



MAINE
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

Local History, Technology, and 21st Century Skills

Steve Bromage
Maine Historical Society



Maine Memory Network: Content Through Collaboration

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Maine Memory Network. At the top left is the logo 'Maine Memory Network' with 'MHS' in a vertical stack. To the right are links for 'Login', 'My Account', and 'About'. Below the logo is a banner for 'Maine's STATEWIDE digital MUSEUM' with a 'NEW! AVAILABLE!' badge. A paragraph describes the network as a project of the Maine Historical Society providing access to thousands of historical items from over 200 organizations. A 'See What's New - Historical Items and Exhibits' section features a 'Welcome to Governor Baxter, Dr. Agatha, 1922' exhibit. A search bar is labeled 'Search or Browse the Collections'. Below are four main sections: 'EXHIBITS' with links to 'The Irish on the Decks of Portland', 'Liberty Threatened: Maine in 1775', and 'Maine and the Space Age'; 'MAINE HISTORY ONLINE' with a survey organized by time and theme; 'OUR PARTNERS' featuring the 'LINCOLN HISTORICAL SOCIETY'; and 'SHARE YOUR LOCAL HISTORY' with a link to learn how organizations can contribute. At the bottom are sections for 'CREATE YOUR OWN' (save, organize, annotate, and share items) and 'SCHOOLS' (resources for teaching and learning). The footer contains navigation links, copyright information (©2000-2011 Maine Historical Society), and a disclaimer about image reproduction.

- www.mainememory.net
- 270 contributing organizations
- 30,000 historical items
- 100+ online exhibits
- Community websites
- Intro to ME history
- Much more!

How It Works

MHS Provides:

- Technical Infrastructure
- Training and Support
- Programmatic Opportunities

Communities Provide:

- Historic Items
- Local Knowledge
- Projects, Ideas, Energy, and Labor

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York Manufacturing Company Workers, Saco, ca. 1900



Item 23044 [zoom](#)   

Purchase a reproduction of this item on VintageMaineImages.com.

Description

York Manufacturing Company was built on Saco Island in 1831, after another textile mill had burned down. York Manufacturing milled cotton goods and in 1839 was operating three mills with 1,000 workers. In 1930 York Manufacturing was sold to New England Industries and became known as the York Division of Bates Manufacturing. In 1958 the factory was shut down.

[Go back](#)

Standards

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York Manufacturing Company Workers, Saco, ca. 1900

Contributed by [Dyer Library Archives / Saco Museum](#)



Item 23044 | [enlarge](#) | [zoom](#) | [send e-card](#) | [add to album](#) | [share what you know](#)

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Description

York Manufacturing Company was built on Saco Island in 1831, after another textile mill had burned down. York Manufacturing milled cotton goods and in 1839 was operating three mills with 1,000 workers. In 1930 York Manufacturing was sold to New England Industries and became known as the York Division of Bates Manufacturing. In 1958 the factory was shut down.

Other Information

Title: York Manufacturing Company Workers, Saco, ca. 1900
Creation Date: circa 1900
Subject Date: circa 1900
Town: Saco
Local Name: Factory Island
County: York
State: ME
Media: Photograph
Dimensions (cm): 16.51 x 20.32
Local Code: 1068
Object Type: Image

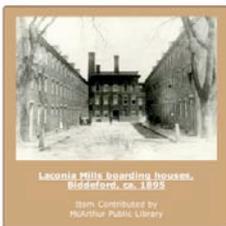
For more information about this item, contact:

Dyer Library Archives / Saco Museum
371 Main Street, Saco, ME 04072
207-283-3861
www.sacomuseum.org

- Images scanned at 40mb
- Detailed catalog record
 - Date, title, description
- All text documents transcribed
- Ensures credibility of the site to the field, teachers, etc.

