicentennial community grants program.

The Commission's official website includes information about the Commission's structure, activities, and resources. It includes an events calendar where you can see what else is going on around the state, and upload information about your community's activities.



2. FORM A LOCAL BICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE

Bring together the people and organizations in your community who will plan and lead local activities, encourage broad local participation, and ensure an impactful commemoration.

Many Maine communities have well-established events, partnerships, and mechanisms for mobilizing their community for anniversaries and civic opportunities. Other communities may just be getting started. Use what you have in place—there's no need to reinvent the wheel.

A Bicentennial Committee will pull together local leaders, stakeholders, and interested parties and provide the structure and leadership for whatever your community would like to do to commemorate Maine's Bicentennial. You probably already have a nucleus in place.

Committee Makeup

Include as broad a group as possible. Each participant will bring interests, ideas, unique resources, and constituents. Consider including your:

- Local historical society
- Town library
- Municipal office
- Schools
- Chamber of Commerce
- Businesses
- Service organizations
- Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts
- Grange

3. PLAN YOUR TOWN'S EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Map out a plan, timeline, and budget that fits your community's interests, needs, resources, and creativity. Most Maine towns have existing municipal celebrations and events—a fair, a festival, a 4th of July celebration, Old Home days, etc. Start with those and add Bicentennial programming. Build out from there as inspiration strikes and interests and resources allow.

What excites your community? This Guide is designed to provide ideas and help you get started. Follow the interest and enthusiasm in your community.

Project Planning

The foundation of any successful project is planning. Think through your goals, interests, resources, time constraints, and other logistical issues before you get started. Set attainable goals and be flexible. Then, create a plan, timeline, budget, and go for it!

Consider the following:

- What are your goals? How will your commemoration fit into larger goals of your community?
- Brainstorm and make a list of your ideas. Pursue the ones that generate the most enthusiasm, seem feasible, and will have the biggest impact.
- What outcomes do you hope for? What experience do you want participants to have?
- What resources—people, money, infrastructure—will you need?
- How much time can you spend on your project? A month? Three months? A year?
- How many organizations and volunteers will be involved in planning and implementing your commemoration?
- How will students participate in planning and implementation of your commemoration?
- How will you publicize your activities within your community and beyond?

4. CATCH UP ON MAINE HISTORY

Brush up on how and why Maine became the 23rd State in the Union. Who was for it, who was against, and why? The path to Statehood was centuries in the making and tied Maine to key national events and issues: the American Revolution, the War of 1812, the Missouri Compromise, and, eventually, the Civil War. And of course, we cut ties with Massachusetts. The story of Maine Statehood is fascinating, echoes many issues in Maine today, and was central to the development of the United States.

There are numerous resources at your fingertips. Maine Historical Society's Maine Memory Network (www.mainememory.net) includes content, stories, exhibits, and resources contributed by more than 270 organizations across Maine and beyond. Here's a quick guide to resources that will help you begin your exploration of Maine Statehood and history:

The Wabanaki, the first people of Maine. The continuing 13,000-year story of the first people of Maine, the Wabanaki, provides critical context for understanding Maine Statehood.

- ***Holding Up the Sky***. The online version of MHS's exhibit will be available in May. A number of organizations provide online resources—see the list at the end of the Guide.

The Path to Statehood

- An Overview of Statehood: www.mainememory.net/statehoodoverview
- The Political Process: <http://bicentennial.mainememory.net/>

Introduction to Maine History

- **Maine History Online** (<https://www.mainememory.net/mho/>) offers a sweeping introduction to Maine history through the eyes of Maine communities

Find Your Maine

- What topics interest you? Search **Maine Memory Network** (www.mainememory.net) for materials about your community and interests.

For teachers and students

- Resources for teaching and learning about Maine history (www.mainememory.net/education/).
Look for our new Bicentennial curriculum in August.

There are many excellent books that will help you learn about Maine history. See the list at the end of the Guide to get started.

We are lucky in Maine: there are wonderful organizations throughout the state that have unique knowledge, collections, and resources that can help you explore Maine history. Start with your local public library and historical society, and then follow your interests to the resources provided by the organization listed at the end of the Guide.

