

Schooner Bowdoin and other boats near mouth of harbor, Boothbay Harbor, 1947. Gift of Dr. Edward K. Morse.

Fryeburg Region

Jockey Cap Rock, Fryeburg

A short hike takes visitors to the top of Jockey Cap, where they can examine a massive igneous rock dropped by a glacier. A marker remembers Arctic explorer Robert E. Peary, who worked as a surveyor in the Fryeburg area in the late 1870s, shortly after he graduated from Bowdoin College. Peary's sketch of Jockey Cap, a landmark in the White Mountains region, inspired the idea of a memorial.

The Admiral Peary Inn Bed & Breakfast, Fryeburg

The Admiral Peary Inn Bed & Breakfast is an 1865 farmhouse that derives its name from Robert E. Peary, whose mother rented the house from its architect and lived at the location from 1877 to 1880. Her son came to live and work as a surveyor in Fryeburg after graduating from Bowdoin until he left for a position in Washington, DC in 1879. One of the guest rooms is dedicated to Admiral Peary, his family, and his travels, while the other six are named for the innkeeper's own world travels.

<http://www.admiralpearyinn.com>

Poland Spring Preservation Society, Poland Spring

Two historic buildings and their surrounding grounds recall the grandeur of an early twentieth-century resort focused on the waters of Poland Spring. Exhibits include the story of renowned dog sled driver Leonhard Seppala and his lead dog Togo. During the Alaska diphtheria epidemic of 1925 they carried the life-saving serum farther, and over more dangerous terrain, than any of the other teams. In 1926 Seppala brought Togo and the rest of his team to Poland Springs for a race, and was convinced to leave the dogs there to start a breeding kennel. Togo died and was buried in Poland Spring in 1929.

<http://polandsprings.org/index.html>

Boothbay Region

Boothbay Harbor

This scenic harbor looks much as it did in the 1940s and 1950s, when Donald MacMillan's Arctic expeditions often departed from Boothbay Harbor. Large crowds gathered at the dock on departure day, and often dignitaries gave speeches before MacMillan's schooner *Bowdoin* departed. Celebrations continued after the *Bowdoin* left the dock, as many local vessels accompanied the schooner out of the harbor. With some imagination, a cruise today on one of the many vessels offering day trips can offer a similar experience!

<http://www.boothbayharbor.com>

Bigelow Laboratory for Ocean Sciences, East Boothbay

Scientists at Bigelow Laboratory are involved in a variety of Arctic-related research projects. Current research includes an ongoing inquiry into how microbes in the Arctic Ocean affect climate change in the Arctic. Bigelow's work ranges from documenting and forecasting environmental changes, to assessing the ecological impacts of increased human activity in the Arctic, to developing the best scientifically based solutions for specific problems. While the facility is closed to the public, researchers host weekly gatherings in July and August to present their results to the public. These *Café Scientifique* gatherings present real science in a fun, casual setting. Check the institution's web page for specific dates and locations.

www.bigelow.org

Hodgdon Yachts, East Boothbay

Hodgdon Yachts (formerly Hodgdon Brothers) is a five-generation family business that has been building ships and boats for 200 years. In 1920, Donald MacMillan selected this yard to construct the schooner *Bowdoin*, the only American schooner that was designed and built specifically for Arctic exploration work. The *Bowdoin* under MacMillan's command sailed to the Arctic between 1921 and 1954, including three overwintering expeditions. The shipyard is not open to visitors.

<http://www.hodgdonyachts.com>

Owls Head Transportation Museum, Rockland

Vintage vehicles of all sorts tell the transportation story through carriages, cars, motorcycles, bicycles, engines, and aircraft—all still operational. For Arctic enthusiasts, the 1926 Model-T Ford converted into a snowmobile is most intriguing. Donald MacMillan used an identical vehicle and conversion kit in Labrador on his 1927-28 expedition, introducing the first snow machine to the region. The museum's snowmobile still runs, and events featuring it and the museum's other vehicles in action are announced on its website. Footage of MacMillan's snowmobile in operation in Labrador can be found on the Peary-MacMillan Arctic Museum's web page.

