

## Old and New Businesses for Maine

As Maine entered the 20th century, people involved in older businesses, like shipbuilding, farming, and fishing, searched for better ways to produce and market their products.

### Schooners Make a Comeback

Once steamships became widely used, the days of the great wooden sailing ships came to an end. But resourceful shipbuilders in Maine realized there might still be a market for *schooners*. These were smaller sailing ships that needed only a few people to sail them. They were perfectly suited for trading goods up and down the Atlantic Coast.

Soon, merchants began using schooners for all kinds of trading business. Schooners took ice from Maine and traded it for pine in southern states, like Georgia. Then merchants headed to Pennsylvania where they exchanged the lumber for coal. The schooners then sailed back to New England where the coal was sold and used to make electricity.

### New Plows for Potato Farmers

Potatoes continued to be a major crop for Maine farmers in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. But now the state had to compete against other potato-growing states, like Idaho and California. In 1890,



*With a Hoover digger, a man could dig as many as 500 bushels of potatoes a day.*

farmers in Aroostook County started using a new piece of equipment called a "Hoover digger." It helped them separate the dirt and weeds from the potatoes. When farmers started using tractors with gasoline engines, productivity increased even more. Farmers also found a new market for potatoes among the many recent immigrants from central and eastern Europe, where potatoes were a favorite food.

### The Lobster Takes Center Stage

Fishing also continued to be an important business in the early 20th century. But lobsters became the catch that provided the greatest profits. Wealthy Americans in big cities considered lobsters a delicacy and were willing to pay high prices for them. This was quite a change for Mainers. When the first English settlers came to Maine, they found the coast filled with lobsters that had washed ashore during storms. Most of the lobsters were used for fertilizer on farms. Later, lobsters were used for bait to catch other fish.

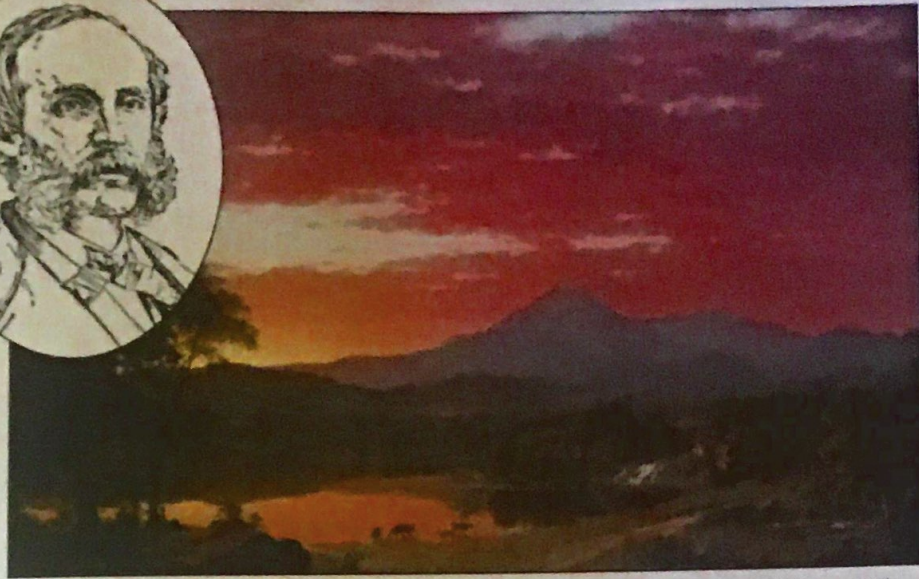
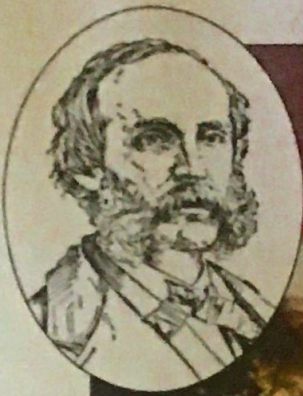
As lobstering became more profitable, methods for catching lobsters improved. The popularity of lobsters has increased steadily in the last century, and profits from Maine's yearly lobster catch are worth more than profits from the catch of all other fish combined.

*Guests at this dinner could eat all the clams and lobster they wanted for just \$1. How much does a lobster dinner cost today?*



