

The City is a Classroom

A Kid's Guide
to Portland's Landmarks
and History

The City is a Classroom:

A Kid's Guide to Portland's Landmarks and History

Third Edition 2019

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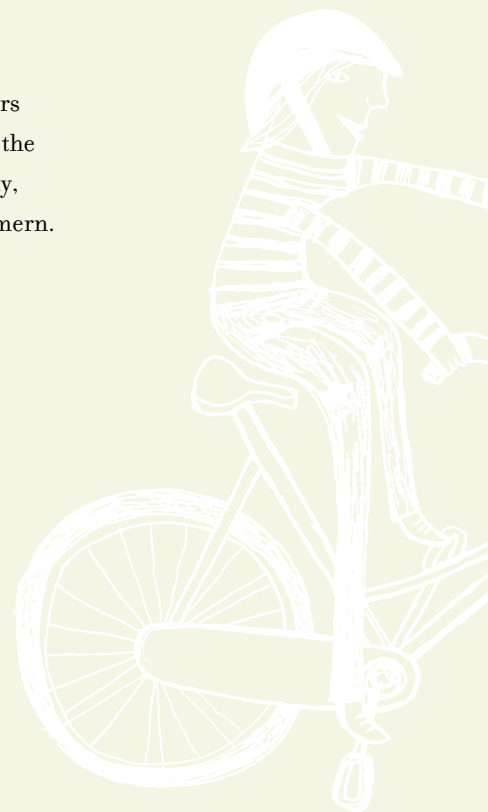
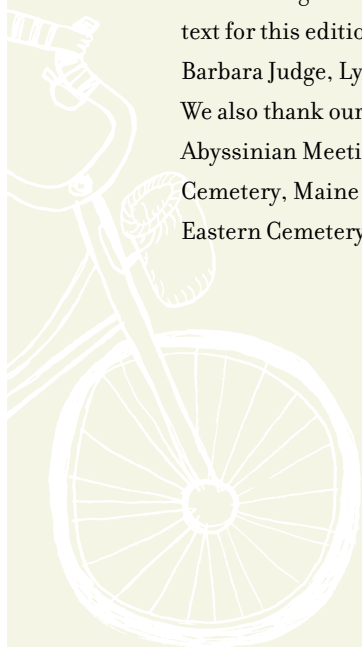
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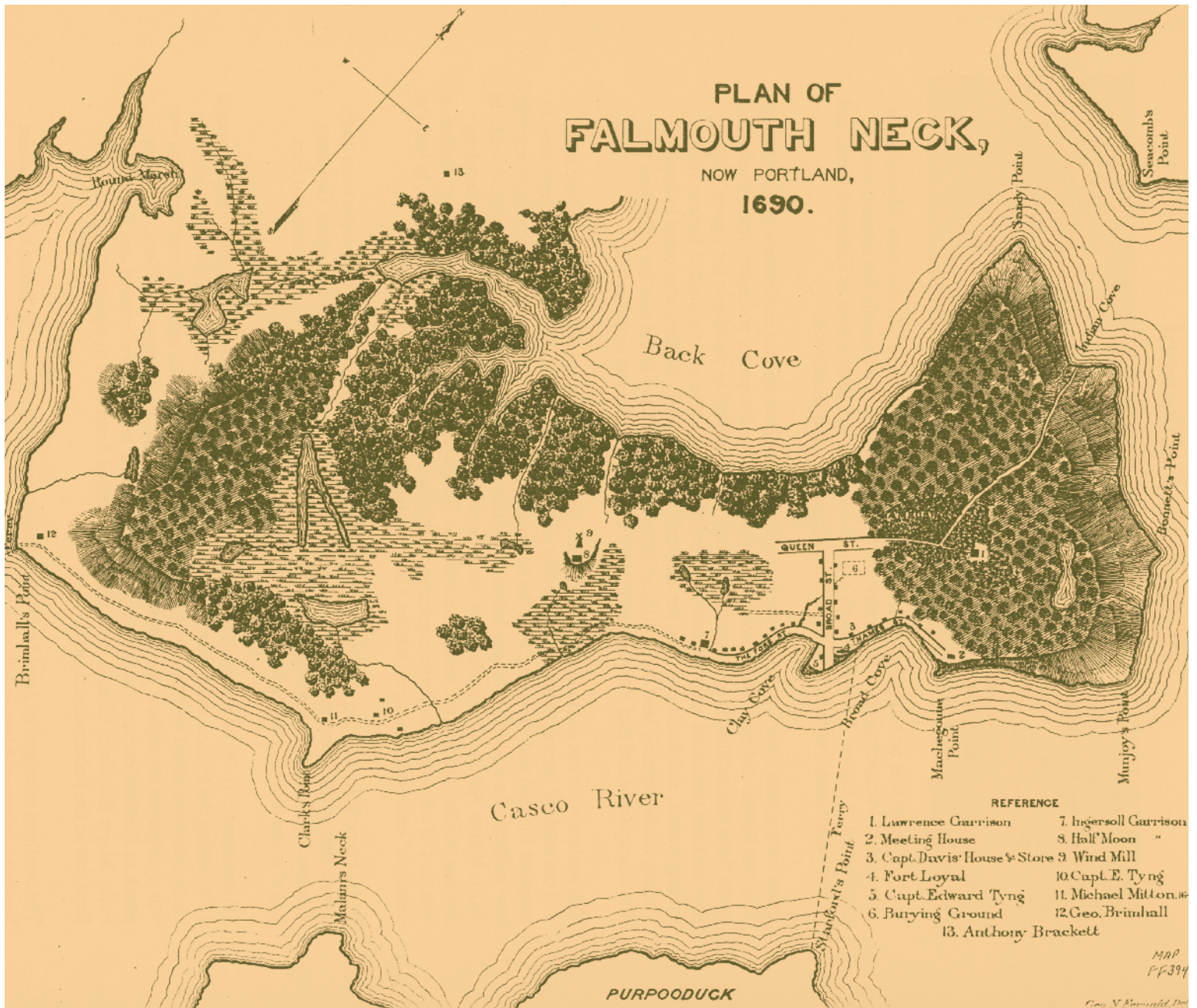


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People

■ **1524**
Giovanni da Verrazano becomes the first confirmed European to explore the coast of Maine.

■ **1614**
John Smith explores Casco Bay.

■ **1622**
Sir Ferdinando Gorges and **John Mason** are granted rights to lands that make up what is now Maine and New Hampshire. Gorges becomes the first person to title the territory "Maine."



■ **1632**
The First Landing, Hancock and Fore Streets
The first European settlers to land on the peninsula of Portland were **George** and **Margaret Cleve** along with **Richard Tucker** his wife **Joan Price** and their only child, **Elizabeth**. They choose a spot sheltered from the wind, at the bottom of a hill, with a good view of the harbor. They build a wooden home and trade fish and furs with the Native Americans.

The First People of Portland

The Wabanaki, a name that means “People of the Dawn Land,” lived in northern New England and the Canadian Maritime Provinces for thousands of years before the Europeans settled here. Like many of the Woodlands people of the northeast region of the United States they spoke a language known as Algonquian. The Wabanaki Confederacy included the Abenaki, Passamaquoddies, Penobscots Maliseets, and Micmac.

The Wabanakis who lived in what would become Portland were primarily hunters, though many Wabanaki who lived further west also grew corn. In addition to being hunter-gatherers and farmers, the Wabanaki were fisherman who located their villages in river valleys or along shorelines. The Native Americans of Casco Bay were great clambers. When settlers arrived from Europe they found huge piles of clamshells, called middens, these were the Native American dumps that could include bones, pieces of pottery, and other debris. The Wabanaki economy included trading with other tribes at very long distances.

		Buildings & Places		
■ 1637 George Cleeves receives title to “Machigonne,” later renamed “Falmouth” by the British.	■ 1670 George Munjoy builds the first European house on Peaks Island at Torrington Point.	■ 1678 Settlers build Fort Loyall.	■ 1690 French and Native Americans attack and massacre English settlers.	■ 1733 First school is built in Portland.



Everyday Life

■ **1740**

Primary industry of Portland is **fishing and lumbering.**

People

■ **1751**

George Tate, Senior Agent for the British Royal Navy, arrives in Falmouth (Portland).

Buildings & Places

■ **1755**

Tate House is built.



Local, State & US Events

■ **1773**

Boston Tea Party takes place at Boston Harbor. Colonist throw tea off cargo ships as a protest to increases in taxes by the British Government.

■ **1775**

American Revolution begins.

■ **1776**

Declaration of Independence is adopted.



During the 1600s when the first European settlers arrived in what we know as Maine, they discovered Native American villages along the coast and inland. It wasn't long before the settlers wanted the Wabanakis' land.



In 1632 George Cleeve and Richard Tucker and their families were the first European settlers to land on the peninsula. They made a clearing at the foot of Munjoy Hill (near modern day Fore Street

in front of the Portland Regency Inn), where they built a wooden house with a view out over the harbor.

Then, little by little, more people came to build houses and make a town until soon there were hundreds of European people living here. In 1658, the settlers gave the town the English name of "Falmouth." The Native Americans had called Falmouth "Machigonne." The area that the settlers called Falmouth included what we now call Portland, South Portland, Falmouth, Westbrook, and Cape Elizabeth.

**George Cleeves
Richard Tucker**
First European Settlers



■ **1785–86**
Wadsworth-Longfellow House is built.

■ **1791**
Portland Head Light is completed.

■ **1794**
George Tate dies.

■ **1794**
Bowdoin College becomes Maine's first post-secondary institution.



The Wabanakis lived in villages made up of wigwams and longhouses made of bark and tree branches. Wigwams, shaped like cones were traditionally the shelter for just one

family. Longhouses, sheltered extended families. Larger longhouses were also

built as public buildings where people gathered, to share their religion, oral histories, and music. They were like our theatres, and churches.



Wabanakis

People of the Dawn Land



To reach these gathering places they travelled by dugout canoes, carved and burned from a single tree trunk. In the winter when the land and waterways froze, they travelled by toboggans (long sleds).

Buildings & Places

■ **1800**
Hugh McLellan builds his mansion after he makes a fortune in the shipping business. He hires builder, John Kimball, Sr. to design his house in the popular new Federal style, with bigger windows and carved decorations.

People

■ **1803**
Tate Family goes bankrupt; many members flee to England.

■ **1807**
Henry Wadsworth Longfellow is born.

Local, State & US Events

■ **1807**
Embargo Act causes depression in Portland.

■ **1807**
Portland Observatory is built.



During the 1670s, King Philip's War, a war between the European settlers and the Wabanaki Confederacy took place. Metacomet, whom the European settlers called King Philip, was a member of the Wampanoag nation. Even though the Native people in Falmouth (what is now Portland) were part of the Abenaki nation, they, like the Wampanoag, were angry with the settlers for taking their land. They approached officials and claimed in writing that their land was being stolen. In 1676 some Abenaki made a surprise attack on settlers who lived at the Brackett Family Farm, where Deering Oaks Park is today. Thirty-four settlers were killed or captured, and the English settlement was burned and destroyed.

During this time some Abenaki families moved farther inland seeking safety for their families, but some stayed and tried to find work in the European settlements.

Then in 1689 the French and Native Americans banded together to challenge the English settlers for land. Some of the battles of this war were fought in Portland. Major Benjamin Church from Massachusetts came with his men to Portland to fight off the French and Native Americans and save the town.