<http://owlshead.org>

Bucksport Region

Verona Island

This small island was the site of the McKay and Dix Shipyard, where Robert E. Peary's innovative ship *SS Roosevelt* was built in 1904-05. The *Roosevelt*, a heavily reinforced wooden vessel designed to crash through ice, was the last ship built there. Traces of the shipyard's launching ways are visible around the public boat launch. Find the spot off Route 1 just before crossing the bridge from Verona Island to Bucksport.

<http://www.veroname.org>

Buck Memorial Library, Bucksport

Built in 1887, the Buck Memorial Library is located near the site where Peary's ship *SS Roosevelt* was constructed. It is just down the street from the hotel where the Peary family stayed while Peary met with shipyard personnel and supervised aspects of the vessel's construction. The library features a scale model of the *Roosevelt*, showcasing the proud Bucksport-Arctic connection.

<http://www.buckmemoriallibrary.50megs.com>

Bucksport Historical Society, Bucksport

Located in the former train station on Main Street, the Historical Society displays objects related to the town's history and citizens. The collection includes items donated by the family of George Wardwell, a Bucksport man who served as chief engineer on the *SS Roosevelt* in 1905-06 and 1908-09, and some from the Peary family in remembrance of Robert E. Peary's time in Bucksport overseeing the construction of the *Roosevelt*. The Bucksport Waterfront Walkway, which runs along the Penobscot River, is nearby and provides views of Verona Island, Fort Knox, and plaques commemorating the region's role in Arctic exploration. The Bucksport Historical Society is open seasonally; the walkway is open all year.

<https://www.facebook.com/Bucksport-Historical-Society-160640010621539/>

Maine Maritime Academy, Castine

Maine Maritime Academy is home to 950 students studying engineering, management, science, and transportation at this public, co-educational institution located in the coastal town of Castine. Recently, the Academy was awarded significant funding to develop maritime ice navigation and first responder courses to complement the US Coast Guard's Arctic Strategy. The school is also home to the schooner *Bowdoin*, Donald MacMillan's famous Arctic exploration vessel. Cadets have sailed the *Bowdoin* back to northern ports visited by MacMillan. Check the Academy's website for opportunities to visit (and even sail on!) this historic vessel.

<http://mainemaritime.edu>

Cranberry Isle Historical Society and Islesford Historical Museum, Cranberry Isles

During the nineteenth century people from Maine's Cranberry Isles traveled the world, and some made a living whaling and sealing in the far north. After a trip to Labrador, resident Samuel Hadlock (1792-1829) returned home with a group of four Inuit, some dogs, and a variety of artifacts. Hadlock became a showman and took the Inuit on tour throughout New England and Europe in the 1820s. Tragically, none of the Inuit survived the experience. In 1828 Hadlock sailed to Greenland in the *Minerva*, a two-masted schooner that was locally built. This voyage met with disaster when the schooner went down with all hands. Visit the Great Cranberry Isle Historical Society and its smaller counterpart, the Islesford Historical Museum on Little Cranberry (Islesford), to get a sense of the lives of island families. You can get there by ferry or boat from Northeast Harbor or Southwest Harbor on Mount Desert Island.

<http://gcis.org>

Jesup Memorial Library, Bar Harbor

The Jesup is Bar Harbor's library, built in 1910-1911. Maria De Witt Jesup funded the construction of the distinguished Colonial Revival building in memory of her husband, philanthropist Morris K. Jesup. He was a banker and philanthropist who was one of Arctic explorer Robert E. Peary's biggest financial supporters. Also, Jesup sponsored a major anthropological expedition known as the Jesup North Pacific Expedition that studied the people of Siberia, Alaska, and the northwest coast of Canada. The library hosts many events year-round. At 40,000 books, its collections make this a good place to stop and read a book about Arctic exploration.

<http://jesuplibrary.org>

Orono Region

The Hudson Museum, Orono

On the campus of the University of Maine, the Hudson Museum features a *World Cultures* exhibit that includes contemporary Inuit art as well as objects collected by the museum's founder, Richard Emerick. Emerick was an anthropologist who did fieldwork on Baffin Island in 1953-54, and also collected in the Pacific Islands and the American Southwest. Historic film from the Baffin expedition is featured on the museum's YouTube channel. Find the Museum within the Collins Center for the Arts.