Interpretive Opportunities

Biddeford, Saco and the Textile Industry



Laconia Mills boarding houses,
Biddeford, ca. 1895
Item Contributed by
McArthur Public Library

Text by Renée DesRoberts, McArthur Library; Elizabeth De Wolfe, University of New England; and Marie O'Brien, Saco Museum

Images from Dyer Library Archives/Saco Museum, McArthur Library, Penobscot Marine Museum, and Maine Historical Society

Lumbering took off, with some 17 sawmills by 1800. Manufacturing began in 1811 when Colonel Thomas Cutts established the Saco Iron Works on

Factory Island.

Metalworkers at the Iron Works used power machines to produce 3,500 pounds of nails per day.

The two cities began a long legacy of cotton manufacturing in 1825 when Saco Manufacturing built the largest textile mill in the country.

The story of the industrial rise and decline of Biddeford and Saco is one of manufacturing statistics and entrepreneurial successes. But it also is a story of the workers whose skill and knowledge helped build the industries -- and of the cultural and social growth of the cities on the Saco River.

Biddeford and Saco grew from small towns to booming urban areas. Daughters of Yankee farmers made up the first wave of mill employees. The mills made efforts -- not always successful -- to protect them and insure their good behavior. Nevertheless, the large numbers of young women essentially alone in newly urbanized areas created hazards for the women and concerns for the community.

By the middle of the nineteenth century, immigrants had started arriving from around the world, drawn by the jobs at the mills and related opportunities.

The mills and the services, industries, and culture that arose around them provide an important part of the history of the two communities.

Exhibits



Mills and Changing Cities

By Marie O'Brien

As textile manufacturing boomed in Biddeford and Saco, the two cities grew, bringing immigrants, new commercial establishments, and new social and cultural institutions to the area.



Making Cloth

By Renée DesRoberts

The process of making cloth relied on technology and machinery -- but equally important were the skill and knowledge of the mill's employees. Shown here is the process in the early 1900s at the Pepperell Mills in Biddeford.



The Murder of Mary Bean

By Elizabeth De Wolfe

When Berengera Caswell died after an abortion in Biddeford in 1849, the story of the factory girl known as Mary Bean became a sensationalized morality tale about the dangers of women away from home and in the workplace.

- Online exhibits enable communities to tell stories
- All activities supported by easy-to-use tools
- Facilitates collaboration at multiple levels

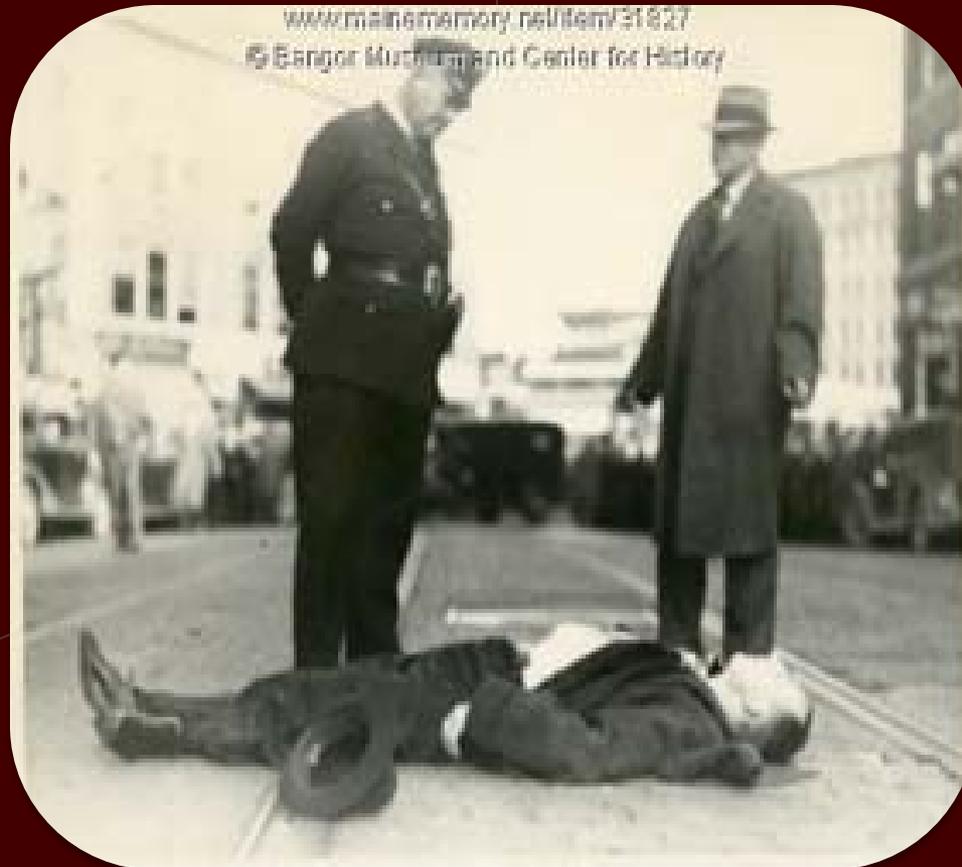
- What it is:
 - Collaborative, participatory, representative
 - Promotes engagement, standards, connections
 - Evolving
- What it isn't:
 - No individual contributions
 - No wiki, tagging, GIS, public commentary
 - Yet.