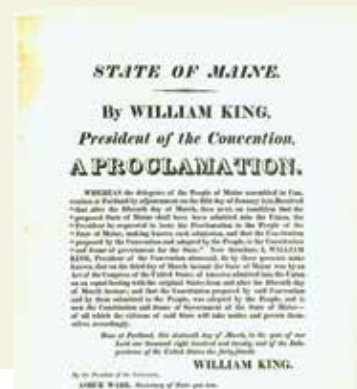
King Philip
Metacomet

■ **1812**
War of 1812
begins.



■ **1813**
The Battle between the **USS Enterprise** and **HMS Boxer** at Pemaquid Point. The captains of both ships die in battle and are buried side by side in Eastern Cemetery.

■ **1815**
War of 1812 ends.
■ **1820**
Maine becomes the 23rd state in the union; Portland is the capital.



Everyday Life

■ **1823**
First steamboat arrives in Portland.

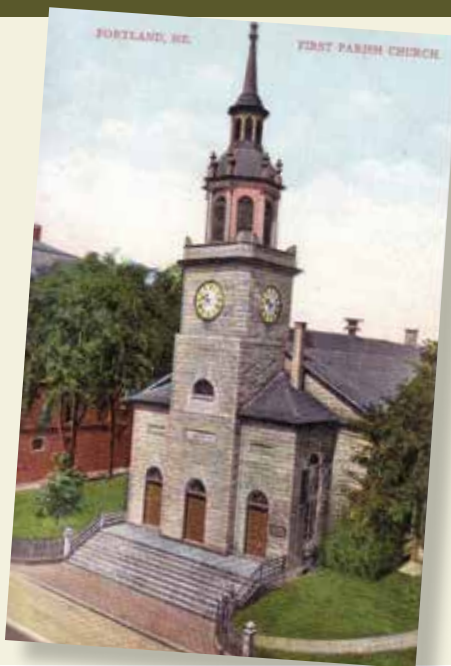


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Buildings & Places

■ 1825–26 First Parish Church is finished.

The weathervane from the original wooden meeting house, called "old Jerusalem," built in 1740, is saved to put on top of the new stone church steeple.



People

■ 1828
Reuben Ruby, Caleb Johnson, Clemant Tomson, Job L. Wentworth, Christian C. Manual, and John Siggs form the **Abyssinian Religious Society**.

Everyday Life

■ 1830
Cumberland and Oxford canal is finished.

In the spring of 1690 the Native Americans returned and attacked the town in a battle that lasted for five days. The English settlers retreated to Fort Loyal (today the corner of Commercial Street and India Street) and then surrendered to the Native Americans.

Upon surrendering they were either killed or captured and taken to Canada, which was French territory. It was over twenty years before European-Americans attempted to return to Portland's Peninsula.

Because of the loss of traditional lands and the natural resources that once supported them, Wabanaki people had to earn wages. By the 1800s the Wabanaki people made baskets to sell to tourists and townspeople all over Maine, including the mainland of Portland and the islands of Casco Bay. It was important to the Native Americans to hold on to their traditions and way of life. Also, selling baskets helped the Native Americans make money, something they had never needed to do before the Europeans settled. They were master basket makers, creating baskets in the shape of pocketbooks, hat boxes, and even traditional European fans. The baskets were popular with tourists, so places like Poland Springs, Old Orchard Beach, and Greenwood amusement park on Peaks Island (all popular tourist destinations in the late 1800s) were good places to sell these baskets.

By the 1800s the Wabanaki people made baskets to sell to tourists and townspeople all over Maine.

■ **1831**
The Abyssinian Meeting House is built.



■ **1832**
Charles Q. Clapp designs his house to look like a Greek temple. Americans are fascinated by buildings that look like ancient Greek temples because Greece was the birthplace of democracy, a model for the new American government.

Local, State & US Events

■ **1832**
 State capital moves to Augusta.

■ **1834**
 First steam engine built in Maine.

Today Native Americans in Maine hold the same kinds of jobs as everyone else. The Abenaki and other tribes of the Wabanaki Confederacy hold year round and seasonal jobs. They run business, support cultural tourism, and educate visitors and Mainers alike on the traditions and culture of their ancestors. Wabanaki people live throughout our cities and towns in Maine, but their communities are clustered on five reservations.

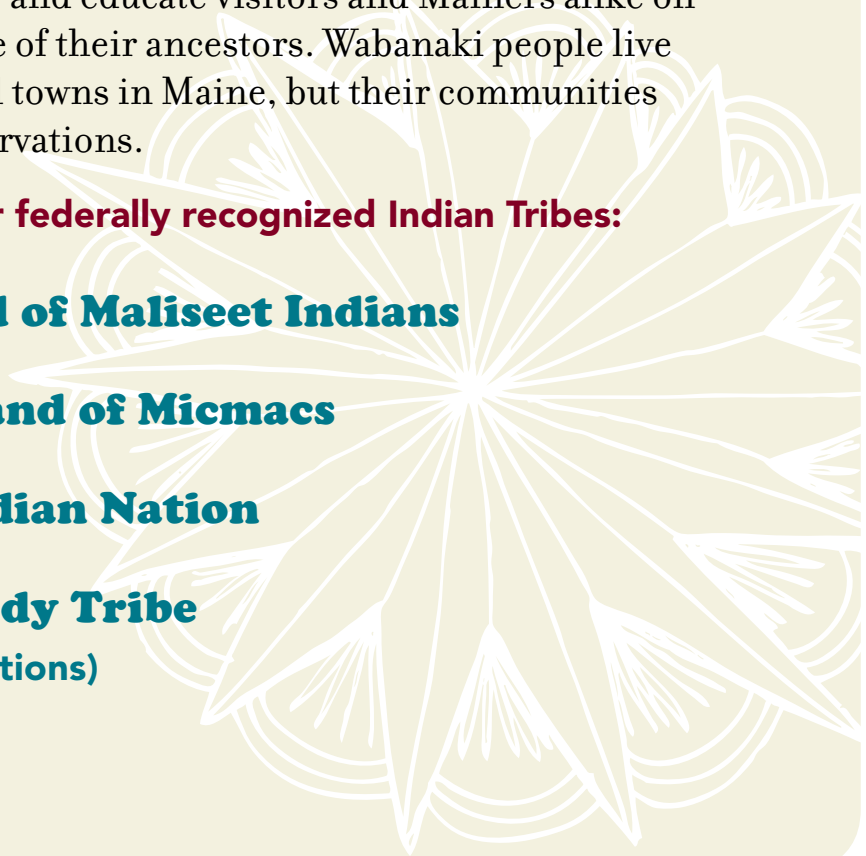
In Maine, there are four federally recognized Indian Tribes:

The Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians

The Aroostook Band of Micmacs

The Penobscot Indian Nation

The Passamaquoddy Tribe
(which has two reservations)



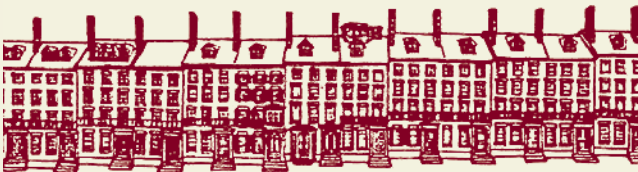
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Buildings & Places

■ 1835

Park Street Row is built.

As Portland begins to grow, the city becomes crowded. Open lots of land are hard to find so tall narrow houses, called townhouses or row houses are built. Behind this row is a park and a well for residents to share.



People



■ 1846

Captain Lemuel Moody, proprietor of the Portland Observatory dies.

■ 1849

Portland Gas Light Co. is established.

Colony



Colonial settlers came to the New World to start a new life. Some came because the English government promised them land. Others wanted religious freedom. They all arrived on ships from England or traveled up from the area we know as Boston. The first families to come here lived near the shore. They cleared the land and removed rocks and stumps so that cattle could graze. Some built lumber mills on the rivers.

Trade

Settlers needed supplies to survive in the New World. There were no stores where they could buy food, furniture, clothing, or medicine, so people depended on trading to get what they needed. The colonists started a shipping trade with the things they could make from the land or the sea. They sent furs, lumber, dried and pickled fish, and fish oil to Europe and the Caribbean islands to sell or trade.

Portland was soon one of the busiest ports in America. The harbor shorefront was crowded with new wharves for tall sailing ships. The docks were busy with people hurrying to load and unload cargo from around the world. Some people were getting rich in the shipping business.

13

■ 1850–52

Harbor is filled in to make **Commercial Street**.

■ 1853

First trans-Atlantic steamboat service; railroad service to Montreal begins.

■ 1853

Grand Trunk Railway is built.

The Grand Trunk connects Maine to the St. Lawrence River, Montreal, and the Canadian Maritime Provinces, and makes Portland the winter port for Canadian trade.





Buildings & Places

■ **1858–60**
Victoria Mansion is built as a summer home for Ruggles Morse.



■ **1859**
Fort Gorges is built.

People

■ **1860**
 Paris, Maine native, **Hannibal Hamlin** is named Abraham Lincoln's Vice President.

Local, State & US Events

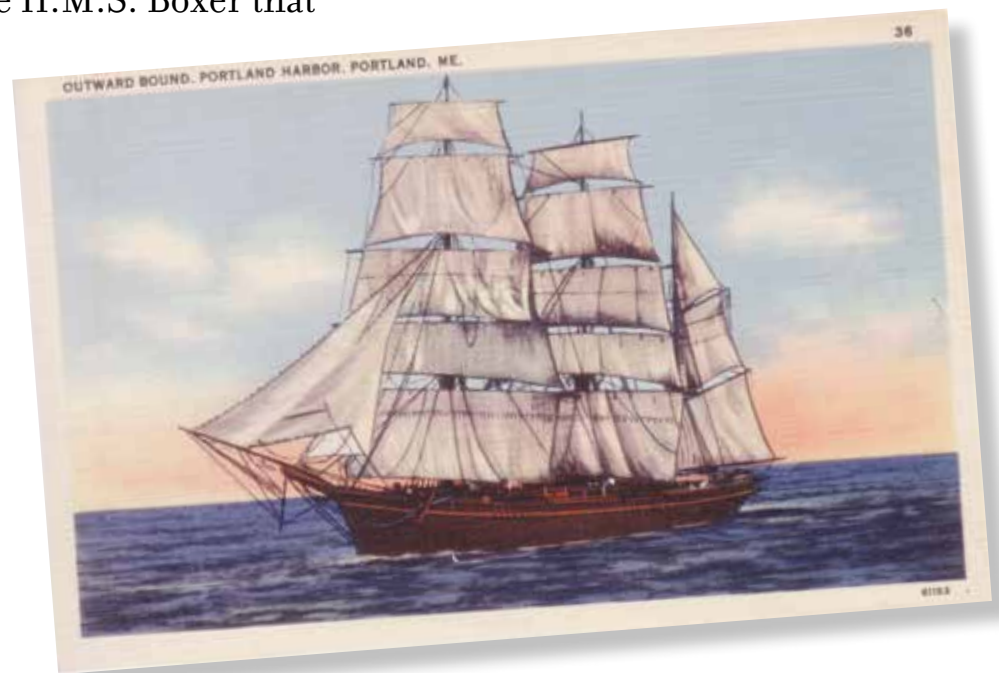
■ **1861–65**
 Civil War between the North and the South is fought.

