Historic Sites in Maine

Maine Department of Economic Development

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THE VACATION PLANNER

This Vacation Planner is only a sketch of the historic sites and memorials under the management of Maine State Park and Recreation Commission. It has been prepared to assist you in basic planning and to provide you with sources of specific information.

(continued from inside)

10. Fort William Henry (1692), a replica of part of the 3rd of 4 forts built on this site, the 1st erected about 1630 for defense against pirates. Here are old relics, portraits, maps, and copies of Indian deeds. From Damariscotta on Rt. #129, 4 miles, take Rt. #130 for 9 miles, bear right one mile.

11. John Paul Jones Memorial (1927). Near this site, in 1777, the U. S. S. Ranger was built and launched. On this ship, Jones received the first salute by a foreign power given a man-of-war flying the Stars and Stripes. At entrance to Maine on U. S. #1.

12. Katahdin Iron Works (1843), a blast furnace and charcoal kiln restored at the site of a once thriving iron works. For nearly half a century about 2,000 tons of raw iron were produced annually. Charcoal was made in 14 kilns consuming 10,000 cords of wood a year. From Rt. #11, 5 miles north of Brownville Junction, take gravel road 6 miles to "K. I."


14. Montpellier (1793), a handsome replica of the original mansion, containing most of the original possessions of Major General and Mrs. Henry Knox. One of the great heroes of the Revolutionary War, at age 31 Knox became the youngest Major General and is attributed with planning all the battles won by Washington. After the war, for 10 years he served as the first Secretary of War, during which time he built "Montpellier". One mile east of Thomaston on U. S. #1.

(continued)

15. Vaughan Woods, on the banks of Salmon Falls River, whispers thoughts from the past. Here at "Cow Cove", the first cows in this part of the country were landed, in 1694, from the ship "The Pied Cow". This ship also brought America’s first sawmill which was erected nearby. Much of this 250 acre tract is forest, with nature trails and markers identifying flora of this woodland. Off Rt. #91, 1/2 mile south of South Berwick, turn west opposite High School, 1 mile to entrance.

* * * * * *

In addition to the sites already described, the Park & Recreation Commission recently acquired as gifts two more areas which, when completely opened to the public, will be of interest to many.

One, on the Damariscotta River, encompasses a portion of the ancient "Oyster Shell Heaps", one of the largest such deposits in the world. These shell heaps resulted from the "shore dinners" of ancient inhabitants and are of great interest to historians and scientists. Why don't oysters thrive in Maine today?

The other is the home of Admiral Robert E. Peary. On windswept Eagle Island off Harpswell, this site will be a fitting memorial to the great explorer. Plans call for restoration of the house, docking facilities, nature trails and an interpretive program depicting the determination with which Admiral Peary pursued his goal -- the North Pole.

VACATION PLANNERS

This is ONE in a series of 30 vacation planners being programmed by the Maine Department of Economic Development and due for completion by January 1, 1970. We have found that prospective visitors to Maine are primarily interested in the "facts", and with this in mind we are designing these brochures to be factual in their presentation.

We would appreciate receiving your comments as to the type of factual brochure you would like to see. Please write:

Mr. Clarence F. McKay, Promotion Director
Maine Dept. of Economic Development
State Office Building, Augusta, Maine 04330

published by Department of Economic Development
State House, Augusta, Maine 04330

Appropriation Number 3920

Vacation Planner
GENERAL INFORMATION

With few exceptions (see chart), the season for visiting the Memorials under jurisdiction of the State Park & Recreation Commission extends from May 30 to Labor Day. Visiting hours are 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Where there are fees they range from 15¢ to 50¢. Children under 12 free, in family groups. At historic Montpelier, restored home of Major General Henry Knox, guided tours are available at 50¢ per person. Brief histories of many of the forts and Montpelier may be purchased on site for 25¢. Several areas (see chart) have picnic facilities on the grounds. Locations of the sites are given in the Highway Map Index on the chart. In addition to the Memorials listed in this brochure, the Commission offers, in cooperation with the Highway Commission and Central Maine Power Company, historic markers commemorating General Arnold's march through Maine to Quebec. Scattered from Fort Popham to the International Boundary at Coburn Gore these include sites at Hallowell, Skowhegan, Caratunk, Stratton, and Chain of Ponds. Consisting of large Interpretive Panels, the markers depict action which took place at a particular site, excerpts from diaries of some who accompanied Arnold, and a map outlining the route of this incredible march.