The screenshot shows a webpage from Maine History Online. The page title is "Biddeford, Saco and the Textile Industry". It features a central image of a factory interior with a large mill wheel. To the right of the image is a text block starting with "Text by Rende Desiderius, McArthur Library, Elizabeth DeWitt, University of New England, and Marie O'Brien, Saco Museum". Below the image is a caption: "Lumbering took off, with some 17 sawmills by 1800. Manufacturing began in 1811 when Colonel Thomas Cutts established the Saco Iron Works on Factory Island." The main text on the page discusses the industrial rise and decline of Biddeford and Saco, mentioning the Saco Manufacturing mill in 1825 and the role of young women in the textile industry. On the right side, there is an "Exhibits" section with links to "Mills and Chemicals Cities", "Making Cloth", and "The Murders of Mary Reed". The page footer includes the Maine State Seal and navigation links.

HELP!!!

Stakeholders

Historical
Organization



Schools

Libraries

Maine Community Heritage Project

- Program helps communities mobilize around their history
- Designed to foster collaboration and make connections near and far
- Projects different in every community depending on interests and capacity
- 20 communities have built websites

Which 21st Century Skills?

CASE STUDY:

Maine Memory Network

21ST CENTURY SKILLS:

Communication and Collaboration
ICT Literacy
Civic Literacy

SELF-ASSESSMENT CATEGORIES:

Institutional Assets
Leadership & Management
Partnering
Accountability



The Maine Memory Network's infrastructure allows students to create and share their own online exhibits.

Maine Memory Network (MMN) is a statewide digital museum created out of a partnership between the Maine Historical Society and the Maine State Library to increase public access and engagement with the holdings of historical societies across the state. MMN now has 170 active contributing partners and more than 12,000 primary documents. The site has expanded access to historical collections that previously were inaccessible due to geographic distance and/or limited institutional hours. This online learning resource has transformed museum, library, and school relationships across the state.

One exciting offshoot is the Maine Community Heritage Project (MCHP), which emphasizes dynamic audience and community engagement. MCHP recruits and facilitates local, community-based teams that work together to collect, digitize, and create online exhibits of a community's historical resources. MCHP nourishes community-wide learning partnerships, and, in addition to fostering best practice in historiography, enhances each participant's 21st century skills.

Project teams consisting of librarians, historical society staff, teachers, students, and community members work together to research, learn, and create new online resources on the community's history. All team members develop and refine skills such as technology literacy, critical thinking, written and oral communication, and collaboration skills. The project's focus on intergenerational learning is noteworthy—students are recruited through active K-12 school partnerships, and those students establish highly collaborative working relationships with historical society staff and community volunteers. Students learn local history with other team members in applied, highly relevant settings, while historical society staff and volunteers benefit from digitization and technology skills shared by students. Civic literacy is also a key component of MCHP: upon conclusion of the project, each team celebrates their new historical knowledge with a community-wide event.

