

6-1-2012

## Book Reviews

Walter Sargent  
*University of Maine at Farmington*

Joyce Butler

Christian Potholm  
*Bowdoin College*

Richard Condon  
*University of Maine at Farmington*

Stanley Russell Howe  
*Bethel Historical Society*

*See next page for additional authors*

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.library.umaine.edu/mainehistoryjournal>

---

### Recommended Citation

Sargent, Walter, Joyce Butler, Christian Potholm, Richard Condon, Stanley Russell Howe, and Paula Welts Kaufman. "Book Reviews." *Maine History* 46, 2 (2012): 226-239.  
<https://digitalcommons.library.umaine.edu/mainehistoryjournal/vol46/iss2/6>

This Book Reviews is brought to you for free and open access by DigitalCommons@UMaine. It has been accepted for inclusion in Maine History by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@UMaine. For more information, please contact [um.library.technical.services@maine.edu](mailto:um.library.technical.services@maine.edu).

---

## Book Reviews

### Authors

Walter Sargent, Joyce Butler, Christian Potholm, Richard Condon, Stanley Russell Howe, and Paula Welts Kaufman

## BOOK REVIEWS

---

---

*Bootleggers, Lobstermen & Lumberjacks: Fifty of the Grittiest Moments in the History of Hardscrabble New England.* By Matthew P. Mayo. (Guilford, Connecticut: GPP, 2011. Pp. vii-xxi + 297. \$16.95.)

*Bootleggers, Lobstermen & Lumberjacks* is not a theory-driven, analytical monograph peppered with jargon. Matthew P. Mayo is a story teller. Mayo delivers fifty brief historically-grounded vignettes, averaging four or five pages, of events and people in New England lore. He spotlights the unusual, sometimes bizarre, frequently gruesome, and generally “gritty” adventures of New Englanders over four centuries. A brief sampling will convey a sense of the potpourri of topics that Mayo surveys.

The book opens appropriately enough at the beginning of English settlement with the winter of dying among Plymouth Pilgrims in 1621, and it concludes with an account of shootings in the Maine lobster wars of 1949. In between Mayo walks the reader through a cornucopia of New England history. For example, he recounts Hannah Duston’s bloody revenge on her Indian captors in 1697, cannibalism on Boon Island off the Kittery coast, and the sadistic cruelty of pirate Ned Low. Mayo skillfully reconstructs the horrifying collapse of a meeting house under construction in 1773. He offers admiring cameos of Benedict Arnold on his march through Maine and Deborah Sampson in the Continental Army, but more frequently foregrounds the experiences of ordinary working folks. Thus the reader meets frontier settlers like Seth Hubbell, who lost his wife to the hardships of the wilds of Vermont, and Esther Graves, who singlehandedly fought off bears to protect her pigs. Some tales bring to life New Englanders’ encounters with floods, landslides, and the year there was no summer (1816), which struck Maine particularly hard. There are stories about the Old Sow whirlpool that sucked in unwary mariners in Passamaquoddy Bay and a Confederate raid on St Albans, Vermont.

Other tales depict a logging camp caught in the great freeze of 1887 and the hurricane of 1888, which took down two hundred ships. Mayo also relates incidents of Maine loggers crashing through the ice and falling prey to the chaos of the great river drives. Then there is Boston’s North End molasses flood that drowned twenty-one people in the sticky

mess in 1919. Several tales of rum runners, some colorful, some deadly, give the reader insight into New Englanders' independence, ingenuity, and spunk. And there are dozens more. Clearly Mayo loves New England, and taken as a whole, the themes that course throughout his narratives are the hardships, suffering, resilience, courage, and humility that he believes lie at the heart of the New England spirit. Mayo allows his historical imagination to fill some of the voids in the records as he adeptly weaves his tales, but he has consulted a wide range of secondary sources, so he writes with confidence. All in all, this is the sort of book that one can pleurably dip into like a plate of hors d'oeuvres. It will make an entertaining addition to the library at a summer camp or perched on a coffee table to be perused and savored.

