

3-2011

Printed Maps of the District and State of Maine, 1793-1860

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Recommended Citation

Osher Map Library, "Printed Maps of the District and State of Maine, 1793-1860" (2011). *Osher Map Library Exhibition Catalogs*. 6.

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PRINTED MAPS OF THE DISTRICT AND STATE OF MAINE, 1793-1860

Edward V. Thompson, Guest Curator

www.usm.maine.edu/maps/exhibition/18/home/

This exhibition celebrates the recent publication of Edward V. Thompson's *Printed Maps of the District and State of Maine, 1793-1860* (Bangor: Nimue Books & Prints, 2010). This period is very important in the geographic history of Maine and the cartographic history of the United States because it was during this time that Maine's boundaries were established and the state was organized as a discrete territory.

When the first map of Maine was printed in 1793, Maine had only five counties; the sixteenth and last was formed in 1860. The maps published between these two dates reveal the steady increase in people's geographical knowledge about the state: the location and contours of interior lakes and rivers; the construction of an extensive railroad system; the laying out of new townships; and the expansion of Maine's ports and mill towns.



For the United States, the decades from the ratification of the

Constitution to the outbreak of the Civil War witnessed the emergence and maturation of a distinctive cartographic tradition. *Printed Maps of Maine* displays key examples of the wide variety of works produced, from atlas maps (including a very rare "rolled" atlas), wall maps, pocket maps, and maps from books and newspapers. A wide range of "quality" is evident in the maps on display, from true cartographic masterpieces by some of the greatest U.S. mapmakers to news maps intended to have only a short life.

The last maps in this exhibition [40, 41] display the state's final territorial organization, with the incorporation of Knox County in 1860. Mapping of the state continued after 1860, of course, in a wide variety of formats and reflecting a variety of needs, but the basic shape of the map was henceforth set and unchanging.

The forty-one maps in this exhibition represent less than a quarter of those painstakingly identified and described by Professor Thompson in his study. Please note:

refers to a map in the exhibition;

T# refers to the entry describing and explaining the map in Prof. Thompson's book;

* indicates the map is placed in the large floor case; and

unless otherwise noted, all items are from the Osher Collection of the Osher Map Library and Smith Center for Cartographic Education, University of Southern Maine.

TIMELINE

1789 Adoption of U.S. Constitution

1793 First printed map of Maine, with five counties: York, Cumberland, Lincoln, Hancock, and Washington [1]

1798 Maine's eastern border with New Brunswick defined

1799 Kennebec County [4]

1805 Oxford and Somerset Counties [7]

1816 Penobscot County [7]

1820 Maine became a state, independent of Massachusetts

1827 Waldo County [9]

1838 Franklin and Piscataquis Counties [10]

1839 Aroostook County [10]

1842 Webster-Ashburton Treaty defines Maine's northern border with Lower Canada

1854 Androscoggin and Sagadahoc Counties [22, 35]

1860 Knox County: Maine's sixteenth and final county [40, 41]

1861 Civil War begins

MAINE

OSGOOD CARLETON AND THE FIRST MAP OF MAINE

A land surveyor and teacher of the mathematical arts in Boston, Osgood Carleton (1741-1816) compiled existing manuscript maps and plans into maps of the district [1, 2]. Carleton persuaded the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to require every town to make a detailed plan and from these he compiled large maps of both Massachusetts and Maine. The authorities rejected the first maps because of the poor quality of their engraving; new maps were therefore prepared [3, 4]. Subsequent maps of Maine from the 1790s were indebted to Carleton's work [5, 6].

1 [T1] Osgood Carleton

The District of Main from the Latest Surveys

From Jedidiah Morse, *The American Universal Geography* (Boston, 1793)

Engraving; 27cm x 20cm

Smith Collection, Osher Map Library and Smith Center for Cartographic Education

2 [T2] Osgood Carleton

A Map of the District of Maine, Drawn from the Latest Surveys and Other Best Authorities

From James Sullivan, *The History of the District of Maine* (Boston, 1793), frontispiece.

Engraving; 52cm x 41.5cm

3 [T4] Osgood Carleton

An Accurate Map of the District of Maine Being Part of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts

State II / Boston, 1799?