Additionally, Maine Memory Network has made a strategic commitment to continuous improvement by hiring the Institute for Learning Innovation (ILI) to evaluate and refine MCHP through two key phases: formative evaluation, designed to provide iterative feedback on the development and implementation of key project components; and summative evaluation, designed to assess the impact of the project on participating individuals, organizations, and communities.

- media literacy
- critical thinking
- collaboration
- communications
- problem solving
 - creativity
 - civic literacy
- global awareness
 - technology



Steps: Digitizing

- Identify primary document
- Study document/form questions
- Conduct basic research: secondary reading, interviews
- Write description of item
- Fill in a cataloging worksheet
- Digitize document
- Review with teacher/mentor





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Elise Fellows White, Skowhegan, ca. 1910

Contributed by [Skowhegan History House](#)



www.maine-memory.net/item/11776
© Skowhegan History House

Item 11776 | [enlarge](#) | [zoom](#) | [email](#) | [facebook](#) | [twitter](#) | [add to album](#) | [share what you see](#)

Description

Skowhegan native Elise Fellows White (1874-1953) dressed for a performance.

White studied violin in Maine, Boston, and Europe. She performed for many years on the concert stage in Europe, North America and Canada.

Other Information

Title: Elise Fellows White, Skowhegan, ca. 1910

Creation Date: circa 1910

Subject Date: circa 1910

Town: Skowhegan

County: Somerset

State: ME

Media: Black and white print

Dimensions (cm): 25 x 19

Local Code: 900_usms_hh_efw_lg

Object Type: Image

For more information about this item, contact:

Skowhegan History House
66 Elm Street, PO Box 832, Skowhegan, ME 04976
(207) 474-6632
<http://skowhegan.com/historyhouse/>

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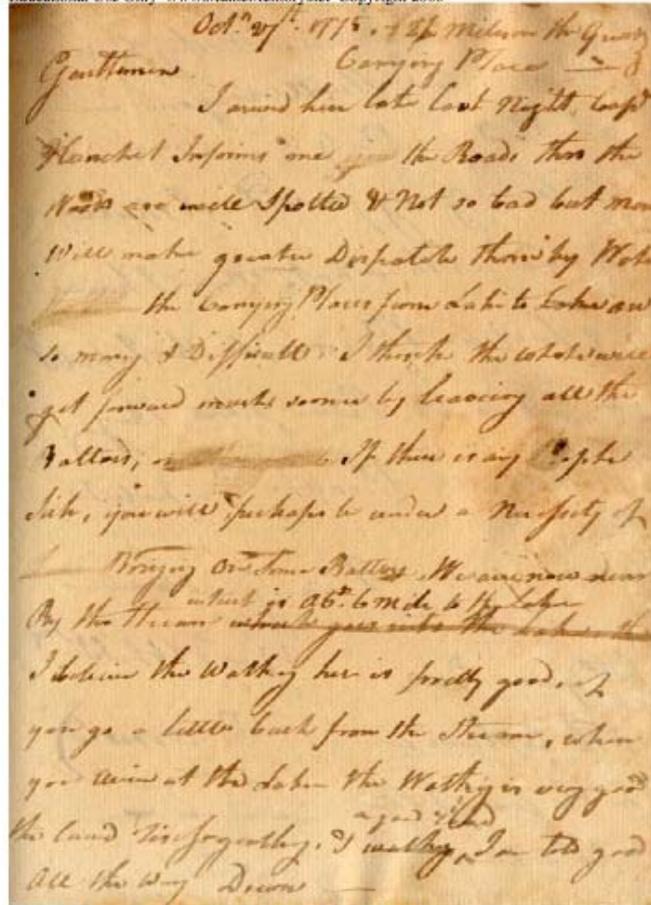
Dimensions (cm): 25 x 19

