

**FROM:** Steve Bromage, executive director, Maine Historical Society

**RE:** Invitation: June 2 Opening of Paper Industry Exhibit at Maine Historical Society

Friends,

I am writing to invite you to join us for the opening of Maine Historical Society's upcoming new exhibition, ***Making Paper, Making Maine***. This exhibit is part of an initiative that explores the vast impact that the paper industry has had on Maine since the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. The exhibit will open during Portland's First Friday Art Walk on June 2 (5-8pm) and be on view through October 28. The physical exhibition is anchored by extensive resources on Maine Memory Network ([www.mainememory.net](http://www.mainememory.net)).

We are excited about this initiative for many reasons!

- It demonstrates the profound ways that history shapes Maine today—the paper industry has defined Maine's economy and the culture, identity, and livelihoods of communities throughout Maine for 125 years. As the industry goes through an historic transition, we seek to honor and understand this heritage.
- The initiative features the stories and perspectives of many specific Maine communities and people. The exhibit includes material from Maine Memory contributing partners: Ambajejus Boom House, Greater Rumford Area Historical Society, Lincoln Historical Society, Maine's Paper and Heritage Museum, the Muskie Archives at Bates College, Norcross Heritage Trust, Penobscot Marine Museum, Tate House Museum, and Westport Island History Committee. It also highlights important work being done by the Forest Society of Maine, the Maine Forest Service, the Process Development Center at the University of Maine, Our Katahdin, Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument, Sappi, and the First People's Fund.
- These stories—shared here on our Portland campus and online—provide a jumping off point and gateway for learning about the diverse communities that make Maine what it is and encourage visitors to explore paper communities, local historical societies, and museums across the state.
- The exhibit highlights our newest Maine Memory Network feature, **My Maine Stories**. My Maine Stories (<https://www.mainememory.net/mymainestories/>), now being piloted, empowers individuals to contribute their personal histories to Maine Memory Network. The exhibit and My Maine Stories share voices from people who worked in the paper industry who have generously shared their stories. My Maine Stories gives every Mainer the opportunity to share his or her Maine experience. Do you or your community have stories, experiences, and/or collections that shape the story of Maine's paper industry?

We hope you can join us on June 2. These themes will also be explored at MHS's annual meeting on Saturday, June 3 ([https://www.mainehistory.org/programs\\_events.shtml#event\\_687](https://www.mainehistory.org/programs_events.shtml#event_687)).

I would love to hear from you. Whenever you can make it to MHS, we look forward to seeing you!

Best,

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