5.THINK, TALK, AND LEARN ABOUT MAINE

Bring a book group, poetry program, or speaker to your library! Or develop your own programs! The [Maine Humanities Council \(www.mainehumanities.org\)](http://www.mainehumanities.org) has programs and grant opportunities that offer communities opportunities to reflect on important issues throughout Maine's history and look to our future.

Book Groups

Offered in partnership with the Maine State Library, ***Let's Talk About It*** is a library-based book group for people who want to talk about books and ideas. It's free (Maine Humanities supplies the books), it's organized (there's a theme and all the books fit that theme), and Maine Humanities (MHC) matches your group with a facilitator to guide the conversation and get everyone thinking. Each *Let's Talk About It* program consists of four or five books on a central theme. A facilitator adds depth and breadth to the conversation, creating a good atmosphere for discussion and making sure everyone feels free to share their ideas and questions with one another. And it's easy! MHC loans the books to libraries, identifies the facilitator, provides publicity materials, and offers advice on organizing and publicizing your program.

MHC is in the process of developing four new series connected to Maine's Bicentennial. Between these and Maine-focused series we already offer, there are many opportunities for readers to share and reflect on different aspects of life in Maine. <https://mainehumanities.org/lets-talk/>

New Books, New Readers engages readers at various reading levels to open the world of books and ideas. Series are comprised of books that explore a relevant and complex theme, such as "Carrying the Past," "Community," or "Caught Between Cultures," and MHC is in the process of developing a new Bicentennial-based series. Participants learn to love reading by engaging in facilitated discussions that relate a book's themes to their own lives. They are given a copy of every book in the series to keep and are encouraged to share their enjoyment with family and friends. In this way, *New Books, New Readers* turns out to be community building, personal and educational development, and a social outlet, all at once. The groups are usually offered in partnership with Adult Education programs.

<https://mainehumanities.org/program/new-books-new-readers/>

Poetry Programs

The Poetry Express is a collaborative program with the Maine State Library to bring Maine poetry and poets to local libraries and their communities. The landscape of Maine's voices is varied and valuable, addressing so many aspects of what it can mean to experience life in this state. For each Poetry Express event, MHC partners with a library and a local poet. The librarian identifies themes important to the community and the Maine State Library provides specially curated resources, anthologies, and collections of Maine's poetry—from the historical to the contemporary, including work by local poets—that touch on those chosen themes. Community members select poems, learn to perform those poems in a workshop with a local poet, and host a community poetry-reading and conversation event at the library, where all are invited to come together to celebrate Maine poetry.

<https://mainehumanities.org/poetry-express/>

Speakers

MHC offers communities across the state the opportunity to explore issues related to Maine and Maine history with experts in given fields. Libraries host forty-five minute presentations on issues of their choice with time for questions afterward. **World in Your Library** is offered in partnership with the Margaret Chase Smith Library. <https://mainehumanities.org/programs/world-in-your-library/>

Grants

MHC's Grants program helps support projects that bring communities together around the humanities. Think of MHC as you develop your Bicentennial programs. You can find more details on MHC's website. <https://mainehumanities.org/program/grants-program/>



6. MOBILIZE STUDENTS

Students have a great deal to contribute to—and a great deal to gain from—your town's Bicentennial commemoration. Put it in their hands! Include students on your Bicentennial Committee, as you digitize and share your history, and in all activities. Students bring energy, many skills, and fresh perspective that will help ensure what you do is relevant.

- Integrate the Bicentennial—the story of Maine statehood, your town's role in it, and your community's overall history—into curricula across disciplines. Maine Statehood is the story of economics, politics, sociology, geography, social justice, the Arts, and United States and World history, as well as Maine history. The issues and perspectives about Maine's future that framed the debate about Statehood are the same ones that frame civic dialog today.
- Be creative and reach out: teachers are looking for meaningful projects that will help students connect with their community and develop knowledge, skills, and experience. Connect with teachers and school administrators early in your planning process.
- Include students in a meaningful way: ask them for their ideas, find roles that fit, give them a voice, and highlight their participation.

