

VOLUME 44

APRIL 2009

MAINE HISTORY



*Maine Institutions &
Maine Politics*

MAINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

485 Congress Street
Portland, Maine 04101

Maine History is published by the Maine Historical Society in cooperation with the Department of History at the University of Maine.

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5774 Stevens Hall, University of Maine,
Orono, Maine 04469

All correspondence and manuscripts for review should be sent to Editor, *Maine History*, 5774 Stevens Hall, University of Maine, Orono, ME 04469. Two copies of manuscripts should be submitted in double-spaced typescript and should conform to *The Chicago Manual of Style*, 14th ed. Manuscripts accepted for publication in *Maine History* are typically 15–30 pages in length. Manuscripts will not be returned unless accompanied by a stamped, self-addressed envelope. The Maine Historical Society assumes no responsibility for the opinions and interpretations expressed by its contributors. The articles appearing in *Maine History* are abstracted in *Historical Abstracts* and *America: History and Life*.

Books for review should be sent to the book review editor, Stanley Howe, Director, Bethel Historical Society, Dr. Moses Mason House, Bethel, ME 04217.

Cover Illustration: Our cover image is a postcard from the Society's collections showing the entrance to Fort Preble. Built in South Portland in 1808, Fort Preble was one of several pork-barrel "Embargo forts" secured by Secretary of War Henry Dearborn to benefit his Democratic political allies in Maine. Historian Joshua Smith discusses the fort and others built in the same period along the coast of Maine. Our other authors, Howard Segal, Shannon Risk, and Michael Cohen, discuss political and community controversies surrounding other Maine institutions, both religious and secular: the Maine Yankee nuclear plant; Portland's First Congregational Church, and its Congregation Shaarey Tphiloh. Ranging from the early nineteenth century to the late twentieth century, these controversies show that Maine people have not been shy about expressing their opinions on matters of consuming importance to their communities. The postcard was printed around 1906; Fort Preble was maintained and modernized through several wartime crises until 1950, when the facility was decommissioned and became Southern Maine Community College.

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ISSN 1090-5413

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NUMBER 2

APRIL 2009

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