■ **1866**
The Great Fire of Portland in which 10,000 people lose their homes.



The Golden Age of Sail

The ocean was like a highway. It was easier to sail up and down the coast than to hike across the land through woods, swamps and ravines. It was a time from the 1700s to the early 1900s when sailing ships were used for import and export of goods and materials to and from Europe and the Caribbean. It was also a time when war ships were sailing ships, like the famous U.S.S. Enterprise and the H.M.S. Boxer that fought off the coast of Pemaquid Point during the War of 1812.



15

■ 1866-71

Lincoln Park is created as the first public park in Portland. The hope was that if there is ever another Great Fire, the open space will stop it from spreading up to Munjoy Hill. Today people in the city enjoy the park for its peaceful views and walking paths.



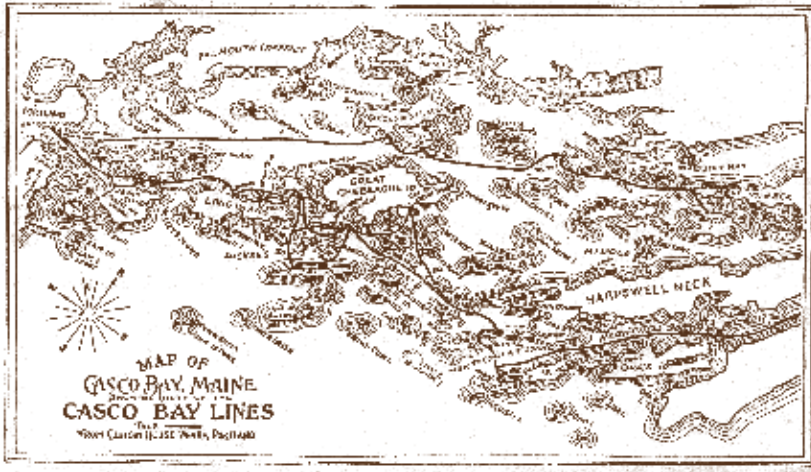
■ 1867

The Woodman Block is one of the first buildings in Portland to cover an entire city block. Mr. George M. Woodman loses his dry goods business in the Great Fire of 1866. He wants to build a fireproof building using materials such as brick, stone and slate. Mr. Woodman hires an architect to design a new kind of building a block long with storefronts along the sidewalk.

Age of Steam

By the early 1900s sailing ships began to install steam engines to make Atlantic Ocean passage much easier and more efficient.

This was the Age of Steam.



In the early 1800s, families used many items that were made by hand. Also, they travelled slowly by horse and buggy or by sailing ships. Then, during the late 1800s, **technology** changed rapidly.

During this time, many machines were invented that made work much easier and

faster. Steam-powered trains and ships could quickly transport people and heavy cargo for long distances.

By 1900, most people worked 52 hours per week, Monday-Saturday. For the first time, families began to take vacations once a year. The regular pattern of work created a new experience – leisure time for workers. More **leisure time** and more income created a demand for **recreation**, especially traveling as tourists to visit new places.

16

■ 1868–71

United States Custom House is built. After the Civil War ends, the harbor is busier than ever, with ships coming in and trains going out, Portland needs U.S. government offices to track the cargo passing through the port. An architect from Washington D. C. designs this building to be built out of Maine and New Hampshire granite and to look like a European palace. The inside is decorated with marble, gold, and gas chandeliers.



Everyday Life

■ 1868

Water is piped into Portland.

■ 1870

Portland has four railroad stations and sixty-five trains a day.



Tourists rode on a steamboat, like the *Horatio Hall* (above), directly to Portland from Boston, New York, or Philadelphia. Twelve different steamboat lines ferried passengers from Portland to the islands of Casco Bay. During the summer, Peaks island became crowded with tourists. They traveled to enjoy the seashore and the Greenwood Garden amusement park.

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Buildings & Places

■ **1874**
Maine General Hospital opens.

People



■ **1875**
James A. Healy (1830–1900), son of an Irish immigrant father and mixed-race slave mother, becomes Roman Catholic Bishop when he is consecrated in Portland. During his tenure, he lobbies for sovereignty for Native American tribes and an end to child labor.

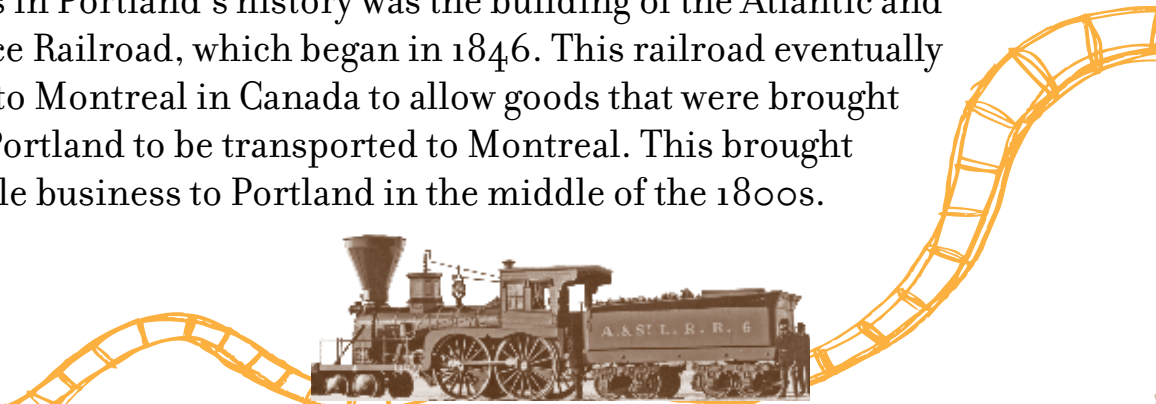
■ **1878**
First telephone is installed.

■ **1878**
Casco Bay Steamship Company begins first year-round service to Casco Bay Islands.

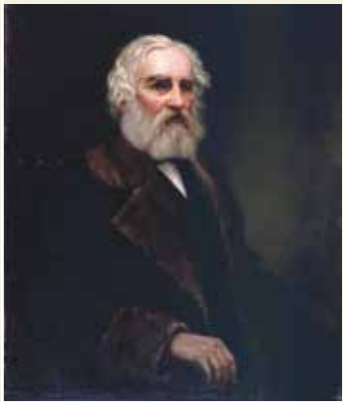
The Age of Railroad

In the late 1700s and early 1800s, Portland thrived as a center of maritime activity and trade. Ships from all over the world delivered goods to the city, and in return Portland sent merchandise out on vessels bound for ports in other states and countries. By the 1840s a new technology was emerging that would change how people and goods moved around in the city, the state, and across international borders: the train.

The first railroads were built in Portland in the 1840s. While sailing vessels had served to carry people and goods into and out of the city for many years, people looked for types of transportation that would make traveling and trading with cities and towns further inland easier. By 1842 people could travel to Boston by railroad. Within a few years many other cities and towns in Maine were connected to Portland by rail. But the most important development in railroads in Portland's history was the building of the Atlantic and St. Lawrence Railroad, which began in 1846. This railroad eventually connected to Montreal in Canada to allow goods that were brought by ship to Portland to be transported to Montreal. This brought considerable business to Portland in the middle of the 1800s.

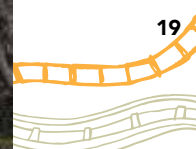
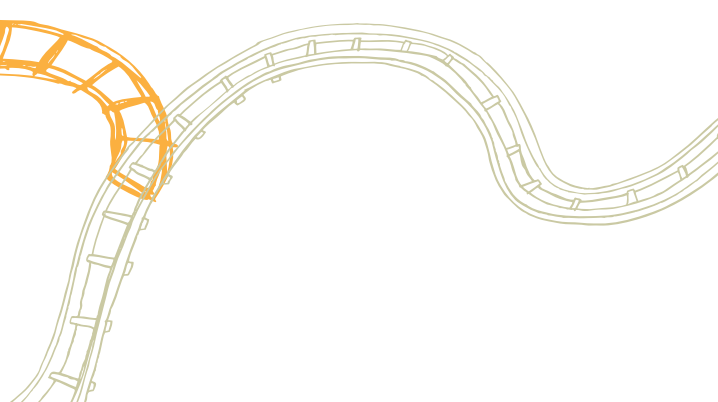


18

Buildings & Places		People	Everyday Life
<p>■ 1879 Deering Oakes Park is planned.</p>	<p>■ 1880 Deering separates from the Town of Westbrook to become its own town.</p>	<p>■ 1882 Henry Wadsworth Longfellow dies in Cambridge, MA.</p> 	<p>■ 1883 First electric lights installed in Portland.</p>

Throughout the late 1800s and early 1900s, many people relied on railroads for passage into and out of Portland for travel and trade.

After World War II, however, the popularity of trains and railroads decreased. Governments were building more and more good roads connecting all areas of the country, and more people were buying cars. As cars and trucks became the most common form of transportation, railroads became less profitable. Between the 1960s and 2001 there were very few passenger trains traveling to Portland (though there are still trains that carry freight). In 2001 the Downeaster Amtrak train service began taking people from Portland to Boston and back. Even though this train service has become very popular with many people in Portland, it does not carry nearly as many people as did railroads of the 1800s and early 1900s.



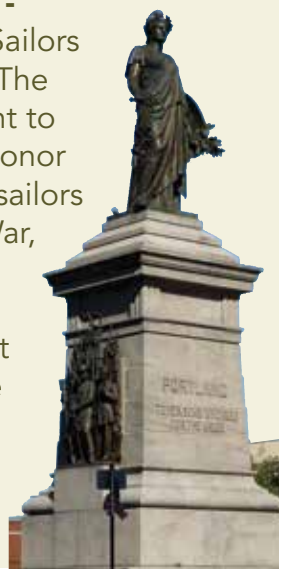
Buildings & Places

■ **1888**
Union Station is built.



■ **1888**
Portland Public Library is built. Mr. **James P. Baxter** builds the library as a gift to the city, the first public library in Portland.

■ **1888**
Our Lady of Victories - Portland Soldiers and Sailors Monument is erected. The people of Portland want to build a monument to honor the fallen soldiers and sailors who died in the Civil War, and to celebrate the strength of the U.S. armed forces. The artist creates a bronze statue of the Greek goddess Nike, the goddess of Victory.



Portland Rises from the Ashes

Portland's symbol is the phoenix, a mythological bird that burns and then rises again from the ashes. The city of Portland has suffered through four devastating fires since the first European settlement in the 1600s. Each time the people have returned to the areas affected by fire to rebuild their neighborhoods and reestablish their lives.



People



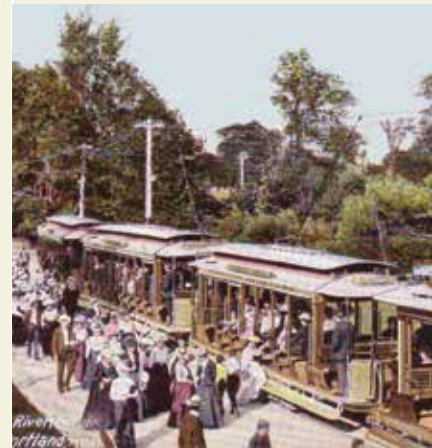
■ **1889**
Thomas Brackett Reed (1839–1902) of Portland is elected speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, a position he holds from 1889-91 and 1895-99. He is known for "Reed's Rules," intended to make the House operate more smoothly. A Statue of Reed stands on the Western Promenade.