Local Code: 900_usms_hh_efw_lg

Object Type: Image

Transcriptions

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Oct. 27th. 1775. 72 Miles on the Great
Carrying Place
Gentlemen
I arrivd here late last Night, Capt
Chanchet Informs me you the Roads thru the
Woods are [wate?] spotted & not so bad but now
will make greater Dispatch than by Water
the Carrying Places from Lake to Lake are
so many & Difficult, I think the whole will
get forward much sooner by leaving all the
Battous, If there is any people
like, you will perhaps be under a necessity of
Bringing our ? batteous. We are now near
By the ? which is Abr. 6 miles to the Lake
I believe the walking here is pretty good,
you go a little back from the stream, when
you arrive at the Lake the walking is very good
the land ? gently. & walking a good, ? good
all the way Down

Contributed to Maine Memory Network by the Maine Historical Society

(Local Code: Coll. 1765)

Date: Oct. 27, 1775

Description: Letter by Benedict Arnold reporting progress on the march to Quebec.

Oct. 27th. 1775, 72 Miles on the Great
Carrying Place--

Gentlemen

I arrivd here late last Night, Capt.

Chanchet Informs me you the Roads thru the
Woods are [wate?] spotted & not so bad but now
will make greater dispatch than by water

the Carrying Places from Lake to Lake are
so many & difficult, I think the whole will
get forward much sooner by leaving all the
battous, If there is any people
like, you will perhaps be under a necessity of

Bringing our ? batteous. We are now near
By the ? which is Abr. 6 miles to the Lake
I believe the walking here is pretty good,
you go a little back from the stream, when
you arrive at the Lake the walking is very good
the land ? gently. & walking a good, ? good
all the way down

