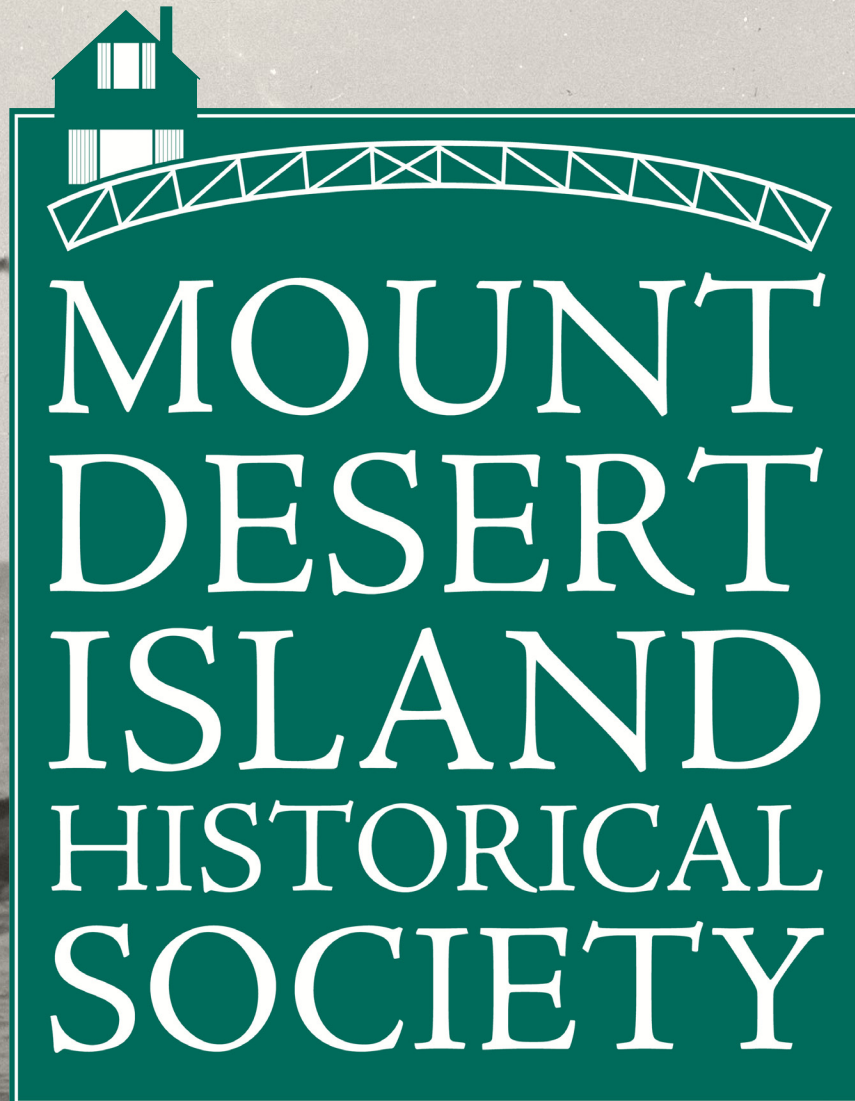


ANNUAL REPORT
FISCAL YEAR 2023





A Letter from Raney and Ben

The story of fiscal year 2023 is one of growth. For the first time, outer-island schools from Iselsford, Great Cranberry, Swans, and Frenchboro came to MDI to experience our immersive educational program, Vintage Classroom. This program transports kids back in time to what life would have been like in an 1893 one-room schoolhouse. Offered in partnership with the Barn Arts Collective, more kids meant more days with school in session at the Sound Schoolhouse. Our school programs also grew to reach over 200 kids at the Somesville campus, where they learned about the history of the village, and through a partnership with high school environmental science students for a project on sea level rise.

Our free public programs grew too, offering more in-person lectures, trivia, and events than ever before at locations throughout the island. Lectures and events allow audiences to meet *Chebacco* authors and dig deeper into local history, and our History Happy Hour trivia nights are the perfect way to test that knowledge in a fun and informal atmosphere.

Our collaborations grew with the addition of the Bar Harbor Oceanarium to the Landscape of Change project. You can visit their campus to see artist Jennifer Steen Booher's fascinating climate change exhibit *We Change with Them* which was created for the 2022 edition of *Chebacco*, and walk the sea level rise trail to visualize the impacts of rising seas on the marsh and buildings.

Our collections grew with the addition of the archive of Moorehead "Mike" and Louisa Kennedy. Mike's papers record his experience as a hostage taken in Iran in 1979, and his later work for international peace and justice. Louisa was instrumental in keeping the plight of the

hostages in the minds of Americans, and her unpublished diaries provide a never-before seen look at her efforts.