WALTER SARGENT

University of Maine at Farmington

*Remarkable Americans: The Washburn Family.* By Kerck Kelsey (Gardiner, Maine: Tilbury House, 2008. Pp. 402. Cloth. \$25.95.)

Kerck Kelsey took on a daunting challenge when he resolved to write a book that told the life stories of the seven sons of Israel and Martha Benjamin Washburn of Livermore, Maine: Israel, Jr., Algernon Sidney (Sid), Elihu, Cadwallader (Cad), Charles, Samuel, and William. The brothers were born between 1813 and 1831, grew up on their parents' remote farm, and reached adulthood in an age of American growth and opportunity. Like so many other Americans of humble beginnings, their native intelligence, energy, and confidence led them to become schoolteachers, lawyers, bankers, entrepreneurial businessmen, politicians, authors, social activists, and philanthropists.

The Washburns' life stories are prosaically American. They played significant roles in the country's westward expansion, political development, foreign influence, and business, social, and cultural advancement. Their accomplishments were not unique even for Maine natives; Maine lays claim to a long list of achieving nineteenth-century sons and daughters. What is unique about the Washburns is that they were siblings. What is remarkable is what they, as a group, achieved. Four were elected to the United States Congress from four different states—in 1855 three were serving in the House of Representatives at the same time, two were

considered for the nomination for president and vice president by the Republican Party, which they helped to create. Six attended the first inauguration of President Abraham Lincoln. Elihu was a close confidant of Lincoln and was secretary of state under President Ulysses S. Grant. Israel, Jr. became governor of the state of Maine. Two were American ambassadors—Charles to Paraguay and Elihu to France. Two were honored by the crowned heads of foreign countries—Elihu for his service in France during the Commune uprising and William for facilitating the shipment of wheat to Russia during a famine in 1891. Washburns can be called “founding fathers” of railroads, today’s General Mills and Pillsbury Mills companies, and Tufts University. The list goes on. Much of this was a result of the brothers “bringing each other along” with financial support and through their connections, but that does not diminish their achievements.

Kelsey’s challenge was to meld the seven brothers’ stories into a readable, cohesive narrative. He was not entirely successful. The book is well written and his research was exhaustive, but so many brothers and so many fields of work and political and social endeavor make it difficult for the reader to sort the brothers out, especially in the earliest chapters. Separate pages listing the chronology of each brother’s enterprises would have been a useful appendix. Kelsey does end the book with an overview of each man and final pages on “defining moments” in their careers and the not-inconsiderable achievements of their descendants.

Another problem is the author’s struggle to find his historian’s objectivity. As a descendant of Cadwallader, Kelsey’s thrust often seems to have been to compile a genealogist’s family history. His celebratory voice and opinions intrude where quotations from the writings of the brothers (there are copious family papers and more than one memoir to draw on) and their supporters and detractors would be more reliable. This flaw is somewhat corrected in the later chapters.

Kelsey devotes little space to the Washburn women. The three female siblings, Martha, Mary, and Caroline, each married and lived traditional lives as wives and mothers. The husbands of Martha and Mary partnered in business with their Washburn brothers. Caroline’s husband died during the Civil War, and she did not remarry. The Washburn wives are dismissed as knowing “little or nothing about their men’s commercial, political, or military affairs.” It is hard to believe that such achieving men would not have chosen strong and intelligent women as their mates. Kelsey does point out that the copious family correspondence that has survived includes “almost nothing left from the women.”

The Washburns are probably best remembered in Wisconsin and Minnesota. We are told the city of Minneapolis would not exist if it were not for their business enterprise there. Today their name is attached to the city's Washburn Child Guidance Center, which grew out of Cadwalader's establishment of an asylum for orphaned children. The city's twenty-nine acre Fair Oaks Park was the estate of William and the site of his mansion, "Fair Oaks." William donated it to the city for an art museum when financial difficulties reduced his ability to care for it. The city tore the massive house down in 1924 and created the park out of the grounds, which had been originally landscaped by Frederick Law Olmstead.