Everyday Life



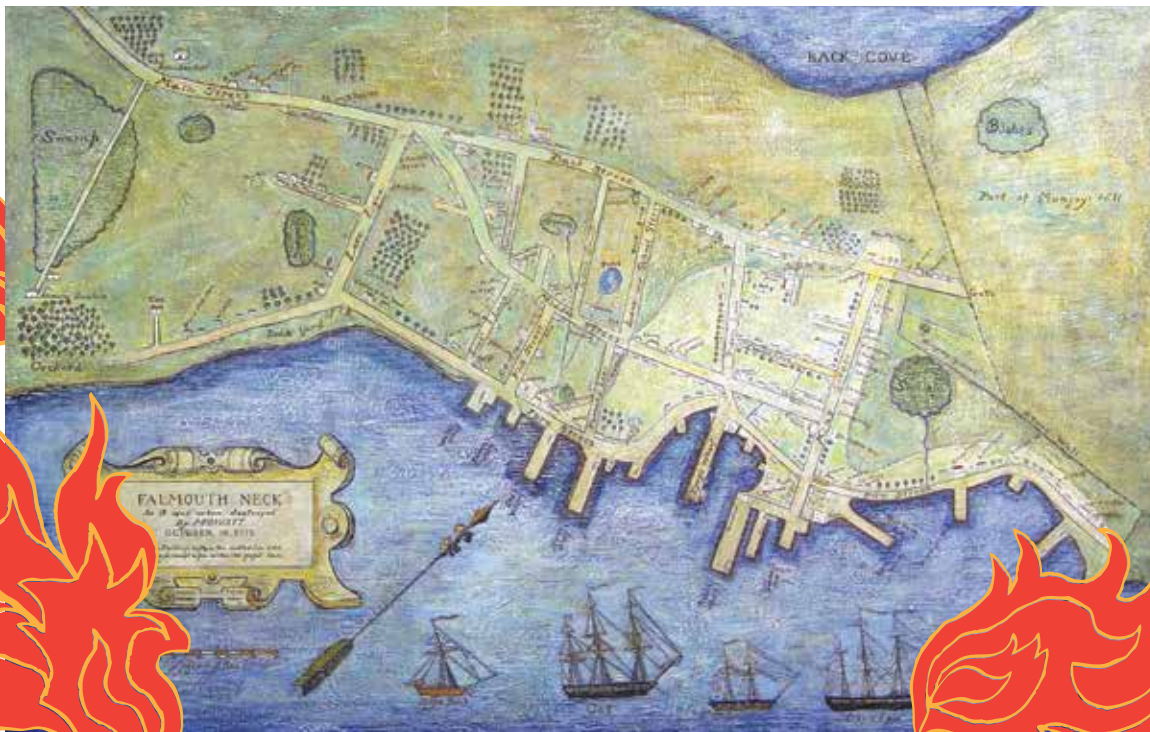
■ **1891**
Stroudwater is connected to the rest of Deering by horse railroad.

■ **1891**
First electric trolley runs to suburbs.



The Fires of 1676 and 1690

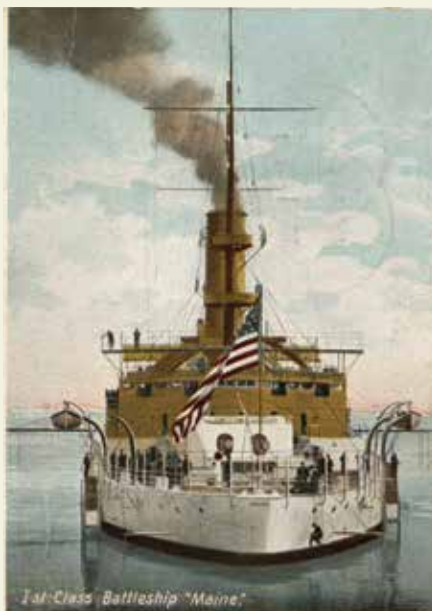
The claiming of land by Europeans in the 1600s began over a hundred years of intermittent fighting between various European powers and Native peoples. During two such wars (King Philip's War and King William's War) the European-Americans living on the peninsula battled with the Abenaki. In both instances the Abenaki forces won the battle and burned the European settlement.



21

Local, State & US Events

■ **1898**
The U.S. Battleship Maine is sunk in Havana Harbor.... Remember the Maine!



■ **1899**
 First automobile comes to Portland; Deering becomes part of Portland.

■ **1905**
 Baxter Boulevard is laid out at Back Cove.

■ **1909**
New City Hall is constructed.

■ **1910**
Fidelity Trust Company builds an 11 story high building, it is Portland's first skyscraper.

The Fire of 1775

By the late 1700s European settlers had succeeded in claiming victories over a number of Native American nations. European-American settlements like Falmouth (Portland) became more permanent parts of the landscape. But the city that would become Portland faced a new threat—this time from other Europeans. In the early stages of the Revolutionary War the British sought to teach American colonists in Maine a lesson. Because many residents of Maine supported the revolution, British forces decided to burn the town of Falmouth as a punishment and as a warning to rebels. In October of 1775 British Captain Henry Mowat gave the residents of Falmouth a few hours to abandon their city, then ordered his forces to burn the town. Rather than subdue anti-British sentiment, the burning of Falmouth in 1775 fueled the flames of rebellion.

Because many residents of Maine supported the revolution, British forces decided to burn the town of Falmouth as a punishment and as a warning to rebels.



22

Everyday Life



■ **1914–1916**
Million Dollar
Bridge to South
Portland is built.

Local, State & US Events

■ **1921**
Oakhurst Dairy is founded by Stanley Bennett and moves to Forest Avenue; milk is delivered to homes in glass bottles by horse drawn wagons.



Buildings & Places

■ **1923**
Portland Observatory closes as signal tower but is kept open by descendants of Lemuel Moody allowing the public to view the harbor from the top.

■ **1926**
Eastland
Park Hotel
construction
is begun.



The Great Fire, 1866

The Fourth of July was a clear, breezy day and people in Portland celebrated with bells and a parade of floats and marching units. In all the excitement no one noticed a fire had started in a nearby boat yard on Commercial Street. The wind spread the flames uphill from the harbor into the heart of the city. Sadly, the tide was low and the water supply in the reservoirs soon ran out. Buildings burned to the ground in a raging fire. By the end, only blackened brick chimneys were left standing on many streets. 10,000 people lost their homes. After the fire the neighborhood we call the "Old Port" was rebuilt primarily as a business area, and most people moved their homes to the East End or West End of Portland.



23

Buildings & Places

■ **1929**
Great Depression begins, leading to farm losses, closure of some mills and factories, reduced incomes for many, and some bank closures in the state.

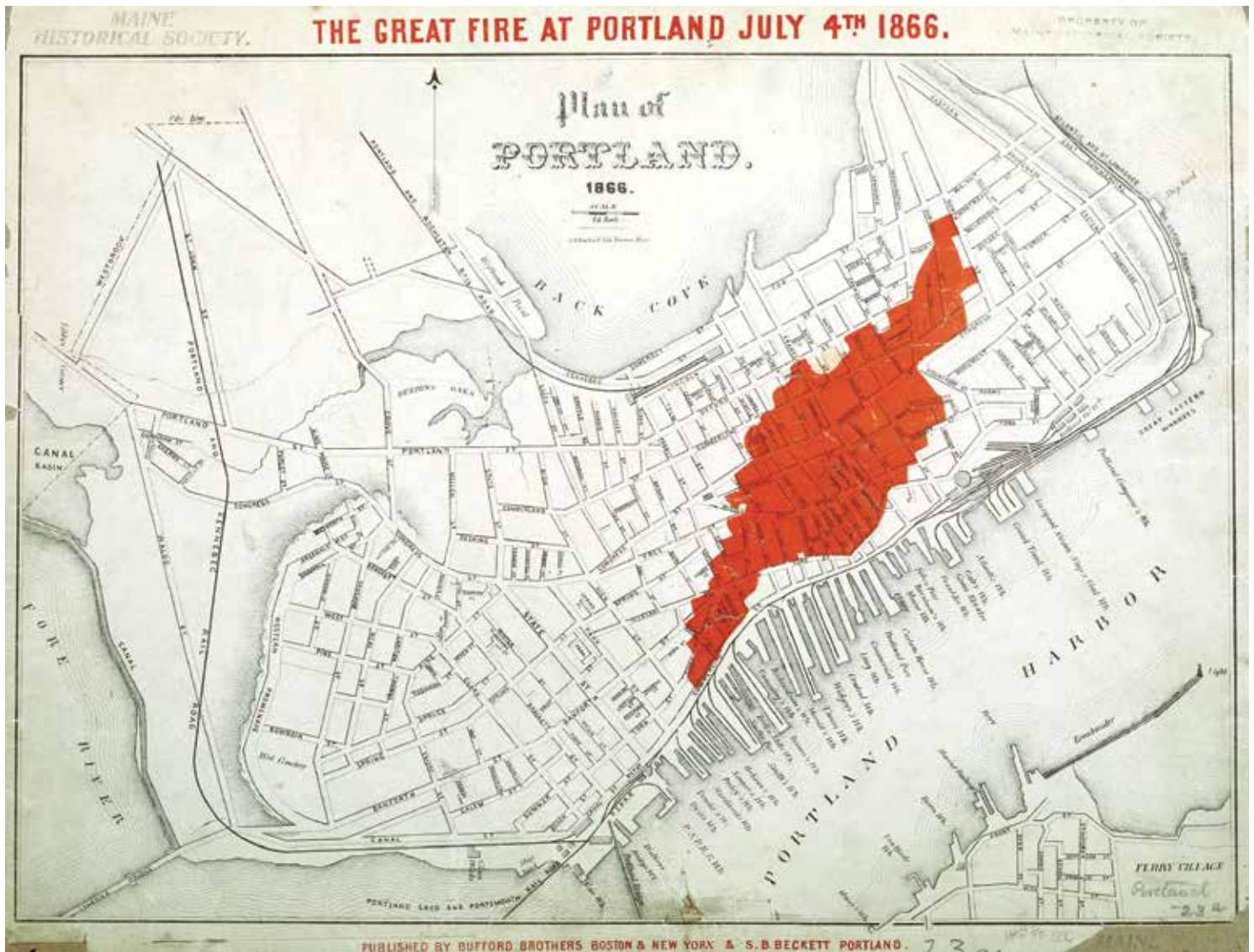
■ **1931**
The Tate House is purchased for \$2,500 by the Colonial Dames of America in the State of Maine.



■ **1931**
Governor Percival Baxter buys land in Northern Maine for the purpose of establishing a game reserve. Over the course of 30 years, Baxter purchases over 90,000 acres to establish Baxter State Park.

■ **1935**
The Tate House opens as an historic house museum.

■ **1939**
The York Family gives **The Portland Observatory** to the City of Portland. The building undergoes its first major restoration project as part of the Works Progress Administration or WPA.



24

Everyday Life

■ **1941**
Electric streetcar service in Portland ends.