Skype

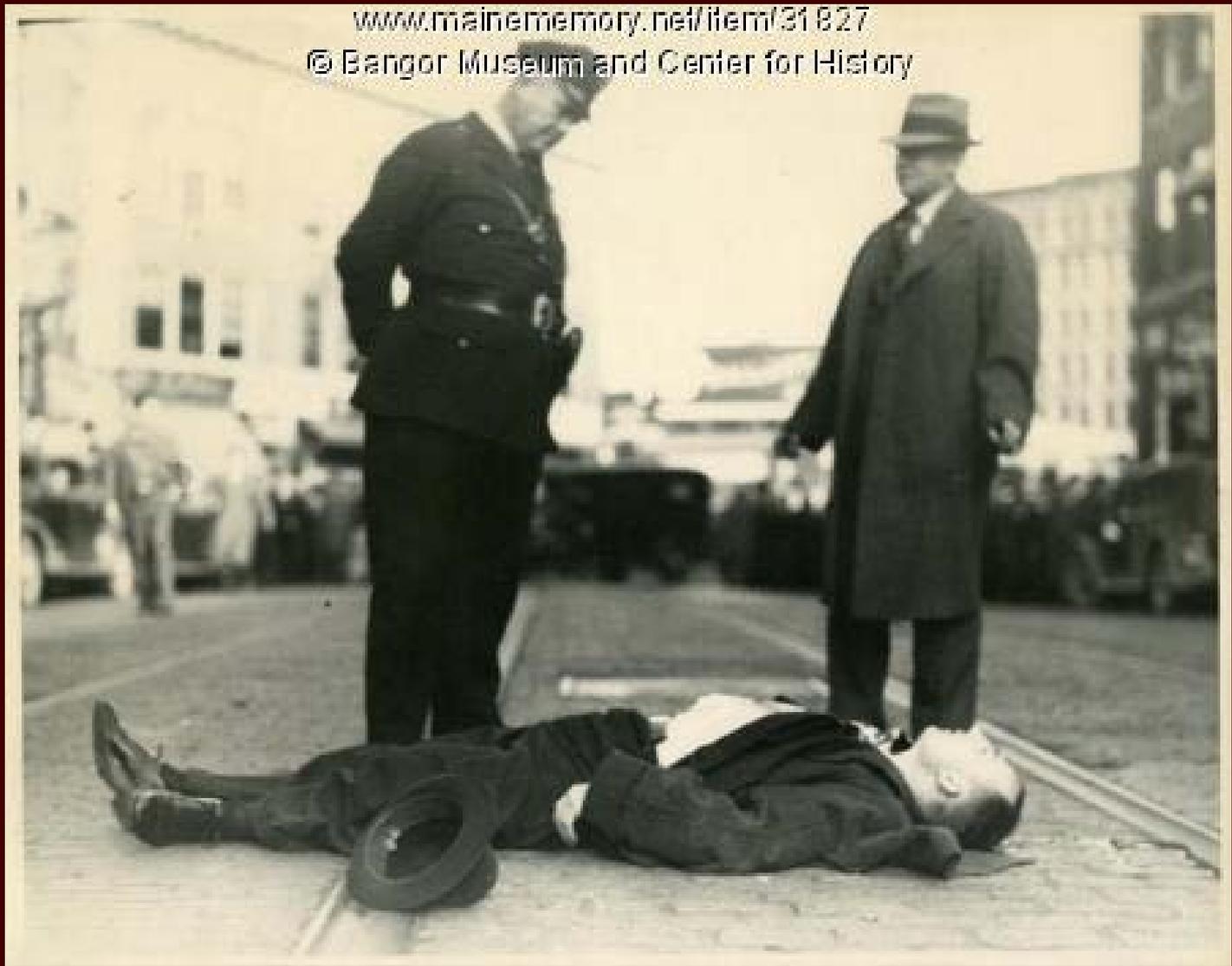


Steps: Online Exhibit

- Identify topic—based on class topic and/or local collections/initiatives
- Preliminary research—archival research, primary documents, secondary reading, interviews
- Analyze evidence, ask questions, draw conclusions
- Make connections, craft thesis, provide evidence (primary documents), and storyboard exhibit
- Write narrative, digitize documents, and construct exhibit
- Present work—online and in the community

www.maine-memory.net/item/31827

© Bangor Museum and Center for History



The Brady Gang



Life on a Tidal River

Ebb and Flow of Bangor History

[Maine Memory Network](#) > [Life on a Tidal River](#) > [Exhibits](#) > [Bangor Man Rats Out Brady Gang](#)

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Early Railroads in Bangor

Three Civil War Letters

The Bangor Fire of 1911

Bangor Man Rats Out Brady Gang

Bangor During the 1940's

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Project Process

Bangor Site Resources

Bangor Man Rats Out Brady Gang

(Page 1 of 2) [Print Version](#)

Text by the 7th Grade Maine Studies Students of the William S. Cohen School.

Images are from the Bangor Museum and History Center.

Who was Shep Hurd?

Shep Hurd was born in Liberty, Maine. He had two brothers, a sister, and was the third of four children. His family was very poor and his father died when he was young. Shep became a merchant early on in life because all of the children in his family needed jobs to make ends meet. Shep's mother, Maude, moved the family to many places such as Pittsfield and Searsport, both located in Maine.



Skowhegan Grange



Tear Down the Grange?

Students:

- Called the town
- Wrote to the bank
- Researched the Grange
- Created an online exhibit
- Presented their work to the community
- Outcome: Grange still there (for the moment)



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Student Exhibit: Save the Skowhegan Grange & Granges in General

written by Eric Axelman



Skowhegan Grange Hall

The historic building was the home of community meetings, theatrical plays, different kids of musical dances, and traveling performers.