MEMORIAL MEMORANDA

1. Fort Edgecomb (1808), octagon blockhouse and restored fortifications built to protect Wiscasset, then the most important shipping center north of Boston. The fort overlooks the Sheepscot River, where brown seals are often seen. South off U.S. #1 at Edgecomb end of Wiscasset bridge, then next right.
2. Fort George (1779), earthworks and fortifications which have been under the flags of four nations - French, English, Dutch, and American. Archeologic research and reconstruction are being achieved. Rt. #166 to Castine; inquire in Castine.
3. Fort Halifax (1754), as far as we know, the oldest blockhouse in the U.S.; part of a larger fortification used as a way-station for Col. Benedict Arnold’s expedition through the Maine wilderness to Quebec in 1775. On U.S. #201, a mile south of Winslow-Waterville Bridge.
4. Fort Kent (1839), this blockhouse, part of more extensive fortifications, was built for the bloodless Aroostook Border War; contains a small museum of lumbering and Indian artifacts. U.S. #1 or State Rt. #11 or #161.
5. Fort Knox, begun in 1844 as part of the defense for the Aroostook War. Constructed of granite from nearby Mt. Waldo, the masonry shows master craftsmanship, remaining in excellent shape for more than a century. On Rt. #174 off U.S. #1 southeast of Bucksport.
6. Fort McClary (1846), restored hexagonal blockhouse on site of a fort built in 1809. This place was fortified as early as 1715 by Massachusetts Bay Company, historic markers commemorating General Arnold’s march through Maine to Quebec. Scattered from Fort Popham to the International Boundary at Coburn Gore these include sites at Hallowell, Skowhegan, Caratunk, Stratton, and Chain of Ponds. Consisting of large Interpretive Panels, the markers depict action which took place at a particular site, excerpts from diaries of some who accompanied Arnold, and a map outlining the route of this incredible march.

HISTORIC MEMORIALS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HISTORIC MEMORIALS</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
<th>OPEN DATES</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Fort Edgecomb</td>
<td>North Edgecomb E-12</td>
<td>May 30 to Oct. 15*</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Fort George</td>
<td>Castine G-11</td>
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<td>3. Fort Halifax</td>
<td>Winslow E-10</td>
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<td>4. Fort Kent</td>
<td>Fort Kent G-1</td>
<td>May 30 thru Labor Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>5. Fort Knox</td>
<td>Prospect G-10</td>
<td>May 1 to Nov. 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>6. Fort McClary</td>
<td>Kittery Point B-14</td>
<td>May 30 to Oct. 15*</td>
</tr>
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<td>7. Fort O'Brien</td>
<td>Machiasport J-10</td>
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<tr>
<td>8. Fort Popham</td>
<td>Popham Beach D-9</td>
<td>May 30 thru Labor Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Fort William Henry</td>
<td>Pemquis Beach E-12</td>
<td>May 30 thru Labor Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>11. John Paul Jones</td>
<td>Kittery B-14</td>
<td>May 30 thru Labor Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>13. Sears Point</td>
<td>Brunswick D-13</td>
<td>May 30 thru Labor Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15. Vaughan Woods</td>
<td>South Berwick B-14</td>
<td>May 30 thru Labor Day*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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*Index keyd to official Maine Highway Map

*Week-ends to Nov. 1

*Fort Knox, Maine

These are among the historic sites in Maine preserved and interpreted by the State Park & Recreation Commission. Thousands every year discover that Maine has an exciting history to explore as well as other tourist attractions.

Only a few of Maine's many and varied memorials are currently in State ownership and it is these few that we want to acquaint you with in this brochure. Many other historic memorabilia are under private or municipal management, and information about many of these may be obtained from the sources listed below.

"To pay a personal visit to an historic shrine is to receive a concept such as no book can supply."

Lawrence Stuart
Director
Maine State Park and Recreation Commission

Publications and Other Information
Maine Department of Economic Development State Office Building, Augusta, Maine 04330
Maine Publicity Bureau 922 Gateway Circle Portland, Maine 04102
State of Maine Information Center 48 Rockefeller Plaza, New York City, N. Y. 10020
State of Maine Information Center Laurentian Hotel, Dominion, Montreal, Canada

For Additional Information write:
Maine State Park and Recreation Commission State Office Building, Augusta, Maine 04330
New England Council Statler Building, Boston, Mass. 02116
Maine Commission on the Arts & Humanities State House, Augusta, Maine 04330

Other Information Centers:
Jct. of U. S. Route #1 and Maine Turnpike Kittery, Maine
Bass Park Bangor, Maine
U. S. Route #302 Fryeburg, Maine (summer only)
Maine Turnpike, North Cumberland, Maine (summer only)
International Bridge Calais, Maine (summer only)
All Local Chamber of Commerce Offices