## Maine Charms the Artists

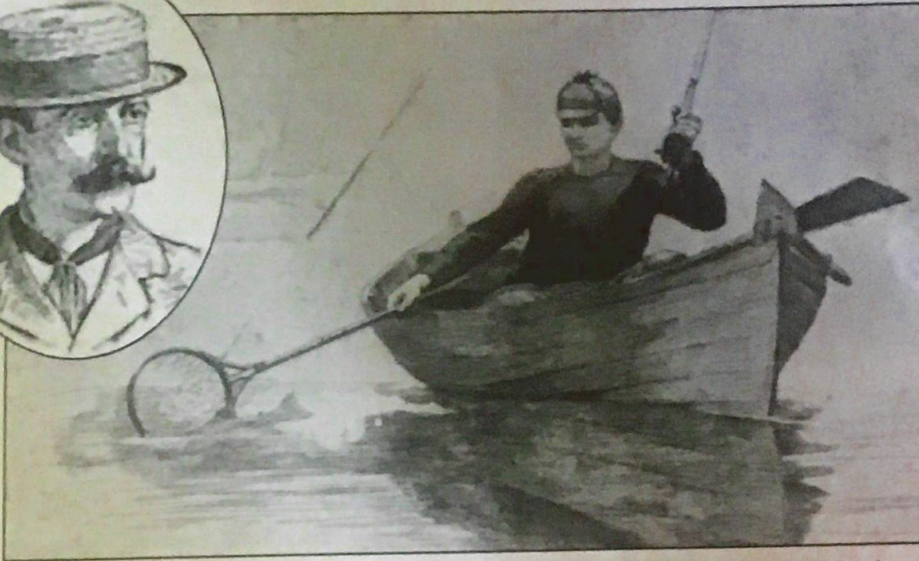
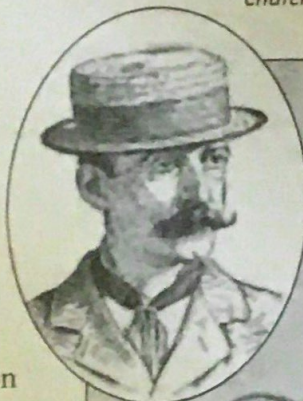
American artists in the late 19th century found Maine a "vacationland," or a place to get away. They came north from crowded cities to find a quieter place to work. They were also looking for dramatic scenes in nature that they could paint. These are some of the most famous artists who came to Maine:



Church's paintings of Mt. Katahdin captured many people's interest in Maine.

### Frederic Church

This American painter won fame as a member of a group known as the Hudson River School. The artists in this school painted landscapes of New York's Hudson River Valley in an attempt to get Americans to appreciate American art. Church traveled throughout America, painting landscapes in the far West and finally in Maine. His painting called "Mount Katahdin from Millinocket Camp" gave many people outside of Maine their first look at this important landmark.



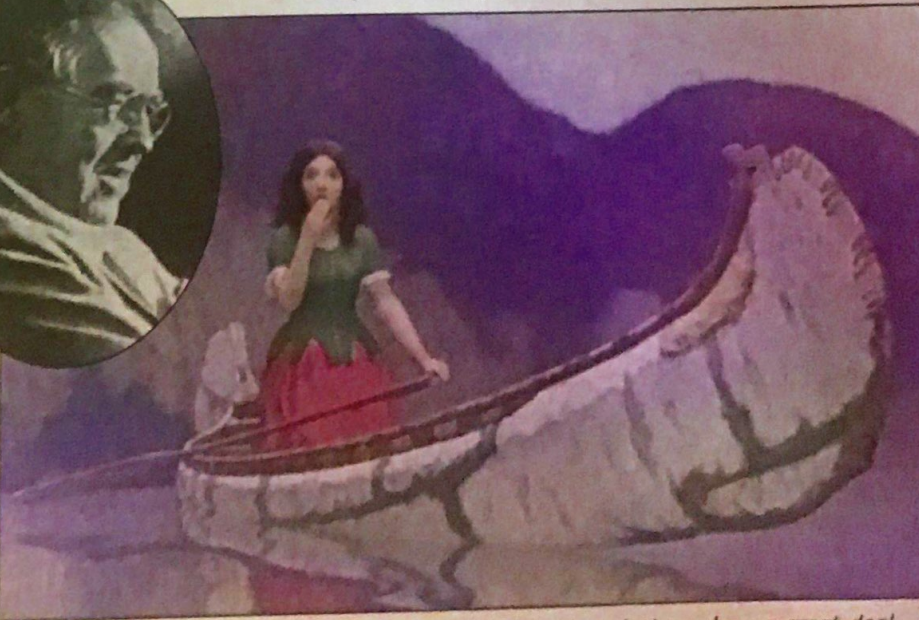
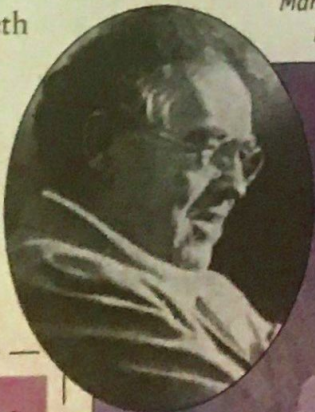
Many of Homer's paintings were inspired by his fly-fishing trips in Maine. He often asked guides to pose for paintings.

### Winslow Homer

Born in Boston and educated in New York, Homer had a connection to Maine because his mother's family had come from the state. He built a studio on a rocky piece of land that jutted out into the sea at Prouts Neck. He spent the rest of his life painting seascapes along Maine's Atlantic Coast that made him famous around the world.

### The Wyeths

In 1920, renowned illustrator N.C. Wyeth began vacationing in Port Clyde. Later, his son, Andrew, one of the most famous American painters of the 20th century, painted many scenes near his home in Cushing. Today, Andrew's son, Jamie, spends his summers painting on Monhegan Island.