Participation will enable students to:

- Collaborate with people of all ages;
- Become actively engaged and see themselves as stakeholders in your community;
- Learn about your community's history and how it relates to the story of Maine and the nation;
- Develop research, critical thinking, writing, technology, creative, and personal communication skills;
- Achieve academic goals and the goals of the Maine State Learning Results.

7. DO A DIGITAL HISTORY PROJECT: EXPLORE, DOCUMENT, AND SHARE YOUR TOWN'S HISTORY

YOUR town's story is essential to Maine's story. What was going on in your community when Maine became a state? Did it vote for or against Statehood? Explore how your community emerged, has continued to evolve, and is shaped by its history. Share your town's history on the Maine Memory Network (www.mainememory.net) so that anyone interested in Maine can discover your community's story and see how it contributes to Maine's identity and vitality.

The Maine Memory Network, Maine's digital museum, includes contributions from more than 270 organizations and individuals, and receives 500,000 unique visitors each year. Participation helps contributors reach new audiences within their communities and beyond, deepen local partnerships, develop a broad range of skills and capacities, and energize the practice of local history.

How It Works

Maine Historical Society (MHS) provides training, support, and the technological infrastructure. Organizations and individuals across the state ("Contributing Partners") select items in their collections; scan or take digital photographs of those items; and then, through their own Maine Memory Network (MMN) account, use a web browser to upload, catalog, manage, and interpret the material online. Individuals may also send items without creating an account. All participation is free.

Project Types (www.mainememory.net/share)

- **Sharing Collections:** Organizations and individuals digitize, catalog, and share historical collections online. You select historical items, create high resolution scans or photographs, complete catalog records, and upload them to Maine Memory.
- **Building Online Exhibits:** Once historical items have been uploaded, MMN offers a variety of flexible tools that enable contributors to create exhibits that tell stories and explore topics, themes, and events in Maine's history.

- **Building Websites:** Maine Memory also allows contributors to build their own websites within Maine Memory to draw together diverse information and resources about their community's history.

Getting Started

Visit the "How to Contribute" section best suited to you:

- Collecting Organizations: <https://www.mainememory.net/share/organizations.shtml>
- Libraries: <https://www.mainememory.net/share/libraries.shtml>
- Schools: <https://www.mainememory.net/share/schools.shtml>
- Individuals: <https://www.mainememory.net/share/individuals.shtml>

8. COLLECT YOUR COMMUNITY'S STORIES: DOCUMENT MAINE AT THE BICENTENNIAL

Maine is made rich and unique by the voices, experiences, and perspectives of its people. Everybody's Maine story matters and contributes to what makes Maine "Maine." The Bicentennial is an ideal opportunity to capture those voices.

Use Maine Memory Network's **My Maine Stories** portal

(<https://www.mainememory.net/mymainestories>) to document, share, and permanently archive the experiences of the people who make YOUR community what it is.

My Maine Stories enables you to enter your story, add photos, and include video and audio clips. Once your story is uploaded, it will add valuable texture, dimension, and perspective to our understanding of and appreciation for Maine.

Consider capturing the stories of:

- Long-time residents. What do they remember about the old days? How has your town changed?
- Workers in the industries that are essential to your community.
- Veterans.
- Students.
- Recent arrivals.

Everybody has a story. What's YOUR Maine story?

- What makes your community unique and special?
- What makes it "Maine"?
- How has it changed?
- How long have you and your family lived in your community?
- What do/did you do for work?
- What industries are important to your community?
- How has your community shaped you?

9. DEVELOP AN EXHIBIT

A physical exhibit in your town—at the local historical society, public library, schools, town office, or in another prominent location—will provide a place for your community to gather, see, and explore your shared history together.

An exhibit can be small and simple, or complex and far-ranging. It might include panels, cases with objects, and/or multimedia with audio and video.

An exhibit is a great way to highlight and feature your local historical society in your town's Bicentennial commemoration. Your historical society collects and cares for incredible materials that are unique and essential to your community—often with few resources and little visibility.

