

Acknowledgements

The Peary-MacMillan Arctic Museum and Arctic Studies Center, Bowdoin College, is pleased to acknowledge the Oak Foundation for generously funding the development, design, and production of this brochure. Additional support was provided by the Arctic Museum's Russell and Janet Doubleday Endowment.

We wish to thank three Bowdoin College students for their assistance. Lydia Woodward '16 compiled many of the entries appearing in this brochure. Aidan French '18 and William Wise '18 did additional research on some of the Maine-Arctic connections.

Bill Fall of Fall Design designed the brochure and saw it through production. It was a pleasure working with him.

All photos courtesy of The Peary-MacMillan Arctic Museum unless otherwise noted.

Donald MacMillan in ice bucket, studying ice pack, Northern Greenland, ca. 1950. Gift of Miriam Look MacMillan.

Maine Arctic Trail Map

Discover Maine's Arctic Heritage


The Peary-MacMillan Arctic Museum and Arctic Studies Center
9500 College Station, Brunswick, Maine 04011

Museum Hours
Tuesday-Saturday
10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
Sunday 2:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.
Closed on Mondays and national holidays.
207-725-3416
bowdoin.edu/arctic-museum

Dog team running before sledge, Northern Greenland, 1913-1917.
Given in honor of Walter E. Ekblaw, Jr., devoted son.

Bowdoin

Maine, located on the southern end of the North Atlantic, shares a number of environmental characteristics with lands and bodies of water further north. Various animals migrating to and from the Arctic pass through Maine, sometimes lingering before continuing on their way. Also, the state supports pockets of plants more commonly found on the northern tundra – as well as a variety of Arctic butterfly!

Connections between Maine and northern communities reach back thousands of years, when the state's first residents, Native Americans referred to by archaeologists as the Maritime Archaic or Red Paint People, were involved in a long distance trade with their relatives living along the coast of Labrador, in what is now Canada. Ramah chert, a grey, sugary quartzite found only in the Ramah Bay region of Labrador, was traded south to Maine where people flaked it into beautiful stone tools.

More recently, people from Maine ventured to the Arctic for a variety of reasons. Some shipped out on fishing vessels and whalers, others ventured north on scientific expeditions to study the ecology and cultures of the region, and others sought to discover new lands and claim them for the United States.

Have fun exploring some of Maine's Arctic connections and visiting interesting and beautiful places throughout the state.

Clockwise from top left:
Josephine Peary's tourmaline necklace, and 12,000 Years in Maine exhibit, Maine State Museum.

Eagle Island from the air, Friends of Peary's Eagle Island.

Iceberg, Rutherford Platt, July 10, 1947. Gift of Alexander D. Platt, Rutherford Platt, Susan Platt.

Viking airplane, Glenn Kershner, Battle Harbor, Labrador, 1931. Gift of Miriam and Donald MacMillan.

Model kayak, Hudson Museum.



Home & Away Art Gallery, Kennebunkport

Located in an 1813 post and beam barn, Home & Away features Inuit and Native American art and jewelry. The owner's love of Inuit art began on a childhood trip to Canada, and he started collecting art during a later trip to Alaska. His fascination with indigenous art led to the gallery, which features the work of living artists whose vision allows them to step beyond tradition into unexplored territory, continuing the evolution of their culture's artwork.

<http://homeandaway-gallery>

Portland Region

The Portland Company, Portland

The Portland Company was established in 1846 to manufacture locomotives, and later added steamship engines to its business. In 1905 the wood-hulled, Arctic-bound steamer SS *Roosevelt* was towed from the McKay and Dix Shipyard on Verona Island to the Portland Company where its boilers were installed, including a Scotch boiler designed on the premises. The old industrial buildings are currently used for special events. The property also hosts the Maine Narrow Gauge Railway Museum, where, between Thanksgiving and Christmas, visitors can "travel to the North Pole" aboard *The Polar Express* (operating from the Ocean Gateway Visitor Center).

<http://www.58forestreet.com>

Eimskip, Portland

A major Icelandic shipping company, Eimskip moved its US headquarters to Portland in 2013, providing a direct shipping link between Maine, Europe, and the Scandinavian Arctic. Eimskip specializes in moving refrigerated products. Its offices are closed to the public, but you might catch a glimpse of one of its ships in the harbor—usually on a Thursday. Eimskip also sponsors charitable and cultural events in Portland.