Buildings & Places

■ **1941**
Victoria Mansion opens as a museum.

People

■ **1954**
Maine's two recognized Indian tribes (**Passamaquoddy** and **Penobscot**) get the right to vote in federal elections, otherwise granted to men with the adoption of the Constitution in 1789 and to women in 1920. Maine is the last state to allow recognized tribes to vote.

Buildings & Places

■ **1961**
Union Railroad Station is demolished.



Buildings & Places

■ **1967**
Passamaquoddy and **Penobscot** Indians are extended the right to vote in state elections.

Portland is a City of Neighborhoods

Portland is Maine's largest city. Today there are many neighborhoods and islands that make up the City. Neighborhoods are important parts of cities and each neighborhood has its own culture and identity. Portland's many neighborhoods and islands include:

East End

East Bayside

India Street

Old Port

West Bayside

Parkside

Oakdale

Libbytown

Stroudwater

Rosemont

Nason's Corner

Riverton

Back Cove

Deering Center

East Deering

North Deering

Valley Street

West End

Peak's Island

Cliff Island

Great Diamond Island

Cushing Island

■ 1969

Franklin Towers (the tallest building in Maine to date) is completed.



■ 1972

Gerald E. Talbot of Portland is first acknowledged African-American elected to the state Legislature.

■ 1973

Maine recognizes **Micmac** and **Maliseet** Indians as official tribes and issues free hunting and fishing licenses to all tribal members, acknowledging the right of all indigenous people to hunt and fish.

■ 1979

New **Portland Public Library** opens.

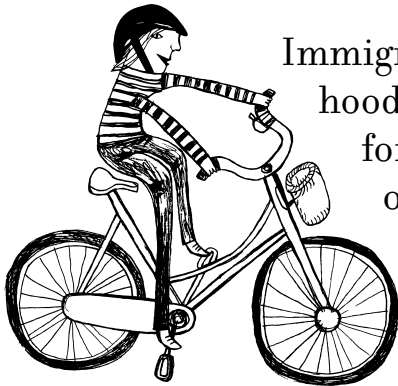


Neighborhoods are made up of people

The faces in neighborhoods change throughout time. They change and grow. For example, the neighborhood around India Street was a Black community during the early 1800s. The Abyssinian Meeting House became a religious, political, and cultural hub for the free blacks of Portland.




By the early 1900s the neighborhood was making another shift, and became home to Italian immigrants. St. Peter's Church, built in 1929, became the religious and cultural center for Italians in Portland. You may have attended the church's Annual Italian Bazaar with your family.

During the mid-1900s, at about the time the Franklin Arterial was built, the neighborhood evolved and became primarily a Jewish neighborhood, with two synagogues, one on Newbury Street the other on the corner of Congress and India Streets, now the Maine Jewish Museum. The synagogues were the center of the Jewish community.



Immigration to the U.S. has played a major role in how neighborhoods change. House Island in Casco Bay was a point of entry for immigrants into the U.S. from 1907 until 1937. Maine is one day closer to Europe than any other port in the U.S. People continue to immigrate to the U.S. today, but rarely do they travel by ship.

26

Buildings & Places	People	People	
 <p>■ 1983 Charles Shipman Payson Building is built. (Portland Museum of Art)</p>	<p>■ 1983 Eleven-year-old Samantha Smith (1972–1985) of Manchester writes to Soviet leader Yuri Andropov about world peace. On his invitation, she visits the Soviet Union.</p> 	<p>■ 1984 Joan Benoit Samuelson, of Cape Elizabeth, becomes the first gold medal winner in the inaugural women's Olympic marathon event at the 1984 Summer Olympic Games in Los Angeles, CA.</p> 	<p>■ 1990 Back Bay Tower is completed.</p>

Parts of a Neighborhood


What makes a neighborhood a neighborhood? Different parts of the city are often distinguished by the types of businesses, houses, and landscapes that are common in (or unique to) that section of town. Sometimes a neighborhood is defined by the cultural heritage of a portion of its residents.

1. In what neighborhood do you live?

3. Have any of you or your classmates, or neighbors, come from somewhere else?

2. How do people live, work and play there?

Where?

Everyday Life	Local, State Events			
<p>■ 1997 Casco Bay Bridge is completed it replaces the Million Dollar Bridge.</p>	<p>■ 1998 Maine's worst natural disaster to date, The Ice Storm, began the first week in January.</p>	<p>■ 2000 Portland Observatory reopens after restoration.</p>	<p>■ 2001 Amtrak Downeaster train begins service. ■ 2011 Ocean Gateway Pier II opens a "megaberth" that can accommodate very large cruise ships.</p>	<p>■ 2012 New Veterans Memorial Bridge opens connecting Portland and South Portland complete with a pedestrian walkway, a bike lane, and a memorial dedicated to Maine Veterans.</p>
				

The Tate House History

Next time you ride down Congress Street headed for the airport, don't forget to look to your left just as you cross the Fore River. There on top of the hill is the Tate House, built in 1755 and home of the Senior Mast Agent for the British Royal Navy before the Revolution.

The Mast Agent was an important person for England because since 1700 the Navy had become the biggest in the world, and the tall straight white pines from Maine were what was needed for the masts of huge ships. Most of England was by then deforested.

George Tate was the Senior Mast Agent, arriving here in 1751. Tate had been a shipbuilder and a commander of a mast ship in England. He was in charge of acquiring masts from the Province of Maine. He first set up a warehouse on the Fore River, probably living with his family upstairs. He brought with him his wife, Mary and their four sons: Samuel, William, George and Robert, all born in England and ranging in age from infancy to 13 years old.

Tate's job was to supervise the cutting of white pines that were marked for the King of England with the Broad Arrow: three strokes of the axe. That meant that the owner of the land upon which the tree grew could not cut his own tree and sell it for a profit. Any tree over 24 inches in diameter and at least 72 feet tall was fair game for the Mast Agent. Many white pines grew to heights of between 100 and 200 feet. The Broad Arrow Policies of the King of England were not popular with the colonists. In fact, by 1770 the colonial courts began refusing to punish those who resisted this policy and cut down their own large white pines. This is the way colonists in this area contributed to the start of the American Revolution.



Did you know?

Everyday life in the 1700s was very different from life today. It was customary for men and women to have specific jobs. Men worked outside their homes in business, on farms, in factories. Women worked in the home, cooking, doing laundry, schooling the children, keeping the garden, raising chickens and cows for meat, eggs and milk, chopping wood, hauling water from the well, and cleaning the house. Some families had servants or slaves to help them, but many families relied on the wife and older children to do this work.



29

Kitchen Chores of the 1700s

Cooking was especially hard work and could be dangerous. The woman often stepped close to the fire to move pots on and off the flame to adjust the heat, to check on baked goods like pies and breads in the oven, and her skirts could catch on fire. The cast iron pots were heavy even before they were filled with water and food, and the handles got very hot. Sometimes the woman had her children in the kitchen with her, and she had to keep them out of the fire as well.

! Now let's look closely.

Look at the picture above, think about what had to happen to make a meal.

Where did the food come from?

Where did the water come from?

Who built the fire?

Who chopped the wood into pieces that fit in the hearth?

On a separate piece of paper, write a story about cooking a meal in the 1700s, choose a chore and describe how you would do it? Will you make a pie, bake bread, cook an entire dinner? What are the steps you need to take to complete your chore?

Wadsworth-Longfellow House

This house built over the years 1785-1786, is the oldest one on the Portland peninsula. It was the first all-brick building in the city, and one of the first places to be built after the destruction of Falmouth Neck by the British in 1775 during the Revolutionary War. At that time, Portland town center was based around India Street and the waterfront. The Wadsworth-Longfellow House was built on the outskirts of town on Back Street much later renamed Congress Street.

The house was built for the family of General Peleg Wadsworth who had led the colonial forces in the District of Maine during the Revolutionary War. After the war, he decided to settle in Portland with his wife Elizabeth. They built the two-story house and a general store so that people coming to Portland to conduct business and go to market would travel by the store. Peleg and Elizabeth reared ten children in the house, and in 1807 retired to their farm in Hiram, Maine.

In 1804, Peleg's daughter Zilpah Wadsworth married Stephen Longfellow in the parlor of the house. Stephen Longfellow, a young lawyer in Portland, grew up in nearby Gorham. After Peleg and Elizabeth retired to Hiram, Stephen and Zilpah moved into the home with their two sons, Stephen Jr. and Henry. Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, the best-known member of the family, began writing in this house when he was a young boy.

In 1815 after a chimney fire damaged the roof, the Longfellows decided to add a third story to make more room for their growing family and keep up with the style of homes being built in Portland. The additional space allowed Stephen Longfellow to move his law office into the house. The family expanded their garden and built an ell at the back of the house to use it as a mudroom and storage area. As the city of Portland grew in the 1800s the house was no longer on the outskirts of town, but instead, right in the middle.

In the 1850s Anne, the daughter of Stephen and Zilpah, gained ownership of the house. Anne took care of the house until she died in 1901 at the age of 90. In her will she left the house and the yard to the Maine Historical Society so there would be a permanent home for its collections, books, and papers. She never added running water, electricity, or a bathroom to the house, even though these modern conveniences were available. Anne wanted to make sure the house could be a way for people to remember her brother Henry, her grandfather Peleg, her family, and life in Maine in the 1800s.



1786



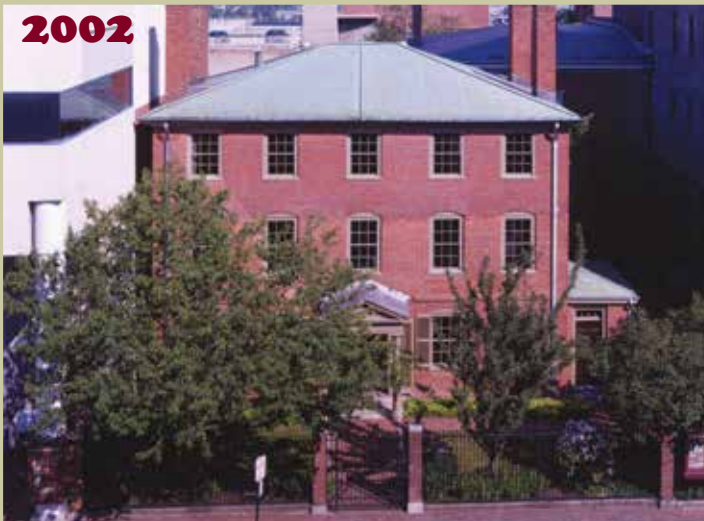
A drawing of the house as it appeared in 1786

1920



A photograph of the house in 1920

2002



A photograph of the house in 2002.

Reading Photos

Buildings help us see how places change over time. Study the three photographs of the house below.



Now let's look closely.

What has changed about the house?

What has changed about the area around the house?

What other details can you find about Portland's past in the images?

What has remained the same?

Portland Observatory

In 1767, Lemuel Moody was born in Portland. When he was just 13 years old, he joined the Navy and went off to sea. Eventually he became a ship's captain, sailing all over the world.

In 1807, Captain Moody returned home with an idea. In a time when there were no radios or telephones, he wanted people to have a way to communicate about the ships coming into the harbor.

The shape of Portland Harbor hid ships from view until they are almost in port. With a way to know that ships were coming, owners could prepare for a ship's arrival and clear dock space for loading and unloading.