Consider:

- The story you want to tell. This could be specific to the Bicentennial, Statehood, and your community's role in it, or on another topic in your town's history that you want to highlight.
- The materials that will help you tell it. What items—documents, photographs, paintings, maps, objects, etc.—does your local historical society, public library, and/or others in your community have to tell the story?
- Who knows the story? You'll need to find an individual or small team who has the knowledge, skills, and perspective to research, write, and curate the story.
- Where will you display the exhibit? Make sure it is accessible and available.
- Timeframe and resources. Match the scope and scale of your exhibit to the capacity of your team and community.

Resources:

The Smithsonian provides this useful Guide to Exhibit Development that can be adapted to the scale of your project: <http://exhibits.si.edu/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/Guide-to-Exhibit-Development.pdf>

The following organizations also provide resources that can help guide your exhibit planning process: Maine Archives & Museums, the New England Museum Association, American Association for State & Local History, and American Alliance of Museums.

10. GO TO AN EXHIBIT

Cultural organizations throughout Maine will be mounting Bicentennial-related exhibitions throughout 2020. This is a preliminary list. Visit www.Maine200.org regularly for updates and additions.

Exhibitions at Maine Historical Society

www.mainehistory.org

Holding Up the Sky: Wabanaki People, Culture, History & Art

April 12, 2019-February 1, 2020

The continuing 13,000 year story of the first people of Maine, the Wabanaki, and our shared history provide critical context for understanding Maine statehood. *Holding up the Sky* explores Wabanaki philosophies of leadership and obligation relating to humans and non-humans. Wabanaki advisors guided the exhibition, interpreting 17th century colonial treaties, photographs, heritage items, and contemporary artworks—everything from ash baskets to haute couture fashion.

State of Mind: unexpected histories of Maine's bicentennial

March 5, 2020-January 30, 2021

State of Mind will explore how Maine became a state and why that matters. Mainers in 1820 were a lot like Mainers are today: deeply divided about the future and how to get there based on their circumstances, geography, and sense of opportunity. *State of Mind* will explore: the settlement and distribution of Maine land; Maine's participation in the Revolution and War of 1812 and how that propelled the case for statehood; Maine's relationship to and desire to separate from Massachusetts; the Missouri Compromise and fundamental relationship between Maine statehood and the development of the United States; and how statehood set up Maine's most vibrant period of growth and development.

Exhibitions at Maine State Museum

<https://mainestatemuseum.org>

Women's Long Road – 100 Years to the Vote

March 23, 2019 – January 25, 2020

Exhibition and educational materials will tell the story of women's rights and suffrage efforts in Maine from statehood through ratification of the 19th amendment in 1920.

Regional Struggle – National Story: Maine's Path to Statehood

Opening March 2020

Maine Maritime Museum

<https://www.mainemaritimemuseum.org>

"I Lead "

May 9–November 1, 2020

"I Lead" will explore inspirational themes related to Maine's leadership and pioneer spirit (entrepreneurship, conservation, island communities, marine industries, etc.), viewed through contemporary leaders chosen by partner organizations. The exhibit will feature each leader's biography and each will select an object from Maine Maritime collection that embodies their theme.

Exhibitions at Bowdoin College Museum of Art

<https://www.bowdoin.edu/art-museum/>

Rufus Porter's Curious World: Art and Invention in America, 1815-1860

December 5, 2019 – June 1, 2020

Celebrating Maine Town and City Views: Lithographic Landscapes, 1832 to 1866

December 12, 2019 – June 1, 2020

Exhibitions at Farnsworth Art Museum

<https://www.farnsworthmuseum.org>

A Maine Sculptor in Florence: John Adams Jackson (1825-1879)

April 4, 2020 – March 7, 2021

Maine: The Farnsworth Collection Ongoing

Presentation of collections with primary focus on of works by artists who lived and/or worked in Maine.

Portland Museum of Art

<https://www.portlandmuseum.org/maine>

What Objects Tell Maine's Stories?

