

# Maine History

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VOLUME 42

OCTOBER 2005

# MAINE HISTORY



*Oxford County's Bicentennial,  
1805-2005*

# MAINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Books for review should be sent to the book review editor, Stanley Howe, Director, Bethel Historical Society, Dr. Moses Mason House, Bethel, ME 04217.

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*Cover Illustration:* Oxford County, Maine, was incorporated on March 4, 1805, two hundred years ago this year. In this issue we celebrate the event with four articles dealing with the life and times of this richly endowed section of Maine. In the first article, Larry Glatz explores the meaning of “countyism” through the life history of the Oxford Bear, a symbol of country identity from its early days to the end of the nineteenth century. Jean Hankins discusses the founding of several Oxford County towns, exploring the myth that these towns were established by Revolutionary War veterans who received “bounty lands” for their services to the country. Nancy Hatch traces the architectural and geographical history of Oxford County's Buckfield, explaining the evolution of its commercial and cultural center and its connected farm buildings. Finally, Stanley Howe of the Bethel Historical Society traces the political history of the county by providing biographical vignettes of its seven governors.

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