Captain Moody spent much of his time in his tower, climbing the 104 stairs to the top several times a day to look through his telescope to spot ships, and signal ships, and take weather reports. When he saw a ship approaching, he raised a flag to signal whose ship it was. Workers on the waterfront could see the flags flying and know it was time to go to the docks to look for a job, families knew their sailors were headed home, and merchants could ready their shops to receive new goods.



Did you know?

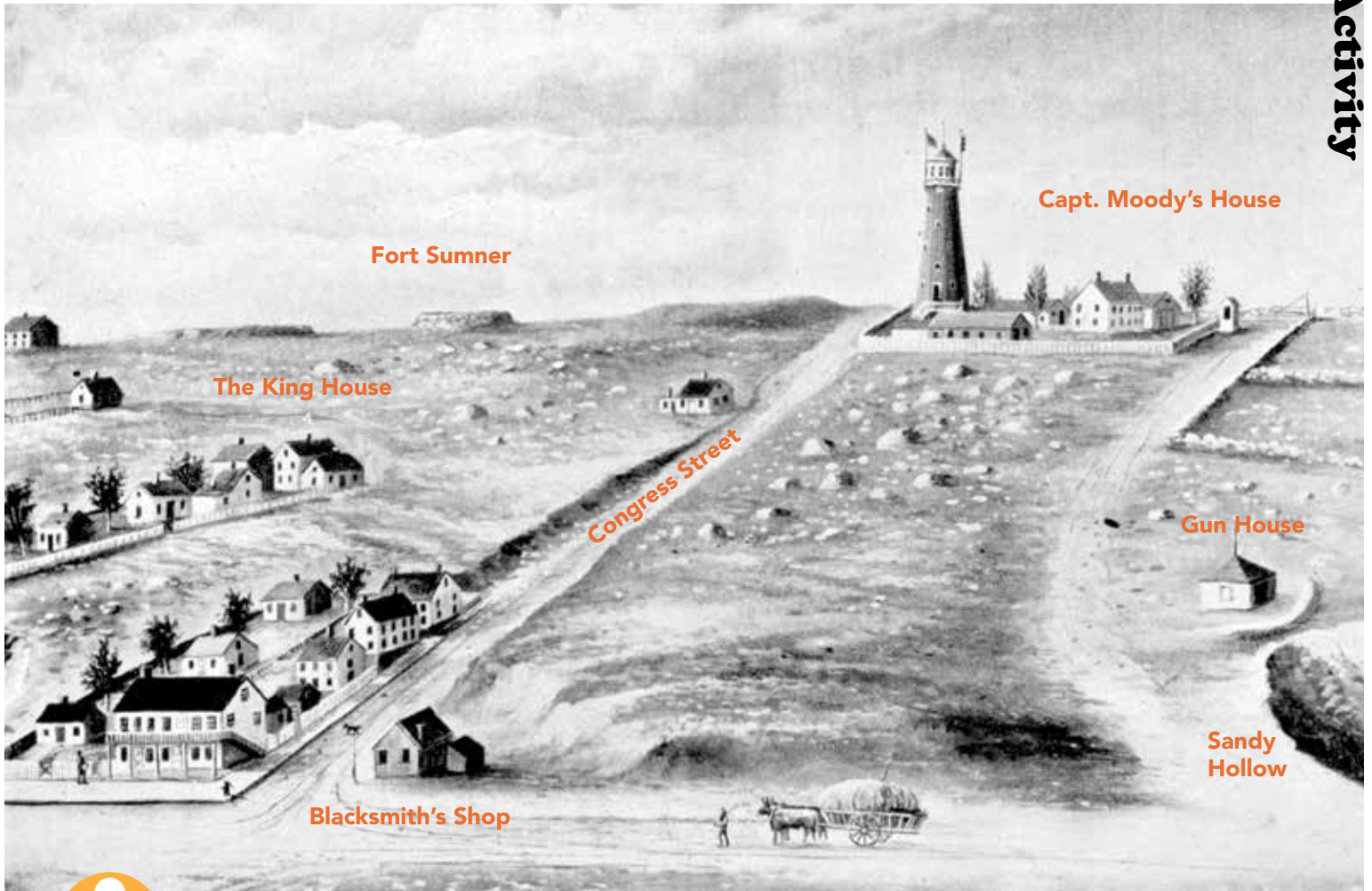
The End of Signaling

By 1923, the two-way radio had been invented. That meant ships could contact the Harbor Master directly so there was no longer a need for the Observatory to raise flags.

The Observatory is a Museum

In 1939 Captain Moody's great grandson gave the Observatory to the City of Portland. On June 14, 1939 (Flag Day), the Observatory was re-opened to the public, but this time as a museum. During World War II the Observatory was closed and used as a lookout to spot planes. During the 1980s Greater Portland Landmarks began its stewardship (to look after) of the Observatory for the City of Portland. In 1998-2000 the Observatory was restored for a second time.





Now let's look closely.

To the right of the Observatory is Captain Moody's House on Monument Street, and to the right of Captain Moody's house is a little structure. Do you know what that is and what it was used for?

Do you see any businesses in this picture?

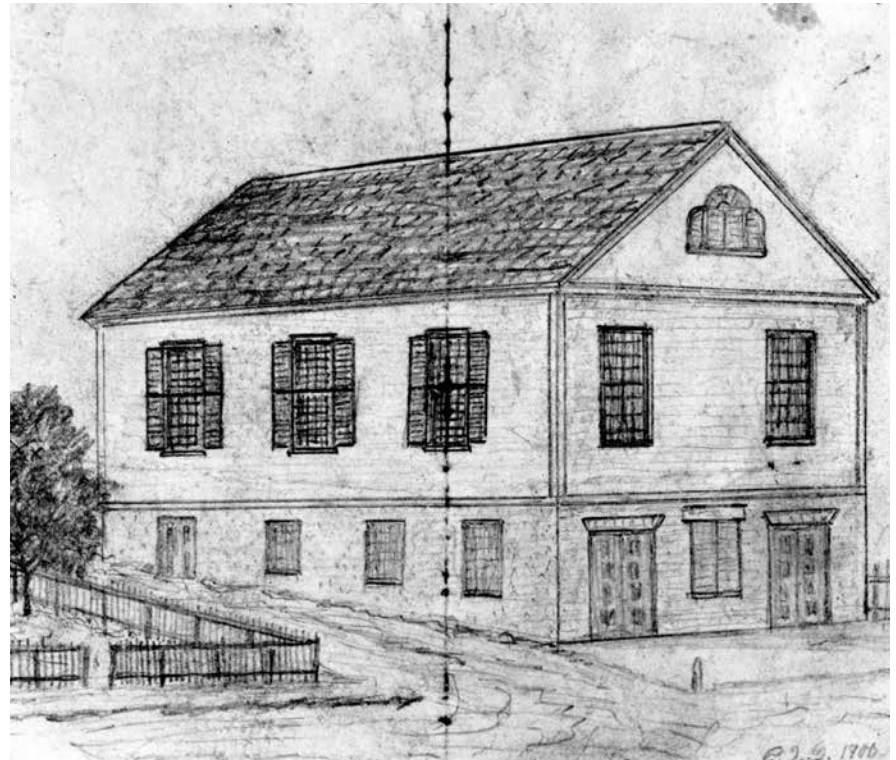
Why would this business be important in 1840? What would an equivalent business be today?

What type of transportation do you see in this picture?

The Abyssinian Meeting House

In 1826, six black men—Reuben Ruby, Caleb Jonson, Clemant Tomson, Job Wentworth, Christopher Manuel and John Sigs—published a letter in a local newspaper, announcing their plan to build a church for Portland’s black community because they no longer wanted to be relegated to the back pews of Portland’s white congregations. They named their church The Abyssinian Meeting House, constructed by free blacks in 1828. The church is the third oldest African American Meeting House in the country.

The Abyssinian thrived through the 1800s as a cultural, religious and political hub for Portland’s black community. Meetings, church services, concerts, dinners and entertainment made the Abyssinian the center of political and social life that united the community throughout the 19th century. Its members and preachers included former enslaved people, leaders of the Underground Railroad movement, and outspoken advocates for the abolition of slavery in the U.S.



Did you know?

Portland was one of the northernmost points on the Underground Railroad. Accessibility to the Meeting House by rail and sea made the Abyssinian an essential northern station on the Underground Railroad. Several of the white activists and many of the Abyssinian members provided runaway slaves with safe housing and escape routes to Canada and England.

The history of the Abyssinian Meeting House includes a school for black children when the city’s schools were segregated, speeches by Lewis G. Clark, and sermons preached from the pulpit by Frederick Douglass. The Meeting House survived the Great Fire of 1866 that left 10,000 people homeless and 1,800 buildings burned to the ground. Portland’s only black fireman, William Ruby, spent the night draping wet blankets on the roof to keep the church from burning. In 1898, the Abyssinian lost nineteen crew members when the steamship S.S. Portland was caught in a terrible storm and sank during a return trip from Boston. The congregation never recovered, and the church closed in 1917. It was later sold and remodeled into apartments. In 1998 the Committee to Restore the Abyssinian purchased the building from the City of Portland, began to bring it back to its original state and preserve its rich history.

Victoria Mansion

Victoria Mansion, also known as the Morse-Libby House, built between 1858 and 1860, is recognized as one of America's most important homes built before the Civil War.



36

The house was built as a summer home for Ruggles Sylvester Morse and his wife Olive.

During the winter the Morses lived in New Orleans, Louisiana where Mr. Morse managed luxury hotels. When he built his house in Maine he wanted the inside to be as elegant as his hotels, filled with beautiful objects, furniture, and paintings inspired by collections found in European palaces. Mr. Morse included some of the new technology available at the time, such as hot and cold running water, flushing toilets, and central heating, conveniences we take for granted today.

When Mr. Morse retired, he and his wife Olive lived in the Mansion year-round. After he died, Mrs. Morse sold the house and all its contents to Joseph Libby and his wife Louisa. They and their five children moved into the house in 1894. The Libbys owned a department store in downtown Portland, but instead of furnishing their new house with brand new items from their shop, they kept all the Morse's furnishings. The Libbys may not have realized it but they were the Mansion's first preservationists.

When the Libbys moved out in 1928, the house was left empty and uncared for. The Mansion was significantly damaged by a hurricane in 1938 and was eventually slated to be demolished and replaced with a gas station. However, Dr. William Holmes, a retired school principal and his sister, Clara Holmes, a retired art teacher, bought the property and made the necessary repairs. In 1941 the Holmeses renamed the house "Victoria Mansion" in honor of Queen Victoria of England and opened the house to the public as a museum.



Did you know?

Before he became wealthy Ruggles Morse was a man from humble beginnings. He and his wife were from Maine farming communities outside of town, but they chose to build their summer home in Portland in a fashionable neighborhood on Danforth Street far from the sounds and smells of Portland's working waterfront.



Let's Compare Victoria Mansion to the Osborne House

Victoria Mansion was built in 1858 to resemble the summer home of Queen Victoria and her husband Prince Albert. The Prince designed the home, called Osborne House, with the help of an architect in the Italian Renaissance style, the same architectural style Mr. Morse chose for his summer home.



Look at the images below of Osborne House, the summer home of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert and Victoria Mansion, both Italianate Villas.

