The Maine Borderlands
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COVER ILLUSTRATION: This issue focuses on the Maine-New Brunswick-Quebec borderland region. As Sasha Mullaly notes, borderlands historians in the United States have tended to focus on the southwestern borderlands rather than the northeastern borderlands. In this special issue of Maine History we hope to help reorient the focus of borderlands scholarship and show the importance of the Maine borderlands to North American history. The border was often contested during the first two and half centuries of Maine’s existence. Christopher J. Bilodeau’s essay examines King Philip’s War, a war between English settlers and the native inhabitants of the region in the 1670s. Daniel S. Soucier examines Benedict Arnold’s march to Quebec during the Revolutionary War and points to the important role of both the natural environment and human settlements in the Maine-Quebec borderlands to this military expedition. Michael T. Perry examines public rhetoric during the final conflict over the Maine boundary – the Aroostook War – and argues that Mainers placed great psychological value on the disputed territory. Once the boundary with Canada was settled in 1842, major borderland conflicts ceased. Still, the borderland region remained a zone of cultural exchange and interaction. Leah Grandy examines Maine and New Brunswick as a unified sporting region in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Finally, Carla Mendiola tells us the story of two people from two different border worlds – the Maine borderlands and the South Texas borderlands. Cover image from Rand McNally World Atlas, Premier Edition (Chicago: Rand McNally & Co., 1932), p. 39. Courtesy of Rand McNally. Map © Rand McNally, License: R.L. 12-S-010.

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