In Maine the memory of the Washburns is kept alive at the Washburn-Norlands Living History Center, the site of their ancestral farm in Livermore. Kelsey, who serves as the center's historian, provides interesting information as to its naming by Charles, the most creative of the Washburn brothers. Charles borrowed the word *Norland* from a line in the poem "The Ballad of Oriana" by Alfred Lord Tennyson. Its buildings include a fine house, which the brothers built when their boyhood home, "Boyscroft," burned in 1867. The new house provided a much-resorted-to family retreat. Other buildings at Norlands are the church where the family worshiped, to which the brothers made "stately improvements" and a distinctive stone library, which houses the family archive.

The challenge to this reviewer, as it was to the book's author, is to comment on all the significant and varied accomplishments of the Washburns. Suffice it to say, *Remarkable Americans* is an important addition to the ever-growing shelf of books about the state of Maine and the historic and important contributions of its native sons and daughters to America.

JOYCE BUTLER  
Kennebunk

*Historic Photos of Maine.* By Francis Pollitt. (Nashville: Turner Publications, 2008. Pp. 206. \$39.95.)

There are many interesting photographs in this collection, which covers the period 1865 to 1970. It features a wide-ranging assortment of coastal, farming, forestry, urban, and factory scenes, as well as some in-

triguing aspects of the state's photographic record, such as extensive coverage of Portland's Great Fire of 1886. There are also some unusual Maine depictions, including a shot of a Chinese family and their soap box derby car and the three African-American soldiers guarding a bridge over the Royal River during World War II.

Some individual and group photos are quite arresting, such as those showing ten-year-old children engaged in the sardine and herring canning factories. Prohibition, urban snow removal, and plane crashes are also shown. Some photos in the collection, such as those of Richard Nixon and Joe Brennan, could have used a fuller explanation as to why they were included. Overall, this is a most useful and engaging work.

CHRISTIAN P. POTHOLM  
Bowdoin College

*On Pownal Time: One Hundred Years in a Rural Maine Town.* By Donna Fulton Boyles, James G. Boyles, Craig Dietrich, Sherilyn R. Dietrich, Jennifer Blackstone Kaplan, and Joseph R. Raymond. (Pownal, Maine: The Pownal Scenic and Historical Society, 2008. Pp. 328. \$35.)

What is "Pownal Time"? What is this authorship group with the singular name, "The Pownal Scenic and Historical Society?" "On Pownal Time" is "a phrase often heard in town" because "Pownal residents have tended to arrive casually late at events and meetings" and "agree to start on Pownal Time." The six authors are members of the society, most of them transplants to the town, but all of them long active in town affairs. Each has a particular area of expertise (graphics layout, photography, research, genealogy, mapmaking, digitizing all pictures and graphics). Donna Fulton Boyles chaired and coordinated the effort.

The authors divided the work intelligently, and they devised a very effective structure. They sensibly confined the book to the second hundred years of Pownal's existence as a town, since the first century had already been covered in Ettie Latham's 1905 volume. They nicely balance past and present, local color and a broader view, and the roles of men and women. The town map at the outset is excellent, as are the "before" and "after" photos of Pownal places a century ago and now. Even before really getting into the heavy, large-format paperback I was impressed: these people really knew what they were doing!

In part one, "Living in a Rural Setting," they introduce the town's ge-

ography, natural resources, and changing businesses, while explaining how national trends affected Pownal. In the early twentieth century, World War I, Prohibition, the automobile, the exodus from the countryside, the Great Depression, and the New Deal all left their mark – especially the last, which created Bradbury Mountain State Park in the town. World War II's impact becomes clear with illustrated stories of families caught up in it and short biographies of the two Pownal men who gave their lives, and the three women and fifteen men who served and returned.