The tower of Victoria Mansion is very much like the one of Osborne House. What five architectural features do you see that are similar? (see the list of architectural features on page 41 for help.)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

What is different about these two homes?

What do you imagine your life would be like if you lived in either of these two houses?



Victoria Mansion, Portland, ME



Osborne House, Isle of Wight, United Kingdom

The Fifth Maine Regiment

Following the outbreak of hostilities between the North and South in April 1861, thousands of Maine men rushed to answer President Lincoln's call for troops. The Fifth Maine Regiment Volunteer Infantry was one of the first Maine regiments to be mustered in.

The regiment consisted of 1,046 men (another 500 joined later) from southern and central Maine. Three of the ten companies in the regiment were composed of men from Portland, thus earning the regiment the nickname the Forest City Regiment. The men left Portland by train in July 1861, stopping briefly in New York City where they were presented with a silk flag by Mainers living in that area. The flag is now on display in the Fifth Maine Regiment Memorial Hall.

After three long years only 193 men were mustered out in July 1864. The rest had been killed in action, died from disease, wounded, deserted, or transferred to other units.

The veterans of the Fifth Maine remained in close contact upon their return to civilian life and, in 1888, decided to build the Fifth Maine Regiment Memorial Hall as a memorial to their fallen comrades and as a reunion hall for themselves and their families.



Did you know?

By the mid 1950s the hall had fallen into disuse and disrepair. The Memorial Society deeded the building to the Fifth Maine Regiment Community Association, a new organization whose purpose is to preserve the hall as a Civil War and Peaks Island history museum and to maintain the hall as a center for community activities. In 1978 the hall, now known as the Fifth Maine Regiment Museum, was listed on the National Register of Historic Places. It is one of two regimental halls still standing in Maine, both on Peaks Island.



The *Machigonne* was built in Philadelphia in 1907. She ferried passengers from Peaks to Portland and back until 1913. People called her "the queen of the fleet." The *Machigonne* was built with carpeted floors, upholstered seats in the cabins, and a special men's "smoking cabin." The ferry had stewardesses, and a brass band played on Sundays.



Now let's look closely.

You are riding from Portland to Peaks Island on the ferry *Machigonne*.

Look at the photograph evidence and read the captions. What do you think it was like to travel on this ship?





A crew member and passenger are sitting inside the cabin of the *Machigonne*.

Maine Narrow Gauge Railroad Museum

Starting in the latter part of the 19th century, Maine had a unique system of railroads that ran on rail only two feet apart. Five of these railroads served rural areas of Central Maine.

The narrow gauge railroads were less expensive to build and operate than the standard gauge railroads.

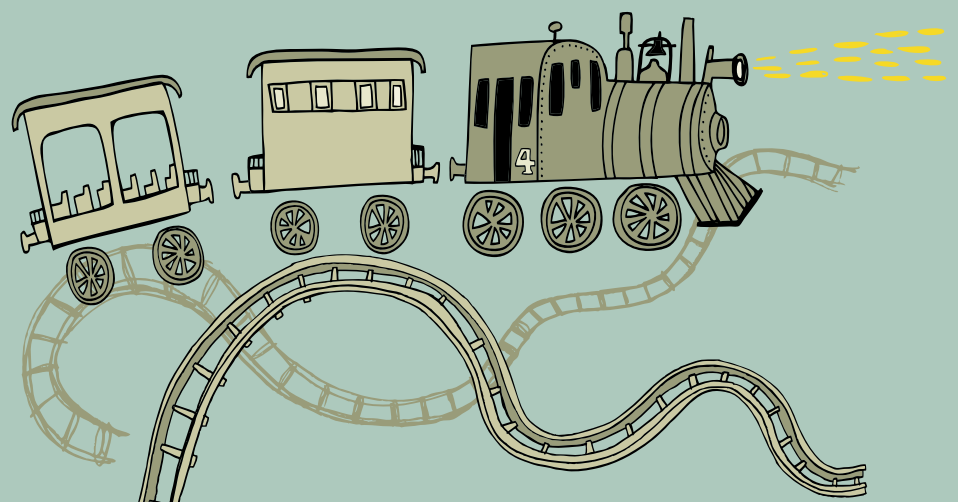
Transporting both passengers and freight, they were the smallest common carrier railroads in the United States.

The two-foot railroads were a valuable part of the economy of Maine. Farmers could sell surplus crops easily, people could travel long distances more quickly, mail would get through daily, and Maine's rich timber resources could be harvested, processed and shipped. Because of competition from trucks and increasing numbers of private automobiles, all of these railroads eventually went out of business, the last one in 1943.



Did you know?

The Maine Narrow Gauge Railroad Museum has the largest collection of Maine's two-foot narrow gauge railroad equipment in the world and is dedicated to conserving its history through preservation and education.





Train Travel



Now let's imagine.

Close your eyes and imagine yourself riding a train to your Grandmother's house from Union Station in Portland to Brunswick in 1860. First think about what the weather might have been like, was it summer, was their air-conditioning in the cars; was it winter, were the cars heated? The engine would have been a steam engine, powered by a furnace burning, wood, or more likely coal. What do you think that would have been like to ride on a steam train powered by fire?

Write a paragraph about your journey.

Handwriting practice lines consisting of ten horizontal lines on a yellow background.

Greater Portland Landmarks



Did you know?

Greater Portland Landmarks saved a house by moving it to a new piece of land on Spring Street so that the Holiday Inn could be built. This house is known as the Gothic House and is privately owned.

Greater Portland Landmarks continues to help save the historic buildings of Portland and preserve the architectural beauty of the city.



In 1961 Union Railroad Station was demolished. This event made many residents of Portland angry and afraid that more historic buildings would be lost. Three years later in 1964, Greater Portland Landmarks was formed.

Portland, like many cities across the United States, was feeling the effects of Urban Renewal. Some old buildings in our city were being torn down to make room for new buildings, such as the Civic Center and the Holiday Inn.

Streets such as Spring and Franklin were once lined with trees, historic homes and neighborhood stores. But in the 1960s these residential roads were cleared and made wider to create transportation through-ways for cars and building sites for big new offices and apartment complexes. Making new roads and buildings isn't bad, but changing the historic make-up of a city is always an issue for debate and still is.

In the early years, Greater Portland Landmarks volunteers took a survey of all of the historic properties in Portland.

This list included information such as the address of the building, the materials that went into it, the number of stories it had, and the name of the owner.

Sometimes an historic building would be available for sale, and Greater Portland Landmarks would buy it, fix it up, and sell it to a buyer who would promise to take care of it. The H.H. Hay Building on the corner of Free and Congress Streets is an example of one of the buildings saved by Greater Portland Landmarks.

