

Maine History

Volume 46
Number 2 *Land and Labor*

Article 1

6-1-2012

Journal Cover and TOC

Maine Historical Society

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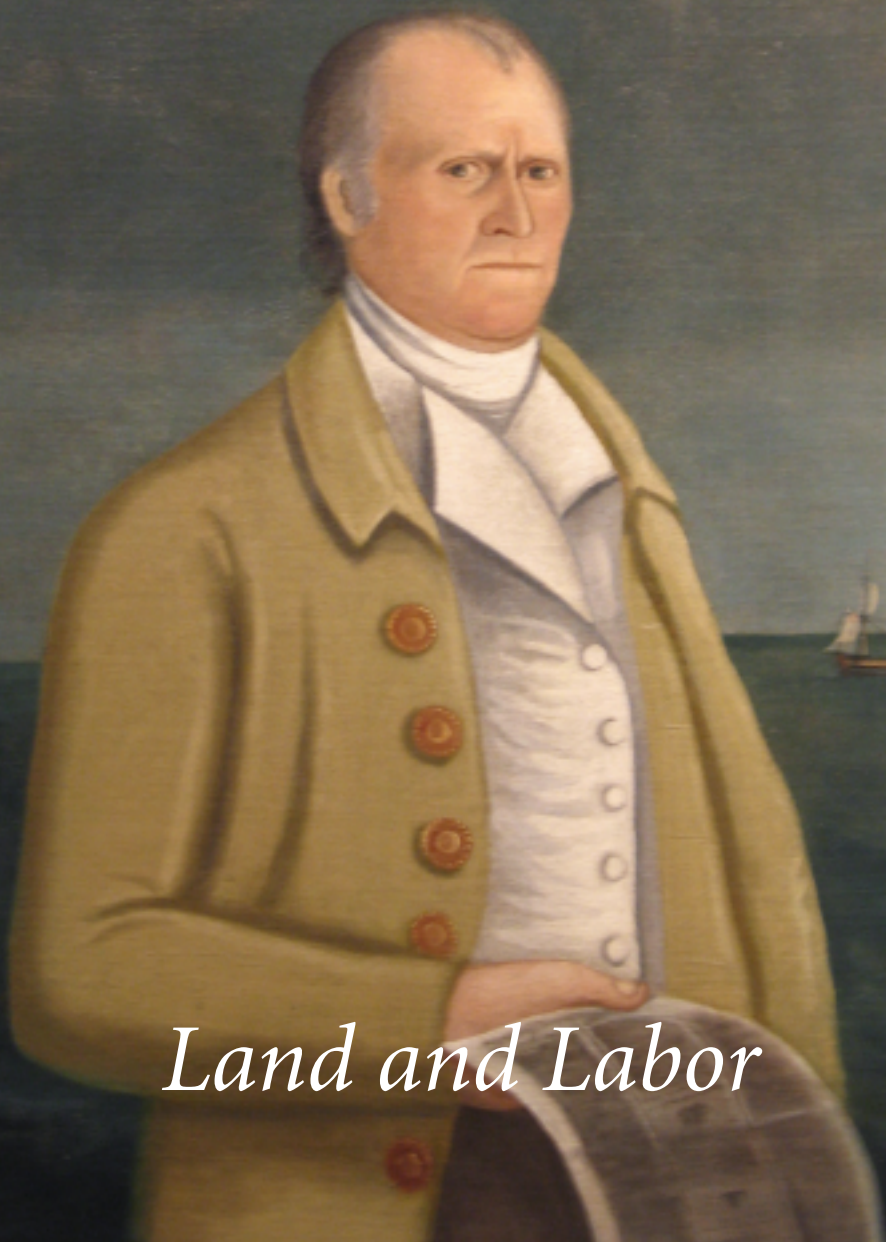
Maine Historical Society, . "Journal Cover and TOC." *Maine History* 46, 2 (2012).
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VOLUME 46

JUNE 2012

MAINE HISTORY



Land and Labor

MAINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

489 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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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: Throughout Maine's history, the issue of control over land and labor has been central. The life of William McLellan, Sr., pictured on the cover, demonstrates the importance of land and labor in Maine's history. The son of a common laborer who had immigrated to Falmouth from Ireland, McLellan rose to social and economic prominence in the late eighteenth century. While his father owned little property, William became quite wealthy and controlled the labor of others, including slaves. As Charles P.M. Outwin notes in his essay, late-colonial Falmouth (present-day Portland) experienced an economic boom thanks to the timber trade. The well-to-do of Falmouth needed the labor of hundreds, perhaps thousands, of common laborers to do the menial tasks of Maine's colonial economy. In addition to these poor but free laborers, there were more than forty African-American slaves in Cumberland County in the 1760s and 1770s. During the colonial period, few people objected to the exploitation of labor, but this was not the case in the industrial era, as Cynthia Burns Martin points out. Sometimes paid in company scrip, workers at the Bodwell Granite Company on Vinalhaven Island often believed that the Company Store charged extortionate prices. This led to conflict between workers and the company throughout the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Charles H. Lagerbom examines the labors of two Mainers destined to discover new lands in the Arctic region in the 1910s. Their four-year expedition largely ended in failure, and the crew quickly became divided over who should be in charge. The issue of control over Maine's lands became all-important in the 1970s, as John M.R. Paterson notes in his essay, which is told from the perspective of a participant in the Maine Indian Land Claim case. Beginning in the early 1970s, the Penobscot and Passamaquoddy tribes brought suit against the state in an attempt to gain possession of roughly two-thirds of Maine's land area. With control over most of the state's land in question, the federal government helped settle the issue in 1980.

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NUMBER 2

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