In the postwar years, Pownal has remained rural, without industry or crowding, with many of the old houses still standing along the roads which follow their original tracks (though they are paved now). But “farming has almost disappeared and with it the chores that once organized daily lives.” The town is now essentially a bedroom community, sharing in the suburbanization of America. Its population, which bottomed out in 1930 at 462, has rebounded to nearly 1,500 as the town enters its third century.

The second section, “Governing is a Challenge,” effectively uses town reports and samples town government, leaders, and town meeting doings at the centennial year 1908, a half-century later in 1958, and in 2006. “Education is Important,” the third section, traces the town's struggles to educate its children, from the one-room district schools to the new elementary school of 1968, and its later addition. The school was designated a “High Performing School” under the recent “No Child Left Behind” act. As ever, the many pictures of buildings, teachers, and children illustrate the text superbly. The final section, “Meeting Spiritual and Social Needs,” outlines the development of the town's two churches, still active, and traces the heyday and demise (in 2007) of Granite Grange #14. It briefly discusses other clubs and groups – some flourishing, others uncertain – such as the Scouts, the Pownal Land Trust, Bradbury Mountain Arts, and finally, the Pownal Scenic and Historical Society.

Any local history, if it is to matter much to present and former townspeople, has to emphasize local detail. *On Pownal Time* is full of vignettes, always profusely illustrated, of “farm profiles” through the generations, short biographies of Pownal people, and descriptions of their homes, stores, garages, and other businesses. One example: Frank A. Knight, who turned 100 in 2008, entered the wood business at twelve, cut pulp, cruised timber in the Allagash, served as foreman of a crew building barges in South Freeport during World War II, retired and became a tree warden, managing the elms which have survived the Dutch Elm disease. Such detail, which might easily bore someone without town



connections, always held my interest. The making of *On Pownal Time* required great effort and dedication, and the result is an outstanding addition to the shelf of modern Maine town histories.

RICHARD CONDON

*Emeritus*

University of Maine at Farmington

*Frontier to Industrial City: Lewiston Town Politics, 1768-1863.* By Douglas I. Hodgkin. (Topsham, Maine: Just Write Books, 2008. Pp. 345. Paper. \$29.95.)

The history of the Lewiston/Auburn area is one of the most neglected subjects in the Maine past. Those two cities have played a major role in how the state has evolved, ranging from the founding of the Maine State Grange in 1874 to the building of one of the most significant industrial complexes in northern New England. Douglas Hodgkin, a retired Bates College professor, has greatly assisted in enlarging our understanding of how Lewiston has grown from frontier settlement to become one of Maine's great industrial urban centers.

From 1768 to 1838, Lewiston was much like many small Maine communities, basically a rural agricultural hamlet with a dispersed population. There were clusters of residences close to lumber mills and gristmills as well as at intersections, but nothing very significant. At the beginning, the settlement grew rapidly as those dedicated to land development recruited families to fulfill the obligations of a land grant. Later, Lewiston's population growth slowed to the point where it went from 532 according to the 1790 census to just over three times that number (1801) in 1840.

Originally, the nascent settlement was governed by the typical town meeting structure with selectmen elected to direct and supervise the town's affairs. There were also other offices established to regulate agricultural operations and exploitation of natural resources. Taxes were levied by the town and funds were appropriated for schools, roads, the poor, and other legitimate expenses. Much of the text in this book involves a useful and detailed analysis of these operations during this period. This reviewer was particularly impressed with the discussion of the treatment of the poor (pp. 116-138).

Things began to change in Lewiston in the 1840s when its social and

economic life underwent significant transformations. Local businessmen, followed later by outside investors, introduced railroads, canals, and textile mills one after another to the emerging city. Laborers, largely Irish immigrants, were hired to construct these facilities. They were followed by men and women from the surrounding countryside to work in the mills. Enterprises to serve the growing population and the mills soon emerged. Population levels for Lewiston doubled in the 1840s and again were repeated in the 1850s, so that by the 1860 census there were 7,424 souls in the city.

