Commemorating Maine Statehood: What can we Learn from the Bicentennial?

Liam Riordan, Department of History, UMaine
Friday, Oct. 8, 9:00 am
Maine became the 23rd US state March 15, 1820

Moses Greenleaf, map (1820)
Courtesy of Osher Map Library, University of Southern Maine
1) Slavery and Maine?
National Crisis, 1819-1821
US Congressmen from Maine explain their votes to link ME-MO admission to US

5 opposed
2 in favor
2) Voting and Partisan Anger

Six Maine Separation Votes, 1792-1819
County-Level Voting Data

- 1792
- 1797
- 1807
- 1816 May
- 1816 Sept.
- 1819

Legend:
- Strong opposition
- Opposed
- Support
- Strong Support

Sources:
- Massachusetts Archives
- Massachusetts Legislative Documents
- Portland Gazette
- Bangor Register
3) Regional Diversity and the Unknown International Border

Mitchell Map
(4th ed, 1775)
and the
Treaty of Paris, 1783

Visit the online
Mitchell Map exhibit
Osher Map Library,
USM
4) What did Maine statehood mean for Wabanaki sovereignty? Perils & Persistence

Portland Press Herald
Dec. 14, 2014
Questions and Discussion?

State of Maine Bicentennial

1820 1820

DIRIGO

2020 2020

Liam Riordan, Department of History, Maine

Maine Municipal Association
Jeremiah Perley,
Debates, Resolutions . . . of the Convention of Delegates (1820)

Online Resources from Fogler Library’s Digital Commons:
https://digitalcommons.library.umaine.edu/mainebicentennial/
STATE OF MAINE.

House of Representatives, June 1st, 1820.

Ordered, That two hundred copies of the Constitution of the United States, together with the Constitution of this State, and the act entitled "An Act relating to the Separation of the District of Maine from Massachusetts Proper, and forming the same into a separate and Independent State," be printed for the use of the Legislature.

Attest, J. LORING CHILD, Clerk.

CONSTITUTION OF MAINE.

We the people of Maine, in order to establish justice, insure tranquility, provide for our mutual defence, promote our common welfare, and secure to ourselves and our posterity the blessings of Liberty, acknowledging with grateful hearts the goodness of the Sovereign Ruler of the Universe in affording us an opportunity, so favorable to the design, and, imploring his aid and direction in its accomplishment, do agree to form ourselves into a free and independent State, by the style and title of the State of Maine, and do ordain and establish the following Constitution for the government of the same.

ARTICLE I.

DECLARATION OF RIGHTS.

Sect. 1. All men are born equally free and independent, and have certain natural, inherent and unalienable Rights, among which are those of enjoying and defending life and liberty, acquiring, possessing and protecting property, and of pursuing and obtaining safety and happiness.

Sect. 2. All power is inherent in the people; all free governments are founded in their authority and instituted for their benefit; they have therefore an unalienable and indefeasible right to institute government, and to alter, reform, or totally change the same, when their safety and happiness require it.