And, our donations grew, making FY23 a resounding success, allowing us to plan for more programs, new exhibits, and improved collections management in the coming years. Thanks to hundreds of members we received a record \$265k in donations, which directly supports our staff, collections, programs and publications, and care for two historic campuses. The team includes Raney Bench, Executive Director, Lisa Taplin Murray, Assistant Director, Historian Patrick Callaway, and Financial Administrator Leah Lucey. This strong, close-knit team has boundless energy in support of our mission to foster meaningful engagement with the histories of MDI.

As we look toward the future, the Society is thinking about our centennial in 2031 and how we expand our role as the island's historical society. Our strategic plan is designed to guide us into this next phase of growth.

Thank you from all of us at the Historical Society.

--Raney Bench, Executive Director and
Benjamin Pierce, President, Board of Directors

Impact

As the only organization with the mission to tell island-wide histories, the MDI Historical Society values the opportunity to work with all island communities. Working collaboratively allows more voices to be heard, different perspectives to be shared, and a richer understanding of our shared history.

Our FY 2023 partnerships included: The History Trust, Great Harbor Maritime Museum, Schoodic Institute, Acadia National Park, MDI Biological Laboratory, Jackson Laboratory, A Climate to Thrive, MDI Regional School System, Barn Arts Collective, College of the Atlantic, Bass Harbor Memorial Library, Blue Hill Library, Bar Harbor Oceanarium, Friends of Acadia, Causeway Club, Reel Pizza, ArtWaves, Naturalist Notebook, Machias Savings

Bank, Garland Farm, Lawrence Cotton, Road Scholars, Acadia Senior College, Northeast Harbor Library, Maine Historical Society, and Maine Coast Heritage Trust.

Here's a look at our community impact in FY 2023:

Chebacco Chats: 414 attendees and 475 online views
Lecture Attendees: 281
Public Program Attendees: 427
Book Club Attendees: 84
Students & Teachers Served: 396
Museum Visitors: 1,097
Number of Members: 560

3,734 served in FY 2023!

Financial Report

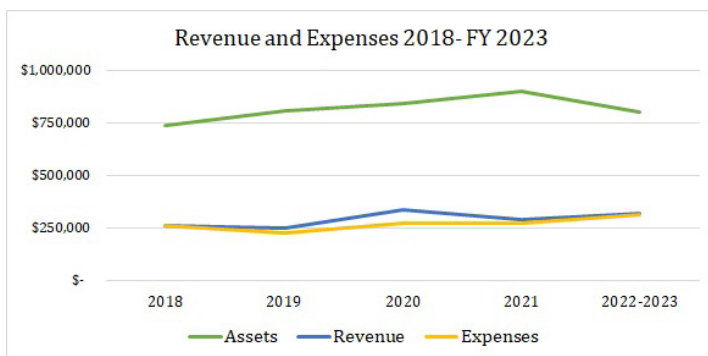
July 2022 through June 2023 was the first full year of the Mount Desert Island Historical Society's successful migration to the new fiscal year planning cycle. As such, for the fiscal year 2023 just completed, the Society reported a Net Operating Profit of \$11,700 on Revenue totaling \$315,300. Membership contributions for the year were a record \$265,000, and the Society managed overall expenses at plan levels.

Our two Endowment asset accounts totalling \$462,000 at the Maine Community Foundation also fared well vs.

benchmarks during this difficult and volatile time for US and Global financial markets. We have an additional asset reserve account that totals \$85,000 and cash flow has remained strong throughout the last 12 months.

After more than a decade serving as treasurer I am retiring and Michael Pancoe will become the Society's new Treasurer, effective with formal approval at the Society's Annual Meeting. I will continue to serve the remainder of my term on the board.

--Submitted by Ham Clark, Treasurer



Our Members

The Mount Desert Island Historical Society is grateful to every member and organization for supporting our mission in Fiscal Year 2023. Each gift does its work: it enables us to pursue our vision, funds the protection of objects in our collections, supports programs that connect our community to the island's histories, and more.

We are proud to acknowledge your contribution, and hope we have done so correctly. To request an update to your name, or report a correction, please contact us at (207) 276-9323 or info@mdihistory.org.

We appreciate your generosity and recognition of history's relevance.

Extraordinary (\$10,000+)

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This list reflects members for fiscal year 2023. MDI Historical Society's fiscal year runs July 1 to June 30. *Deceased marked with an asterisk

Cover page image: *Gulls* by Lucy Dodge, August 1907. Great Harbor Maritime Museum; Page 2 image: *View of Hulls Cove with Schoolhouse and Stevens Homestead* by Harrison Bird Brown, 1864. From the private collection of Ildiko and Gilbert Butler; Page 7 image: *Fish drying on Little Cranberry Island*. Courtesy of the National Park Service, Acadia National Park, Cranberry Isles Collection.



WE ENVISION an island-wide community working together to promote appreciation of the histories of Mount Desert Island.

OUR MISSION is to foster meaningful engagement with the histories of MDI.

Mount Desert Island Historical Society
PO Box 653 Mount Desert, ME

(207) 276-9323
info@mdihistory.org

www.mdihistory.org