With the rapid urbanization, industrialization, and population growth, officeholders faced significant challenges. New and expanded services and developments were much in demand. New streets, additional schools, police and fire protection, public health advocacy, and greater welfare spending are among the topics thoroughly examined in this book. The traditional operations such as those of measurers of lumber and fence viewers began to fade in significance or undergo a variety of transformations. Things had changed so much that, by 1863, a city government was adopted. The town meeting gave way to the creation of representative government with a mayor plus aldermen and councilors.

Hodgkin also examines how the town was influenced by political movements that wracked the first half of the nineteenth century in the United States. Expanded democracy brought new insights into the relationship between the governed and the government. Such reform movements as temperance and abolition of slavery brought greater tensions to politics and political alignments.

This book contains many engaging historical photographs as well as graphs and charts. There are also several appendices and detailed endnotes. For those interested in how Maine communities evolved, this is an important place to begin one's analysis.

STANLEY RUSSELL HOWE  
Bethel Historical Society

*In the Shadow of the Eagle.* By Donna Loring. (Gardiner, Maine: Tilbury House, 2009. Pp. 257. \$20.)

This work is a candid, courageous, and ultimately rewarding journal of the day-to-day activities detailing the life of a Penobscot Native American representative to the Maine Legislature. Maine is the only state to

have tribal representatives in its governing body. Since 1823, the Penobscot Nation has had a single representative in the state legislature; the Passamaquoddy Nation has had a representative since 1842.

There is much to admire about the author's struggles (along with the Passamaquoddy representative, Donald Soctomah) to right many wrongs done to indigenous people over the years. For example, in 2000 they succeeded in removing from Maine maps the pejorative word for Indian woman, *squaw*, which they point out is synonymous with "prostitute" or "harlot." In 2001, they also got the legislature to pass a bill requiring the teaching of Native American History in Maine schools.

The work is full of tears, excitement, frustrations, and disappointments, as well as triumphs and wonderful feelings of accomplishment. Overall, it gives the reader a sense of the fluidity and informality of politics at the state level in Maine, as well as the overriding importance of personal contacts and discussions, and one acquires an insider's perspective which is well worth experiencing.

Unfortunately, the author's laudable cry from the heart sometimes carries her too far in judging Maine people as being motivated constantly by racism and anti-Native American sentiment on a number of issues in which those elements may legitimately be questioned. For example, she provides no scientific evidence to support her claim that racism was at the heart of the defeat of the proposed Native American casino in Sanford in 2003. She, of course, can claim that racism was involved, but the belief does not mean that it was, in reality, a significant factor.

Loring points to the fact that the same year the Sanford casino proposal was defeated, voters simultaneously approved a Racino in Bangor. This, she claims, shows that racism against Native Americans was the key. Yet in the context of ordinary campaign dynamics, an alternative hypothesis is that one campaign was run less well than another. The pro-Racino effort was tightly focused on a much smaller project, one which was supposed to be built on an existing harness race track and had added features supporting Maine agricultural activities and horse racing, provided lower prescription drug costs for the elderly and the disabled and scholarships to Maine's state universities and technical colleges. In short, the pro-Racino campaign offered a very different product and sold it in a far more effective fashion. Even then, the Racino only narrowly passed, 53% to 47%.

*Shadow of the Eagle* then, offers important and useful insights, but readers might want to read it in conjunction with Allen J. Sockabasin's,

*An Upriver Passamaquoddy*, which, while also condemning racism, nevertheless opposes casinos and details considerable differences of opinion among Native Americans on this and other divisive subjects.

CHRISTIAN P. POTHOLM  
Bowdoin College

*The Land In Between: The Upper St. John Valley from Prehistory to World War One.* By Beatrice Craig & Maxime Dagenais, with the collaboration of Lisa Ornstein and Guy Dubay. (Gardiner, Maine: Tilbury House, Publishers, 2009. Pp. 442. \$30.)