<http://eimskip.com>

Maine Historical Society, Portland

The Maine Historical Society holds collections from the Portland Company, an engineering firm and foundry incorporated in 1846. Known for both locomotive and marine work, the Portland Company continued as a formidable force in the field until the early 1970s. In 1904, Robert E. Peary contracted with the Portland Company to design and build a marine boiler for the Peary Arctic Club's ship, SS *Roosevelt*. The engineering drawings of Marine Boiler #257, Engine #93, and Scotch Boiler "For Peary Arctic Club" will be on display at the Maine Historical Society from October 2-7, 2016.

<https://www.mainehistory.org>

Maine Women Writers Collection, University of New England, Portland

Located in the Josephine S. Abplanalp Library on the University of New England's Portland campus, this archive houses published and unpublished literary, cultural, and social history sources by and about Maine women. The papers of Josephine Diebitsch Peary, wife of Robert E. Peary, and Marie Peary Stafford, the Pearys' daughter, are among the papers of many intrepid women available for study.

<http://www.une.edu/mwcc>

The Osher Map Library and Smith Center for Cartographic Education, Portland

Here you will find a unique combination of historically significant rare maps and outstanding Maine and New England collections, with a gallery featuring new exhibits every two years. The Osher Map Library's vast collections include both print and manuscript maps and atlases relating to the founding of Maine, Massachusetts, and New England. The facility houses the second largest public historic globe collection in the nation and a large number of rare to one-of-a-kind maps, including the first modern printed map from 1475 and the first cartographic images of the New World engraved by Sebastian Münster. The Osher Map Library also holds an extensive collection of maps of the Arctic and Antarctic regions, as well as contemporary prints, diaries, and other items from the era of Arctic exploration. A special Arctic-themed exhibit will be open from September 29, 2016 to March 11, 2017.

<http://oshermaps.org>

White Cedar Inn, Freeport

This Victorian-era New England house was once the home of Arctic explorer Donald B. MacMillan. It is thought to be one of the original houses built by E.B. Mallet for workers employed in his many industrial operations. Subsequently, pharmacist Winthrop Fogg purchased the house. He married Letitia MacMillan, one of Donald MacMillan's sisters, and after their mother's death young Donald went to Freeport to live with Letitia and Winthrop. MacMillan attended Freeport High School in the 1890s and was a familiar figure around town. After he became an explorer, MacMillan would visit Freeport. While talking with people on the street he would give impromptu lectures about the Arctic. Many of the rooms in the inn are named in reference to MacMillan, his relatives, and his famed schooner *Bowdoin*.

<http://www.whitecedarinn.com>

Maine Arctic Trail Map

Brunswick Region

The Peary-MacMillan Arctic Museum, Brunswick

The only Arctic-focused museum in the United States, the Arctic Museum was established in honor of Bowdoin alumni and Arctic explorers Robert E. Peary (Class of 1877) and Donald B. MacMillan (Class of 1898). Its collections are built around material gathered by MacMillan during his long career as an explorer and educator, as well as collections made by alumni, faculty, and students who explored the Arctic as far back as 1860. The Museum presents changing exhibits on different aspects of Arctic life, past and present, drawing from collections that include ethnographic and historic artifacts, contemporary arts and crafts from across the North American Arctic, as well as over 20,000 images and motion picture films. A permanent exhibit explores Peary's North Pole Expedition of 1908-1909. The museum is located in Hubbard Hall (built and named after General Thomas H. Hubbard, one of the financiers of Peary's expeditions) on the Bowdoin College campus, and is open to the public daily except Mondays and holidays, free of charge.

www.bowdoin.edu/arctic-museum

Bowdoin College, Brunswick

Bowdoin College faculty and staff members have been leading expeditions to the Arctic since 1860. The institution's mascot is a polar bear (on view at the entrance to the Morrell Gym), in honor of these Arctic connections. The school's notable alumni include Robert E. Peary (Class of 1877), leader of the first successful North Pole expedition, and Donald B. MacMillan (Class of 1898) who joined Peary's expedition in 1908-1909 and went on to lead 26 Arctic expeditions himself. Bowdoin faculty, staff, and students continue to work in the Arctic and Antarctic, investigating environmental, cultural, and historical problems. Visitors can take an Arctic-themed walking tour of campus—maps are available in the Arctic Museum. Bowdoin College is a private liberal arts college; campus visitors are welcome.