Building Survey of Your Home or School

THE OUTSIDE

Building name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____

Zip: _____

What is your building made out of? _____

What color is it? _____

How many doors does it have? _____

How many windows? _____

The front door is made of: _____

What else do you see on the front of the building? _____

THE INSIDE

How many rooms inside your building? _____

Which room is the largest? _____

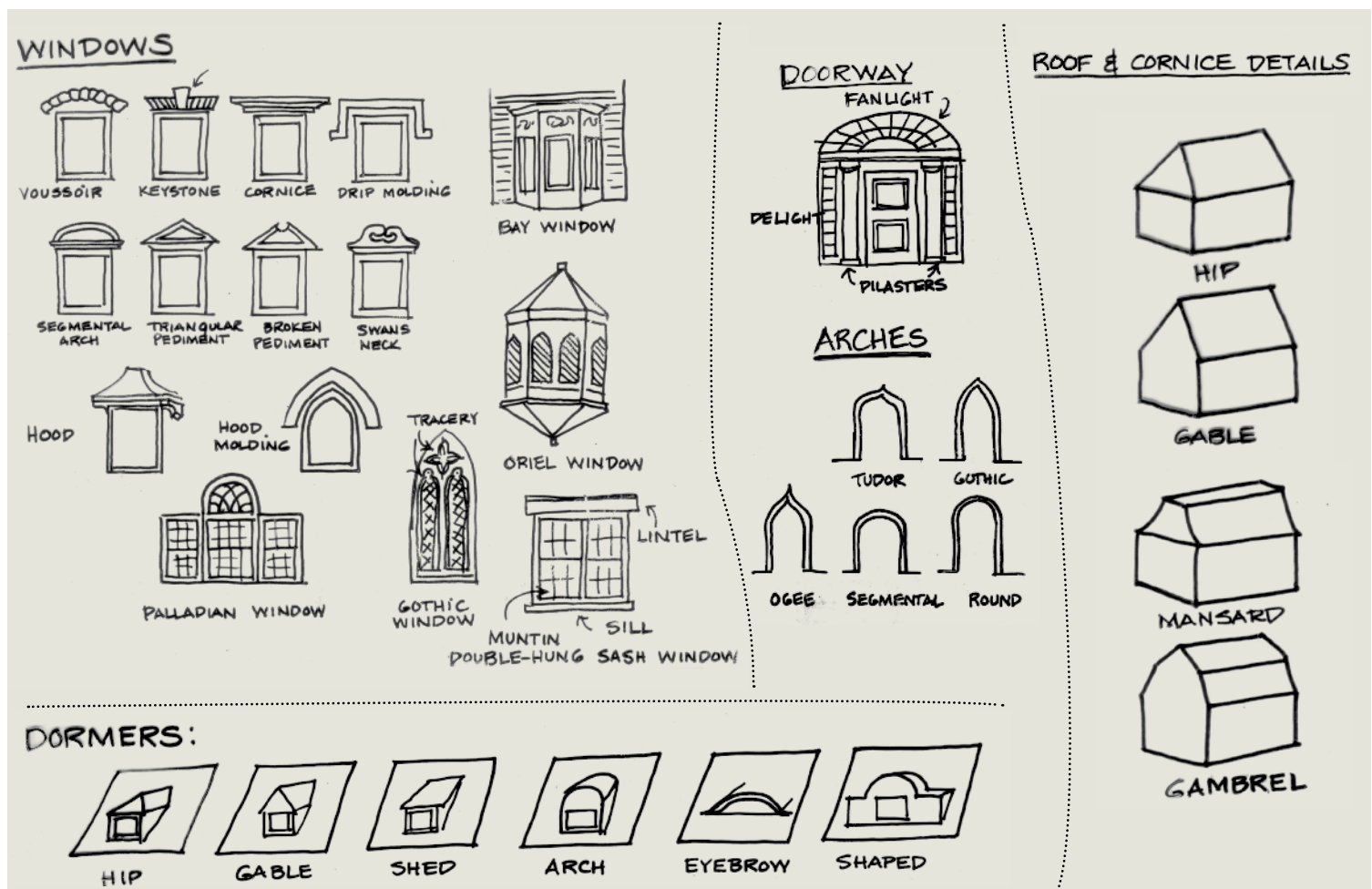
Which one is the smallest? _____

How many stairways are there? _____

What is the kitchen floor made of? _____

What is the bathroom floor made of? _____

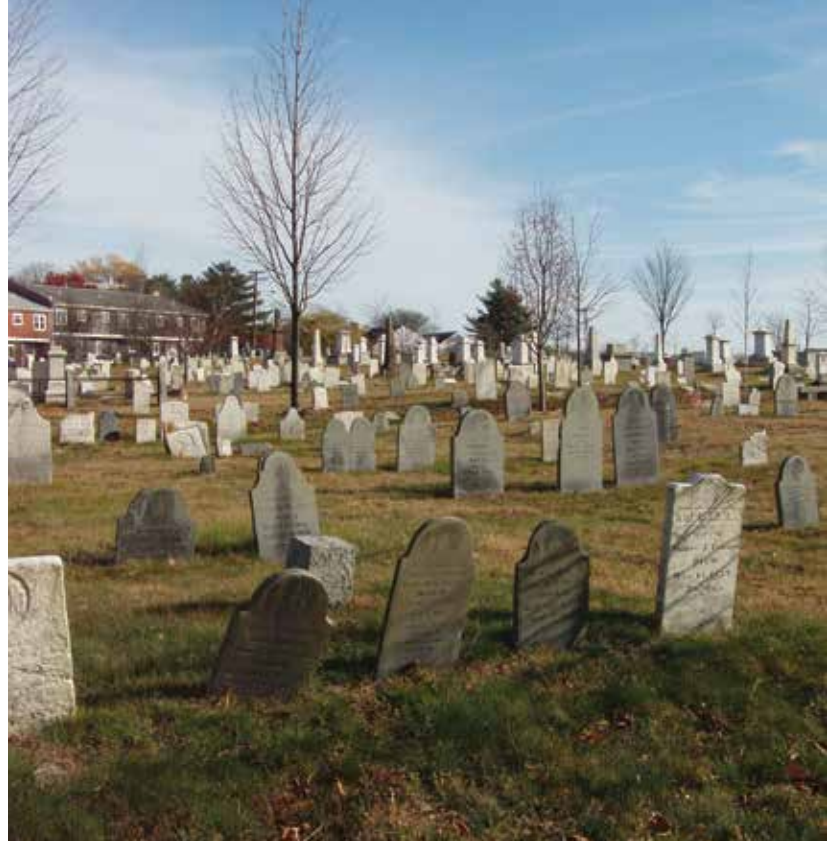
DRAW YOUR BUILDING: On a separate piece of paper draw your building and using the details listed below label your building.



Eastern Cemetery

The first English settlers arrived in Portland 1632. They built their homes on the Portland Peninsula near modern day India Street. One of the first tasks was to define a burial ground, now part of Eastern Cemetery, Portland's oldest cemetery, officially established in 1668.

All of the burials at Eastern Cemetery are below ground, even under the markers that look like tables. There were many private tombs built for families and each tomb holds up to 30 coffins. The entrance to each tomb is protected by either a stone slab or wooden planks.



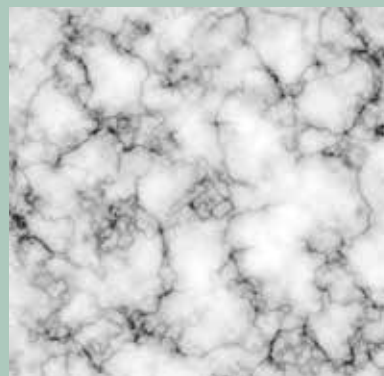
44

Did you know?

A gravestone can give us information about the person who died. We can learn the age of the person and his or her name. The gravestone material also tells us how wealthy or not a person was in life. Many of the gravestones at Eastern Cemetery are made of slate, an inexpensive stone; others are made of marble or granite, much more expensive materials. The funny thing is that, today, the marble gravestones are very hard to read after so many years of being out in the weather because marble is a porous material; it has tiny holes in it like an eggshell, and when ice, rain and dirt get into the pores the stone wears out. Slate is a much more solid stone so that over the years the slate gravestones have outlasted many of the more expensive marble gravestones.



Slate



Marble



Gravestone Detective

This is an example of a typical gravestone.

One found in Eastern Cemetery. This one is a slate gravestone.



Now, let's be detectives.

ERECTED
 in memory of
 Mifs Caroline Snow
 Died
 Jan. 22, 1815
 AEt 21

Hope looks beyond the bounds of time.
 When, what we now deplore
 Shall rise in fall immortal prime
 And bloom to fade no more.

What was the person's name?

What date did this person die?

How old was she?

Was she married?

Anything else you can learn from this gravestone?



Hints:

AEt – means "age."
 Sometimes an "f" is used instead of an "s," especially when the "s" is doubled.

Evergreen Cemetery

After Eastern Cemetery became full, the City of Portland built two new cemeteries, the Western Cemetery in 1820 along the Western Promenade and Evergreen Cemetery on Stevens Avenue. In 1852 when the land for Evergreen was purchased, it was a new trend to make cemeteries places where people could not only bury their loved ones, but also have a place where they could go for a walk and get some fresh air.



Open areas like parks and cemeteries were especially important in growing cities like Portland. The original purchase of land at "Stevens' Plain" was 55 acres, today the cemetery is 239 acres.

Evergreen Cemetery is one of the largest open space in Portland, even bigger than Deering Oaks Park. In addition, it is a sanctuary for birds and other wildlife. Unlike Eastern and Western Cemeteries it is an active cemetery, people still bury their loved ones here.

Did you know?

Evergreen holds many of Maine's politicians, business leaders, artists, influential families, and nearly 1400 Civil War soldiers and veterans. In all more than 60,000 burials have taken place here.

For over 150 years it has served as a place for those who wanted to escape the hustle and bustle of city life by trolley, bus or car for a bit of fresh air, and remains a popular destination for visitors.



Evergreen Cemetery Scavenger Hunt

This scavenger hunt will help you recognize and appreciate some of the historic Victorian symbols located on grave markers in Evergreen Cemetery.

Please begin at the back of the Wilde Memorial Chapel proceed toward the large Baxter Memorial on Maine Ave. Carefully explore the grass streets and gravestones between these two sites to find the symbols listed below.



What can you find?



Garland or Wreath of Leaves (Laurel), memory, victory, glory



Dove, peace



Lamb, innocence



Obelisk, ray of sun



Rose, love, perfection



Urn, death, sorrow



Flame, eternal Life



Globe, free thinker or forward-looking person

Scavenger Hunt Etiquette

- Be respectful of other visitors who may be mourning or visiting the gravesite of a loved one.
- Do not move flowers placed on a grave.

- Grave rubbings can damage the markers and prevent future visitors from reading them. Grave rubbing is done when a piece of paper is laid over a gravestone and rubbed with a pencil or crayon. Please do not create grave rubbings.

- Many of the older gravestones are fragile. Treat them with care!

Additional Resources

The Abbe Museum

The History of the Wabenaki and 3rd grade
on-line curriculum of Native Americans
26 Mount Desert Street
Bar Harbor, ME
(207) 288-3519
www.abbemuseum.org

The Abyssinian Meeting House

75 Newbury Street
Portland, ME 04101
info@abyme.org
www.abyme.org

Evergreen Cemetery

Friends of Evergreen Cemetery
(physical address)
672 Stevens Avenue
Portland, Maine 04103
www.friendsofvergreen.org

The Fifth Maine Regiment Museum

Executive Director
45 Seashore Ave
Peaks Island, ME 04108-1311
207-766-3330
fifthmainemuseum@maine.rr.org
www.fifthmainemuseum.org

Greater Portland Landmarks and The Portland Observatory Museum

Manager of Education Programs
93 High Street
Portland, ME 04101
207-774-5561 ext. 104
education@portlandlandmarks.org
www.portlandlandmarks.org

The Maine Historical Society and The Henry Wadsworth Longfellow House

Director of Education
489 Congress St # 2
Portland, ME 04101-3498
(207) 774-1822
www.mainehistory.org

Maine Memory Network – Online resource of MHS’s archives

Documents, pictures, artwork, etc.
www.mainememory.net

The Maine State Museum

83 Maine 27
Augusta, ME 04333
(207) 287-2301
www.mainestatemuseum.org

The Portland Freedom Trail

P.O. Box 342
Portland, ME 04112
(207) 591-9980
info@portlandfreedomtrail.org
www.portlandfreedomtrail.org

Portland Public Library – Portland Room

(dedicated to Portland’s History)
5 Monument Square
Portland, ME 04101-4072
(207) 871-1700 ext. 7474
portlandroom@portland.lib.me.us
www.portlandpubliclibrary.com

The Tate House Museum

Site Coordinator
1267 Westbrook Street
Portland, ME 04102
207-774-6177
info@tatehouse.org
www.tatehouse.org

Victoria Mansion

Director of Education
109 Danforth Street
Portland, ME 04101-4504
(207) 772-4841 ext. 821
info@victoriamansion.org
www.victoriamansion.org

Additional Teacher Resources

A Building History of Northern New England

by James L. Garvin
UPNE, 2002
Focuses on domestic architectural styles and materials from the 18th to the 20th centuries

Big House, Little House, Back House, Barn

by Thomas C. Hubka
University Press of New England, 1984
Architectural study of the connected farm buildings of New England

Captain Moody and His Observatory

by John Moulton
Mount Joy Publishing, 2000
A history of the Portland Observatory and the man who built it

Creating Portland: History and Place in Northern New England

edited by Joseph A. Conforti
University of New Hampshire, 2005
Essays that explore a variety of topics in Portland's experience

The Lighthouses and Lightships of Casco Bay

by Peter D. Bachelder
The Provincial Press, 1995
A guide to the many historically and architecturally significant lighthouses/lightships

Maine in the World, Stories of Some of Those from Here Who Went Away

by Neil Rolde
Tilbury House, 2009

Maine's Visible Black History, The First Chronicle of Its People

by H.H. Price and Gerald E. Talbot
Tilbury House Publishers, 2006

Our Own Snug Fireside

by Jane C. Nylander
Alfred A. Knopf, 1993
"A must read for anyone interested in domestic life before the Industrial Age"

Picturing Portland: A Century of Change, Exhibition Catalogue

by Hadley Schmoyer
Portland Harbor Museum, 2007
Photographs that document changes in the landscape over the last century

Portland

by Patricia McGraw Anderson and Josephine H. Detmer, project director Jane McL. S. Moody
Greater Portland Landmarks, 1986
"The only comprehensive overview of the development of Portland's built environment"

Portland in the Past

by William Goold
B. Thurston & Company, 1886 (available in paperback from Heritage Books, and as an e-book from Google Books)
See chapter XIII for 1886 information on cemeteries.

Postcard History Series: Portland

by Joyce K. Bibber and Earle G. Shettleworth, Jr.
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Fifth Maine Regiment Memorial Hall, Peaks Island,
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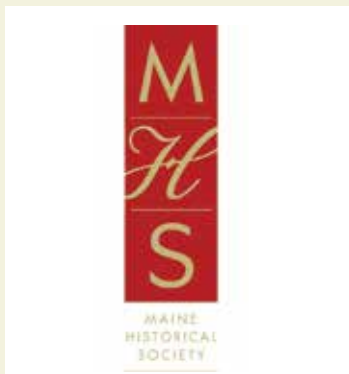
- Page 2 *Gorges and Mason dividing their territories. (1879);
History of the United States of America*, by
Watson, Henry C. (Henry Clay), 1831-1869,
New York, T. Kelly
<http://digitalgallery.nypl.org/nypldigital/id?808130>
Page 4-5 *Artist's reconstruction of a Wabanaki encampment
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org/wiki/File:Osborne_House_02.jpg](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Osborne_House_02.jpg)

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Fifth Maine Regiment Museum
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