<http://umaine.edu/hudsonmuseum/>

The Climate Change Institute, Orono

A major hub of climate change research, this University of Maine institute sends faculty and students throughout the world to study the variability of the Earth's climate and the complex links between climate, humans, and the natural world. Orono researchers study glaciers found in the Arctic and scrutinize the behavior of the Greenland ice sheet, while also collaborating with other institutions studying the Earth's environmental history locked in ice. The Institute is not open to the public.

<http://climatechange.umaine.edu>

Quoddy Head State Park, Lubec

Encompassing 541 acres, at the easternmost United States and Canada border, this park offers visitors opportunities to visit an 1858 lighthouse, hike miles of scenic trails, and do some of the best wildlife-watching in the state. A number of Arctic-related species can be spotted in and around the Park, including humpback, minke, and finback whales, as well as rafts of eider ducks. A coastal plateau bog supports sub-arctic and arctic plants including black crowberry, bake apples (also known as cloudberry), and Labrador tea.

<http://www.maine.gov/quoddyhead>

Did you know that...

Polar explorer Richard Byrd planned a number of his expeditions while summering at Wickyup, a house in East Sullivan, just north of Mt. Desert Island. The house, designated a National Historic Landmark, burned down in 1984.

Large numbers of Arctic terns nest off the Maine coast on Matinicus Rock, Machias Seal Island, and Petit Manan Island. Arctic terns migrate over 25,000 miles from the Arctic to the Antarctic, the longest yearly journey of any bird.

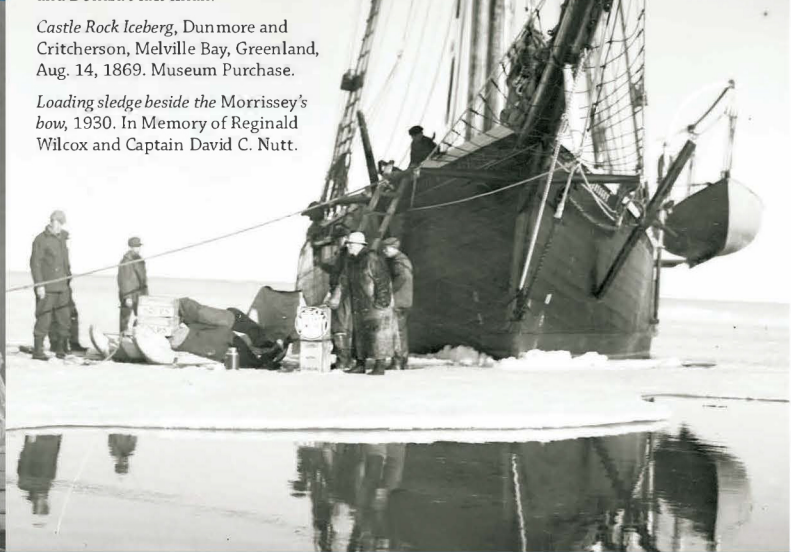
The Katahdin Arctic butterfly is an endangered subspecies found only in alpine-tundra habitats on Mount Katahdin. Other Arctic butterflies have greater ranges and can be found in tundra environments in Alaska, northern Canada, and Labrador.

The Effie M. Morrissey (now the Ernestina-Morrissey), a two-masted schooner that famous ice navigator Robert A. Bartlett sailed to Labrador and Greenland from 1926 to 1945, had masts fashioned from Maine pine trees. In 2015 and 2016 the vessel is being refurbished in the Boothbay Harbor Shipyard.

On June 20, 1925 Governor Ralph O. Brewster, National Geographic Society president Gilbert Grosvenor, and American Arctic explorer Adolphus Greely gathered in Wiscasset to send-off Donald B. MacMillan and his schooner *Bowdoin*. Governor Brewster authorized MacMillan to claim any new land he might find on behalf of the State of Maine!

Mellie Dunham of Norway, Maine was a famous maker of snowshoes who equipped Robert E. Peary's North Pole expeditions with dozens of pairs of very long and narrow snowshoes.

Maine Arctic Trail Map



Left-right: Snowmobile ready for trip to Nain, Donald Baxter MacMillan, Anaktalak Bay, Labrador, 1928. Gift of Miriam and Donald MacMillan.

Castle Rock Iceberg, Dunmore and Critcherson, Melville Bay, Greenland, Aug. 14, 1869. Museum Purchase.

Loading sledge beside the Morrissey's bow, 1930. In Memory of Reginald Wilcox and Captain David C. Nutt.



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