www.bowdoin.edu

Maine Maritime Museum, Bath

The Maine Maritime Museum offers many opportunities to explore the state's rich maritime heritage and culture. The museum preserves the site of one of Maine's last commercial wooden shipyards. It presents permanent, interactive exhibits and demonstrations, daily lighthouse cruises and trolley tours in season, and play areas for younger visitors. The museum's Arctic collections and archives (not always on exhibit) include scrimshaw carved from whale tooth and walrus ivory by whalers, historic ships' logs, and photographs.

<http://www.mainemaritimemuseum.org>

Peary's Eagle Island, Casco Bay

This Maine State Park and National Historic Landmark was the summer home of Arctic explorer Robert E. Peary and his family. The original house and caretaker's cottage were built in 1904 and expanded in 1911. It was at Eagle Island in 1909 that Robert Peary's wife Josephine received a telegram bringing her the news that Peary had reached the North Pole. The explorer spent much time on the island in the years after his North Pole achievement and before his death in 1920. In 1967 Peary's children gave Eagle Island to the state of Maine. Today, a full-time park ranger manages Eagle Island, assisted by volunteers from The Friends of Peary's Eagle Island. Eagle Island and the Peary home are open seasonally from June 15 to Labor Day, although nature trails are closed until July 15 to protect nesting birds. Access is by boat only. Moorings are available for visiting private boats or visitors can take a scheduled tour from Portland, Freeport, or Harpswell.

<http://www.pearyeagleisland.org>

Interior Maine

Maine State Museum, Augusta

Maine's flagship museum, located in the state capital, hosts permanent and changing exhibits about all aspects of life in Maine. Objects related to Maine's Arctic connections include, among others, Josephine Peary's beautiful tourmaline necklace in the *Maine Gems* exhibit, as well as a silver vase commemorating the Pearys' 21st wedding anniversary and a baseball Robert E. Peary threw 316 feet! In the exhibit *12,000 Years in Maine* look for a walrus skull and bearded seal bones from when Maine had an arctic climate, as well as stone tools made from Ramah chert, a highly prized stone from Labrador that was widely traded into Maine by indigenous groups thousands of years ago and used to make a variety of stone tools. Make sure to visit a very recent acquisition—a polar bear!

<http://www.maineitemuseum.org>

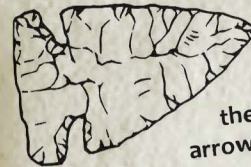
LC Bates Museum, Hinkley

The LC Bates Museum on the Good Will-Hinckley campus houses a remarkable natural history collection, including a number of artifacts related to the Arctic expeditions of Robert E. Peary. A small case of Arctic material is on permanent display; other exhibits include a broad array of taxidermy mounts of Maine birds and other animals, as well as ethnographic and historic artifacts. The museum hosts many family-oriented activities. The grounds include beautiful nature trails, picnic tables, and an arboretum.

<http://www.gwh.org/lcbates/LCBatesMuseum.aspx>

Did you know that...

Caribou used to be numerous in northern Maine. They became illegal to hunt in 1899 due to a drastic reduction in their numbers. In the 1980s efforts to reintroduce them failed.



Indigenous people traded Ramah chert, a sugary quartzite found in Ramah Bay, northern Labrador, into Maine. The ancestors of the present-day Maine Wabanaki tribes fashioned arrowheads and spearheads out of Ramah chert.

A cluster of crowberry plants, survivors of the last ice age, grows on Higgins Mountain on Georgetown Island.

Arctic explorer Frederick Cook's wife Marie was vacationing in Harpswell when Robert Peary's wife Josephine, spending the summer on Eagle Island in Harpswell, received the telegram informing her that her husband had reached the North Pole. The wives of the rival explorers did not meet, though the press made much of the fact that they were in the same community.

In 1891 the Julia Decker left Rockland bound for Labrador and Greenland with Rockland natives N.P. Spear and Jonathan Cilley and a number of Bowdoin College alumni and students on board. Among them was Austin Cary, an early conservationist and Bowdoin graduate who planted the Bowdoin Pines.

Caribou, Ross Flowers, Hopedale, Labrador, 2001. Museum Purchase.