In Skowhegan, this Grange building may be closed down. In the last few years, Skowhegan Savings Bank has bought out the Skowhegan Grange. At the moment it is being used for storage. This was told to me from an employee of Skowhegan Savings Bank

in Skowhegan." But, now I ask you, is this sacrifice going to be good for the town of Skowhegan? Is getting rid of the Grange building worth building a new parking lot? In my opinion, the answer is no. The Grange building could be useful for the community by providing a place for the hosting of charitable dinners, fundraisers, contra dances, and other projects to raise money for different organizations.



Grange Hall at Atkinson Mills

Granges were very important because with competition from the west, farmers had to organize and decide how to survive.

In conclusion, we hope that this structurally sound building, with its new chimney and roof, will not go the way of other beautiful and stately buildings of our town. One should remember the former Victorian home on Madison Avenue that was torn down to build MacDonalds which has been vacant for a number of years now.

Other buildings meeting this fate were the old McClellan home on Elm Street, now a bank drive-through; the scenic Motor Lodge and cabins on Madison Avenue, now a WalMart; the oldest tavern in Maine, the Heywood Tavern, torn down for car lot; and last but not least, the Methodist Church on the Island, with its beautiful cobalt blue stained glass windows, replaced by a red barn-type building next to the Skowhegan Fire Department.



Skowhegan Railroad Station

This photo shows girls on their way to a Grange event in Skowhegan, Maine. Barbara Rowell found this picture in her attic and gave it to us.

The Maine Grange was created on February 16th, 1876 and other town Granges were built soon after. Before I jump to conclusions, you may be asking yourself, "What is a Grange?" Well, a Grange is "America's foremost Volunteer and Grassroots Organization." The first Grange was organized on December 4th, 1867. It was made so farmers could have a say in politics across America. Through most of the 1900s, the Grange flourished and had power within America. The Grange had a very important role in community life in this small town of Skowhegan. In the past, this historic building was alive with meetings held by farmers, plays being performed, traveling entertainers, and dances offered for the community. The sad fact is, this historic Grange building may soon be torn down.

In the last few years, Skowhegan Savings Bank has bought out the Skowhegan Grange. At the moment it is being used for storage. This was told to me from an employee of Skowhegan Savings Bank. The employee also said that in the future "the Grange building will probably be torn down to make room for a new parking lot for Skowhegan Savings Bank



Bryant Pond Grange Hall

Skowhegan Railroad Station with people on horse drawn sleds, mid-winter. The roof of the Heywood Tavern building is just visible in the back ground.

The Grange members currently have another building for their meetings, but it will not be the same in my point of view. They were forced to get a smaller building due to the costs of running the older building with far fewer Grange members. They sold it to the Skowhegan Savings Bank.

Bill Clark, active in the Grange, helped us understand the purpose and history of the Skowhegan Grange. If it were up to me, I would have kept the Grange right where it was, and supported a community tradition that has been around for decades. The Grange Hall has great memories for the people in Skowhegan and it gives them a real link to our past here in town. Even if the Grange members couldn't keep it up, we townspeople can work together to help keep it a part of our community.



L.A. Weaver store, post office and grange hall

Grange members met together and discussed local and national politics. They had ceremonies at their meetings. Dances and community suppers were held at the Grange Halls across Maine.

Community history is important and the buildings help make the town what it is. Please make an effort to help save the Grange Hall, write to the Skowhegan Savings Bank and tell them what you think about preserving our past.

Eric Axelman is an eighth grader at Skowhegan Area Middle School.

Key Aspects

Intergenerational

- Adults provide access to collections, share information and stories, and mentor students
- Students provide interest and energy, technology skills, and labor

Students Engage Community

- Local documents provide familiar frame of reference
- Potential topics are diverse—from founding to economics to sports and hunting and fishing
- Students connect with and find value in their community
- Projects give them voice

Learning is authentic

Students are equal partners

Project Planning = Essential

- What are the primary teaching/learning goals for the project?
- What experiences do you want participants to have?
 - Develop technology skills
 - Learn history content
 - Develop collaboration skills
 - Community participation/service
- How much time will participants spend on their project? A week? A semester? A school year?