TBD 2020

The Portland Museum of Art is asking everyone with a love of Maine to share the objects that help tell this state's stories. What embodies Maine to you? Is it something that speaks to our cultures, natural resources, or industries; a work of art, poem, or book; a family heirloom or keepsake? The objects you share could become part of a special PMA exhibition celebrating 200 years of Maine statehood.

11. PARTICIPATE IN STATEWIDE EVENTS

Events are being planned that are designed to bring people from across Maine and beyond together to commemorate the Bicentennial and celebrate Maine. Those events will be made immeasurably richer by your participation. They will also provide a great opportunity for members of your community to connect with other Mainers and for us all, together, to celebrate the richness and diversity of Maine.

The events below are just a sample; each is in its planning phase. Visit www.Maine200.org regularly for updates and additions.

Maine Statehood and Bicentennial Conference **May 30-June 1, 2019**

Organized by the University of Maine <https://umaine.edu/mhc/me-bicentennial/>

A series of events, panels, presentations, and concerts celebrating the unique history of Maine, its peoples, culture, politics, art and music. On May 31, there will be a Maine History Festival (<https://umaine.edu/mhc/me-bicentennial/maine-history-festival/>) held in conjunction with the Bicentennial Conference. Organizers seek participation from students and teachers at all grade levels, as well as by cultural organizations.

Statehood Day Celebration **March 15, 2020**

Organized by the Maine Bicentennial Commission <https://www.maine200.org/calendar/event/3>

The Commission is organizing the Bicentennial's major commemorative event which will be held in Augusta on the 200th anniversary of Maine Statehood.

Festival Celebration of Maine in Portland **July 2020**

Organized by the City of Portland <https://www.portlandmaine.gov/2382/Maine-Bicentennial-2020>

The City of Portland, original capital of Maine, will hold a multi-weekend Bicentennial festival designed to celebrate Maine and highlight the rich connections between all Maine communities. Events will include Tall Ships, concerts, and much more.

12. THINK ABOUT THE FUTURE

Bicentennial activities will help you discover and/or remind you how rich your history is. It will also help you see what it took to build your community and how constantly things change. Now is the time to envision and plan for your community's future! Many communities are in the midst of substantial economic development projects and pursuing strategies to revitalize. Bring your community together to consider its assets, priorities, and what it hopes to look like in Maine's third century.

13. JOIN, SUPPORT, AND CELEBRATE YOUR LOCAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY

There are more than 225 local historical societies in Maine. Each plays a critical role in preserving and providing access to your community's story. Visit, become a member, volunteer, donate, ask how you can help, and spread the word. Your local historical society should be the star of your community's Bicentennial activities.

RESOURCES: THEMES

The Maine Bicentennial Commission encourages communities to consider the following themes as they develop local programming:

1. Living In Maine: A wide variety of Maine people and communities constantly create anew what it means to be a Mainer. This landscape has been inhabited for thousands of years. People and land shape one another, and our geography, climate, and natural resources are important factors in determining how we live here. It has long been said there are “two Maines,” but the cultural identity of Mainers is at once both more complex and closely connected than that. While we are friends and neighbors bound by our common work ethic, integrity and rugged individualism, there are complex local, regional, tribal, cultural, and socioeconomic identities that are important to understand, appreciate, and include in our consideration of what it means to live in Maine.

2. The Business of Maine Mainers know how to work—and not just in the woods and on the water. Economic activity in the state is rooted in the work ethic, ingenuity, and hustle that seem to come naturally to Maine people. Our economy has long been driven by our natural resources, our commitment to quality, and our gracious welcoming of visitors. Maine's abundant natural resources, combined with the work ethic and craftsmanship of its people, have driven its economy for centuries and brought the world iconic products from paper to wooden boats to Bean boots, Indian baskets, blueberries and beer. And did we mention lobster? Business and industry continues to be shaped by this place and its proximity to major Northeast and international markets, but tradition is being transformed by technology, changing consumer demand, and innovators. Supported by the state's rising research and development community, we are finding new ways to add value to the “Made in Maine” brand.