N.C. Wyeth paid a lot of attention to detail, so his paintings show a great deal of emotion. Why do you think the woman in this painting looks so surprised?

## Activity

### What Can Paintings Teach Us?

1. Describe the overall mood of each painting.
2. What do you think the artists wanted to capture in their paintings?
3. Of what places in Maine do these scenes remind you?

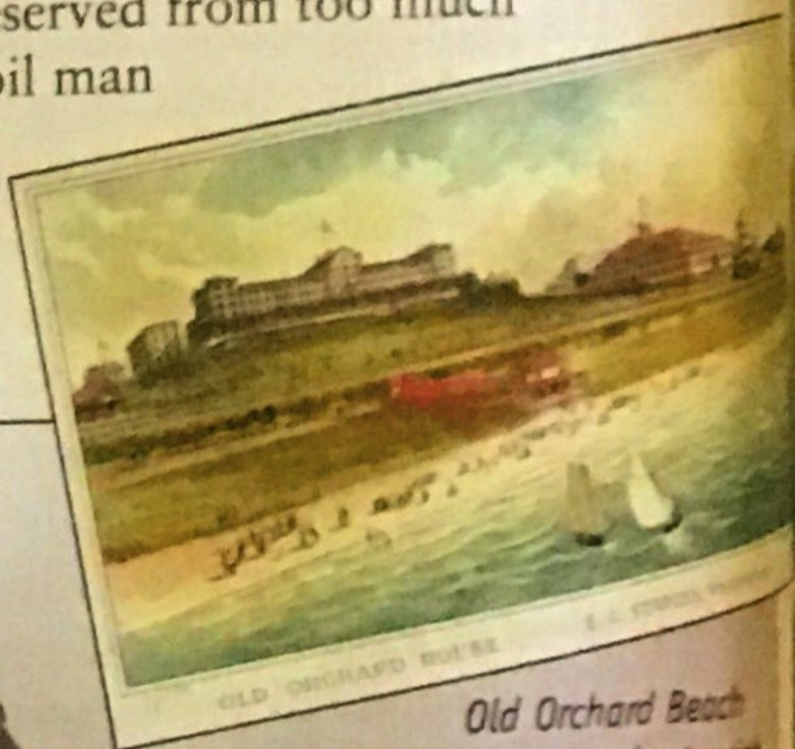
## The New Business of Tourism

Wealthy Americans came to know the beauty of Maine through the works of these artists. After they saw the paintings exhibited in big cities, many decided to come north and vacation in Maine during the summers. Mainers called the wealthy vacationers *rusticators*. Locals said rusticators were people who wanted to experience all the nature Maine could provide while living in luxury. Many rusticators built huge mansions, which they called "cottages," in fashionable resort towns like York and Bar Harbor. They hired guides to take them through Maine's woods and teach them how to hunt and fish.

Working Americans followed the wealthy to Maine to vacation for a few days or weeks each summer. Hotels, resorts, and amusement parks soon lined much of the South Coast. York Beach was especially popular, and people came there by steamship and railroad lines from all over the Northeast.

As more and more Americans headed to Maine's coast each summer, John D. Rockefeller, one of the original rusticators, decided the land must be preserved from too much development. The wealthy oil man bought and set aside much of the land that is now Acadia National Park.

*In this photo, tourists play on the beach in front of the Fiske House resort in Old Orchard Beach.*



*Old Orchard Beach was a popular tourist destination.*



*Eliot became a center for tourism when a place called Green Acre was started as a facility for comparative study of religions. Thousands of people from all over the world came here to attend classes*

# MAINE

## PORTRAIT



### Cornelia "Fly Rod" Crosby 1854-1946

Cornelia Crosby lived every fisherman's dream. She earned a living as a guide in Maine's woods and as a writer.

Cornelia was born in Phillips and first went to the woods at the advice of her doctor. He prescribed "a large dose of the outdoors" to help her with her health problems. She became friends with some of the local guides while working as a housekeeper in various hotels. They taught her all about the adventures of fishing, hunting, and camping.

She soon became an avid fly-fisherwoman and is said to

have caught 200 trout in one day. She began writing stories of her fishing ventures and sending them to a newspaper under the name of "Fly Rod." The newspaper published her stories in a column called "Fly Rod's Notebook," and soon, people in New York, Boston, and other cities were reading about this adventurous lady from Maine.

Most people remember Fly Rod for being the first registered guide in Maine, but she became famous for many other things, too. She once gave a hunting presentation at a sportsmen's exhibition in New York City. Spectators were drawn to her as she showed off stuffed deer and moose and a tank full of trout and salmon. Wearing an outrageously short skirt (which meant her ankles were showing), she demonstrated her fly-fishing skills to the crowd.

Thousands of people from all over the country were attracted to Maine because of Fly Rod. She convinced women that outdoor activities were not just for men, so women began accompanying their husbands on fishing and hunting trips.

*I really doubt whether there is any sport in the world half so delightful as angling [fishing], or half so graceful and healthful for our sex [women]. . . while fishing you are out of doors in the sunshine coloring your cheeks and strengthening your muscle.*