“The Land In Between” is the Upper St. John Valley, often just called “the Valley.” The authors call those who live there Madawaskayans, whether they live on the north side of the river in New Brunswick’s Madawaska County, in Maine’s Madawaska town, or in neighboring places. They live in a “socio-cultural entity whose distinctive identity was forged by its inhabitants.”

Beatrice Craig, Maxime Dagenais, Lisa Ornstein, and Guy Dubay, aided by no less than eleven collaborators recognized at the close of the book, begin with a critical but sympathetic account of their leading predecessor, Rev. Thomas Albert, whose *Histoire du Madawaska* appeared in 1920. Then they clearly outline their procedures and their organizing principles, the concepts of “frontier,” “borderland,” and “bordered lands.”

The region became a frontier in the seventeenth century, when French fur traders and priests began to interact with natives, who started to colonize the Valley more than 11,000 years before. English traders, fishermen, and settlers moved from southern New England toward “Acadia,” as the French called the larger region in the eighteenth century. When Acadians moved up the St. John River corridor into the upper Valley, a frontier of European and native cultures, they mingled with French Canadians moving east from the St. Lawrence Valley towns. After 1763, when Great Britain took possession of British North America, and still more after 1783, when the United States became independent, the Valley became a borderland, but with an undefined boundary between British North America and the United States.

The people who lived there continued to interact freely, as they had done before, and this was true even after the 1842 Treaty of Washington defined the boundary as the St. John River. Despite the coming of railroads after 1840 in New Brunswick, the river, flowing to Saint John City, remained the region's economic lifeline. Only when the Bangor and Aroostook Railroad reached the Valley in the 1890s did this change. Yet cultural bonds remained strong, so that "on the eve of World War I, the valley was 'in between' – neither a true borderland nor a pair of fully fledged bordered lands."

The authors set the scene with a brief but lucid account of the underlying geology and developing geography of the "land in between." Excellent maps and a chart of environmental and cultural changes clarify it. Chapters explain the earlier regional economy, based on the forest and the fertile soil, the development of a consumer economy, and the coming of the railroads. Forests and farms remained important to the end of the period, with pulp and paper rather than ton timber, and potatoes rather than wheat taking center stage. As the twentieth century began, Edmundston and Van Buren grew into small urban areas, the river was bridged, telephones and electricity came in, and tourists started to visit. Public education, the role of the Catholic and Protestant churches, and political trends on both sides of the river are not overlooked.

The authors debunk what they call the "Evangeline myth." The Valley's early French settlers did not move into American territory because the British drove them from their homes in 1755. Visitors to the area, expecting to find "an Acadian historical park instead of a living agricultural community" often "decided that the Valley French were nothing but backward French Canadian, popish peasants."

*The Land In Between* is more than 400 pages long, but it is never dull or hard to follow. Each part has a well-done timeline; there are nine figures, thirty tables, and forty-two maps. Many of the eighty-two illustrations add interest: this reader especially liked the photograph of the Grand Falls on p. 296 and the photographs of Edmundston in 1865 and 1880 on p. 285. Thirty-seven "sidebars" deal with important individuals and colorful incidents. No less than fifteen appendices explain the money of the times, list the area's families, reproduce some family letters of the 1850s, and much more. An Epilogue, subtitled "Untold Stories," sets forth a number of topics which the authors could not cover to their satisfaction, including the Maliseets, military issues, infrastructure, politics (especially on the Maine side), customs records, and others.

All the same, the authors have done an enormous amount of skillful

research to produce a book which is exhaustive but never exhausting. This reader looks forward to the sequel, which will carry the story from World War I to the present.