3. Maine Leads Though small, rural, and geographically isolated, Maine has long played an outsized role on the national scene. It has been said that as goes Maine, so goes the nation. Even before Statehood, this land and the people who live here have had an oversized influence on the nation and beyond. Our entry into the Union came at a key moment in the national debate about slavery, equality, and American political ideals. Ever since, we have had a strong tradition of electing pragmatic and

effective leaders whose service has been marked by Maine's common-sense commitment to working together, solving problems, and making things better.

4. The Maine Character For all the changes Maine has experienced over 200 years, we can nonetheless see a unique Maine character that persists. Mainers are engaged with our communities; we are diverse in our perspectives and backgrounds. We care about our neighbors, know the value of hard work, and approach our lives here with humor and grit.

RESOURCES: BOOKS ABOUT MAINE HISTORY TO GET YOU STARTED

Maine Becomes a State: the Movement to Separate Maine from Massachusetts, 1785-1820 (1970; 1973) by Ronald Banks. The quintessential source on separation from Massachusetts.

Our Beloved Kin: A New History of King Philip's War (2018) by Lisa Brooks. A fresh, and inclusive approach to Maine's colonial history and the origins of Wabanaki-Maine relations.

Maine: The Pine Tree State from Prehistory to the Present (1995) by Richard Judd (ed.) et al. An excellent overview and introduction.

Historical Atlas of Maine (2015) Stephen Hornsby et. al. (ed). A wonderfully illustrated history of Maine, through maps.

Maine: The Wilder Half of New England (2012) by William David Barry. A concise and colorful overview of Maine history, perfect for clever facts and unique stories.

Liberty Men and Great Proprietors: The Revolutionary Settlement on the Maine Frontier, 1760-1820 (1990) by Alan Taylor. Explores the relationships between land speculation and settlement on the Maine frontier.

A Ruinous and Unhappy War: New England in the War of 1812 (2009) by James Ellis. The War of 1812 provided the ultimate stimulus for Statehood.

A Survey of the State of Maine (1829; 1970) by Moses Greenleaf. A must have in any Maine historical library. Also available online through Google Books.

Maine: A History (1919) by Louis Hatch. A five-volume compendium of Maine history.

Maine's Visible Back History (2006) by H.H. Price and Gerald Talbot. The authoritative source for Maine's African American history

The Mirror of Maine: One Hundred Distinguished Books that Reveal the History of the State and the Life of its People (2000) edited by Laura Sprague. An excellent way to explore Maine history through literature and the written word.

The History of the District of Maine (1795; 1970) by Sullivan, James The original history of Maine.

The History of the State of Maine: From its First Discovery, A.D. 1602 to the separation, A.D. 1820, inclusive (1832; 1966; 1991) by William Williamson. A heavily cited treatment of Maine history.

RESOURCES TO HELP YOU LEARN ABOUT MAINE HISTORY

Abbe Museum <https://www.abbemuseum.org/>

Hudson Museum, University of Maine <https://umaine.edu/hudsonmuseum/>

Maine Bicentennial Commission www.maine200.org

Maine Folklife Center <https://umaine.edu/folklife/>

Maine Historical Society www.mainehistory.org

Maine Humanities Council <https://mainehumanities.org>

Maine Wabanaki Reach <http://www.mainewabanakireach.org>

Maine State Library <https://www.maine.gov/msl/>

Maine State Museum <https://mainestatemuseum.org>

Maine Archives & Museums <https://www.mainemuseums.org>

Maine Arts Commission <https://mainearts.maine.gov>

Maine Historic Preservation Commission <https://www.maine.gov/mhpc/>

Maine State Archives <https://www.maine.gov/sos/arc/>

Maine Suffrage Centennial Collaborative <https://www.mainesuffragecentennial.org>

Passamaquoddy Cultural & Heritage Museum <https://www.passamaquoddy.com/>

Penobscot Marine Museum <https://penobscotmarinemuseum.org>

Penobscot Nation Museum <https://www.penobscotnation.org/penobscot-nation-museum>

Wabanaki Cultural Center <http://www.artsipelago.net/item/wabanaki-culture-center-and-museum/>

Waponahki Museum & Resource Center http://www.wabanaki.com/wabanaki_new/Museum.html