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Maine History

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The Maine Melting Pot



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Books for review should be sent to the book review editor, Stanley R. Howe, P. O. Box 113, Bethel, ME 04217.

COVER ILLUSTRATION: *Portland Schools Americanization Class, 1926*. This image depicts students posing with the American flag as part of a Portland public school program in Americanization. Originating in the late nineteenth century and popular during the Progressive Era, motivation behind such classes varied. Ranging from a genuine effort to aid with the transition of immigrant populations into local communities to forced assimilation and rejection of traditional foreign cultures, such classes offered English lessons, as well as American history and civic instruction. Classes were offered through public schools and local organizations for both children and adults. *Collections of the Maine Historical Society*.

This issue features articles and a research note highlighting the immigrant or sub-culture experiences of five different ethnic communities within Maine. The experience of Maine's Jewish, African-American, Somali, Bantu and German inhabitants are unique, yet all include commonalities in respect to navigating cultural differences, assimilation and interaction with the state's established residents – be it in the ninetieth, twentieth or twenty-first centuries.

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VOLUME 49

NUMBER 1

WINTER 2015

Contents

- Making It in Maine: Stories of Jewish Life in Small-Town America
David M. Freidenreich 5
- “No Matter How Great the Population”: African-American
Resistance and Community in 1940s and 1950s Portland, Maine
Justus Hillebrand 39
- A City Divided: Lewiston’s Acceptance and Resistance to
the Somali Refugees in Lewiston, Maine from 2000 to 2011
Anna Chase Hogeland 77
- RESEARCH NOTE
- Traugott Bromme and the State of Maine *William G. Chrystal* 102
- BOOK REVIEWS
- SCEE, *Mount Hope Cemetery of Bangor, Maine: The Complete History*
Joy M. Giguere 111
- LEAMON, *The Reverend Jacob Bailey, Maine Loyalist:
For God, King, Country, and for Self* *David B. Raymond* 115
- PERKINS, *The Barns of Maine: Our History, Our Stories*
Stanley R. Howe 118
- BAUMAN, *Gateway to Vacationland: The Making of Portland, Maine*
Dale Potts 119
- BARRY, *Maine: The Wilder Half of New England* *David B. Raymond* 121
- McCULLOUGH, *The Cross of War: Christian Nationalism and
U.S. Expansionism in the Spanish-American War* *David C. Turpie* 122
- SHAY, *Omaha Beach: The Life and Military Service of a
Penobscot Indian Elder* *Susan J. Harmon* 125