RICHARD CONDON

*Emeritus*

University of Maine at Farmington

*Maine in the World: Stories of Some of Those from Here Who Went Away.* By Neil Rolde. (Gardiner, Maine: Tilbury House, 2009. Pp. 340. Bibliography, Index. Paper. \$20.)

Neil Rolde's latest book is his selection of twenty-plus Maine men and women who made a difference in the wider world. Although he begins with early proprietors and military men whose activities left behind such place names as Preble, Waldo, Knox, and Gardiner, it is when he gets into the statehood era and beyond that he hits his stride. His selections are personal choices, but a question might well be asked: did he choose any other underlying theme besides that the individuals were born in Maine and carried out his or her life's work in the broader world? Because the persons he selected were principled, independent, resourceful, and tough-minded, it appears that the author attributes those characteristics to being a Mainer. None of his selections are about people who simply left Maine for warmer climes or an easier life.

Dixfield's Dorothea Dix followed a difficult childhood with becoming a nation-wide crusader for the reform of insane asylums against heavy opposition. Madame Nordica of Farmington continued on world tours when she needed to recoup the losses from improvident husbands. Waterford's Artemus Ward made a living telling the unvarnished truth with such wry humor that he amused audiences in both the United States and England and was President Abraham Lincoln's favorite humorist.

Perhaps the most remarkable show of independence was engineer John Frank Stevens of West Gardiner who parlayed a normal school education into a career in engineering. He built railroads on previously blocked mountain passes in Montana and Washington State (hence Stevens Pass). He also put the Panama Canal project back on track when he insisted on mosquito control. When President Theodore Roosevelt

refused to allow Stevens to choose the new contractor for the next phase of the project, Stevens wrote Roosevelt that there hadn't been a day on the project when he hadn't thought of returning to positions in the United States "that to me were far more satisfactory. Some of them, I would prefer to hold, if you will pardon my candor, than the presidency of the U.S." (p. 237).

In politics, Rolde gives the example of Nathan Clifford of York County, who, as a life-long Jacksonian Democrat, never changed his views. He opposed the national bank and defended slavery and states' rights. Even when several former Democrats in Maine came to accept the party of Lincoln, Clifford was firm. When the Democrats were in power, he received federal appointments; he served as attorney general under President James K. Polk and later was appointed a justice of the U.S. Supreme Court under President James Buchanan. As the senior member of the court, it was he who brokered the deal, following the disputed election of 1876, that ended Reconstruction.

Rolde admires the independent spirit of artists as well. He included Edna St. Vincent Millay, whose artistic friends did not approve of her mixing political action with poetry, and director and producer John Ford who perfected the "Western" before moving on to subjects set in Ireland, the ancestral home of his Portland family.

Anyone who chooses individuals for a collection of biographical sketches is bound to be asked why certain persons or areas of pursuit were not included. This reviewer is no exception. One important omission is Maine sea captains, their families, and crew. Some Maine children, such as Lincoln and Joanna Colcord from Searsport, were even born at sea. These adventurous families not only put Maine on the map in such places as Hong Kong, Singapore, and New South Wales, but they brought the world back home to their Maine neighbors. From the mid-nineteenth century on, Maine women teachers traveled west as single women, bringing with them Maine's progressive educational policies. Some, like Sarah Jane Foster of Gray, also set up and taught in the new schools for recently freed slaves in the post-Civil War South.

Two Maine men in public life who were left out of Rolde's book seem particularly significant. General Oliver Otis Howard, a Leeds native, not only served and lost an arm in the Civil War, but founded Howard University for African Americans and worked to negotiate peace with the Nez Perce. Thomas Brackett Reed ("Czar Reed") was speaker of the House of Representatives in Washington for four terms. He used his independent spirit and toughness to support free and fair

elections in the South and oppose American imperialism, particularly as manifested in the Spanish-American War.

Storyteller Neal Rolde's book about tough, enterprising, straight-talking Mainers is a good read. Maybe it is time for volume two.

POLLY WELTS KAUFMAN  
University of Southern Maine