

CALL FOR PROPOSALS



Thursday, May 30 to Saturday, June 1, 2019

The Maine State Bicentennial Conference Committee at the University of Maine seeks proposals for individual papers, complete panels, as well as other formats (e.g., workshops, poster sessions, websites, films, performances) that explore all aspects of the Maine statehood process and the bicentennial.

The conference will be held on the University of Maine campus in Orono with a field trip to Augusta. This scholarly conference is open to the public for a nominal fee, and we seek participation from local cultural organizations as well as pre-college Maine teachers and students.

A majority of voters in the District of Maine cast votes to separate from Massachusetts in July 1819, and Maine became the twenty-third state in the U.S. in March 1820. The conference organizers seek to take advantage of how the bicentennial moment encourages public reflection and a deeper understanding of the relatively distant past for the present and future of Maine and its people.

Confirmed Keynote Speakers

Alan Taylor (Thomas Jefferson Foundation Chair, University of Virginia)
Laurel Thatcher Ulrich (300th Anniversary University Professor, Harvard University)

Anticipated Conference Themes

- Separation Votes, Partisan Politics, and the “Two Maines,” ca. 1785-1820s
- The Maine-Missouri Crisis and National Racial Politics
- Wabanaki Sovereignty, Statehood, and the Maine Constitution
- Mapping and Statehood
- Acadian and Cross-Border Ambiguities in the St. John Valley
- Maine Land Use, Settlement, and Conservation
- Additional themes and topics are encouraged!

Submission Process

Individuals should submit a 500-word proposal and a short CV. Proposed panels should provide the same for each presenter along with a 250-word rationale for the panel. Alternate formats should be explained in a 500-word statement with a short CV for each lead participant and/or organizer. To facilitate discussion and exchange at the conference, short paper abstracts (5 pp. max.) for accepted presentations will be publicly circulated prior to May 15, 2019. After the conference we intend to publish an essay collection related to Maine statehood and the bicentennial.

The conference plans to pay for two nights lodging in Orono as well as most conference meals for accepted presenters. Individuals will need to arrange their own travel to the area. Orono is 20 minutes from Bangor, and we will provide ground transportation to-and-from Bangor airport (BGR) and the Concord Coach bus station in Bangor. Concord Coach provides excellent bus service from Portland and South Station in Boston. Participants will not need a private car during the conference.

Submit proposals by email no later than July 15, 2018 to desiree.butterfield@maine.edu

You should receive confirmation within 48 hours. The conference’s Digital Commons repository includes links to state bicentennial resources: digitalcommons.library.umaine.edu/me200

For further inquiries email Prof. Liam Riordan (Department of History, UMaine) at riordan@maine.edu