**Goals Worksheet:
Using Local History to Build Library Capacity**

Maine Memory Network provides diverse opportunities for libraries to serve patrons, engage and support their communities, develop technology skills, and to achieve strategic goals. As your library considers its goals for doing more with local history, rate the importance of the following outcomes:

(1 is highest priority; 5 is lower priority)

	1	2	3	4	5
Internal Capacity					
Develop staff technology skills					
Develop reference knowledge and capacity					
Maximize use of library facility and resources					
Demonstrate new roles library can play in community					
Patron Resources and Services					
Expand digital resources available to patrons					
Expand physical resources available to patrons (books, exhibits)					
Expand public programs					
Community Engagement					
Deepen local partnerships with schools, historical societies, others					
Support organizations and initiatives in the community					
Foster community conversation and engagement					
Expand library's role as convener and facilitator					
Local History					
Increase access to local historical collections					
Increase access to information about community's history					
Increase reference staff's knowledge of local history and resources					
Serve as a jumping off point for local history					
Help patrons engage and learn about community's history					
Support and direct patrons to local historical society					

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Resources

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Here, you will find all of Maine Memory Network's administrative, instructional, technical, and content-based resources broken down into their respective categories. Most items are downloadable PDF documents; in a few cases, files are also available as Word documents. Some items are links to other pages within Maine Memory or are available as training videos.

Applications & Administration

Application forms and other administrative content for participating in MMN at the individual, organization, or team level

- [Contributing Partners' application](#)
- [Grant opportunities](#)
- [Skills Workshops registration](#)
- [MMN registration \(individual accounts\)](#)
- [My Account profile](#)
- [Contributing Partners' Agreement \(PDF\)](#)

Good History

Resources to support thoughtful, well-researched, concise, and lively historical content

- [Doing Good History: Brainstorming and Narrowing Topics for Local History Projects \(PDF\)](#)
- [Writing Good History \(PDF\)](#)
- [Writing for the Web \(PDF\)](#)
- [Conducting a Community Inventory \(PDF\)](#)
- [The Basics of Online Exhibits \(PDF\)](#)
- [Storyboarding \(PDF\)](#)
- [Source Citation \(PDF\)](#)
- [Oral History Guidelines \(PDF\)](#)
- [Preservation Guidelines for Collections \(PDF\)](#)
- [How to Handle Historic Items \(PDF\)](#)

Project Planning: Organizations & Communities

Everything your organization or team needs to know to plan and execute your local history project

- [Pre-Project Planning Guide \(PDF\)](#)
- [MMN Basic Project Planning Guide \(PDF\)](#)
- [Identifying and Working with Partners \(PDF\)](#)
- [Team Member Roles and Responsibilities \(PDF\)](#)
- [Roles and Responsibilities Worksheet \(PDF\)](#)
- [Work Plan Worksheet \(PDF\)](#)
- [Building Community Engagement \(PDF\)](#)
- [Budget Planning and Samples \(PDF\)](#)
- [MCHP Calendar \(PDF\)](#)

Digitizing & Preparing Collections for Maine Memory Network

All guidelines, instructions, and forms related to digitizing and cataloging material prior to uploading it to MMN

- [Contributing Partners' Manual \(PDF\)](#)
- [Contribution Guidelines](#)
- [Item Selection Guidelines](#)
- [Copyright Information](#)
- [Equipment Specifications](#)
- [Scanning Standards](#)
- [Scanning Instructions \(VIDEO\) \(Flash plug-in required\)](#)
- [Photography Standards & Instructions \(PDF\)](#)
- [Cataloging Instructions \(PDF\)](#)
- [Cataloging Instructions \(VIDEO\) \(Flash plug-in required\)](#)
- [Blank Cataloging Worksheet \(Word DOC\)](#)
- [Blank Cataloging Worksheet \(PDF\)](#)
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