Engraving, hand-colored; four sheets, 138cm x 98cm

4 [T8] Osgood Carleton

Map of the District of Maine Massachusetts Compiled from Actual Surveys Made by Order of the General Court, and Under the Inspection of Agents of their Appointment

State III / Boston: B. & J. Loring, 1802

Engraving; four sheets, 134cm x 92cm; dissected

5 [T13] Samuel Lewis

The Province of Maine from the Best Authorities ... 1794

State I / From Mathew Carey, *The General Atlas for Carey's Edition of Guthrie's Geography Improved* (Philadelphia, 1795), map 27

Engraving; 36cm x 24cm

6 [T25] Daniel F. Sotzmann

Maine

Hamburg: Carl Ernst Bohn, ca. 1798 — prepared for an atlas to accompany Christoph Ebeling's unfinished multivolume encyclopedia, *Erdbeschreibung von Amerika*

Engraving, hand-colored; 64cm x 44cm

MOSES GREENLEAF: MAINE'S GREATEST MAPMAKER

Moses Greenleaf (1777-1834) was an outspoken advocate of Maine statehood and economic development. His first map accompanied his compelling argument for independence; he reissued it 1820 as the first map of the *state* of Maine [7, 8]. He continued to promote the settlement and development of Maine's interior. His promotional materials included a large

wall map emphasizing the uncertainty of Maine's northern boundary — which would be updated once the boundary was fixed in 1842 [9, 10] — and a small atlas [11, 12].

7 [T27] Moses Greenleaf

Map of the District of Maine from the Latest and Best Authorities

State I / Boston: Cummings & Hilliard, 1815

Engraving, hand-colored; two sheets, 101cm x 65.5cm

Fleet Bank Collection, Osher Map Library and Smith Center for Cartographic Education

8 [T28] Moses Greenleaf

Map of the State of Maine from the Latest and Best Authorities ... 1820

State II / Boston: Cummings & Hilliard, 1820

Engraving, hand-colored; two sheets, 101cm x 65.5cm

9 [T31] Moses Greenleaf

Map of the State of Maine with the Province of New Brunswick

State I / Portland: Shirley & Hyde, 1829

Engraving; four sheets, 127.5cm x 103cm

Collections of the Maine State Library

10 [T33] Moses Greenleaf

Map of the State of Maine with the Province of New Brunswick

State III / Williamsburg, Me.: Moses Greenleaf III, 1843

Engraving; four sheets, 127.5cm x 103cm

Collections of the Maine Historical Society

11* [T30] Moses Greenleaf

Atlas Accompanying Greenleaf's Map and Statistical Survey of Maine

Portland: Shirley & Hyde, 1829

Smith Collection, Osher Map Library and Smith Center for Cartographic Education

12* [T30a] Moses Greenleaf

Map of the Principal Rivers, Mountains and Highland Ranges of the State of Maine

In *Atlas Accompanying Greenleaf's Map and Statistical Survey of Maine* (Portland: Shirley & Hyde, 1829), plate 1.

Engraving, hand-colored; 54cm x 33cm

MAPS OF MAINE, 1820-1833

Maps of Maine appeared in many American atlases of the early nineteenth century, including works by Henry C. Carey and Isaac Lea [13, 14], Anthony Finley [15], David H. Burr [16], Jeremiah Greenleaf, Samuel G. Goodrich, and Fielding Lucas, Jr. [17].

13 [T37] Carey & Lea

Maine

State II / From H. C. Carey and I. Lea, *A Complete Historical, Chronological and Geographical American Atlas* (Philadelphia, 1822).

Engraving, hand-colored, with separately printed type; 30cm x 24.5cm [map], 43cm x 51cm [entire]

14 [T41] Carl Ferdinand Weiland

Maine

MAINE

Engraving, hand-colored, with separately printed type;
30cm x 24cm [map], 40.5cm x 45.5cm [entire]
Weimar: Geographisches Institut, 1826 — prepared as one
of a 45-map series, entitled *Atlas von America*

15 [T48] Anthony Finley

Maine

State II / From Anthony Finley, *A New General Atlas*
(Philadelphia, 1824)

Engraving, hand-colored; 28.5cm x 22cm

16 [T61] David H. Burr

Maine

State III / From David H. Burr, *A New Universal Atlas*
(New York, 1835)

Engraving, hand-colored; 32cm x 26.5cm

Collection of Edward V. Thompson

17* [T45] Fielding Lucas, Jr.

Maine

State IIc / In Fielding Lucas, Jr., *United States / Atlas*
[binding title] (Baltimore, Md., 1823?)

Engraving; 30cm x 24cm

A NEW MAP OF MAINE, 1833-1860

The most persistent atlas map of antebellum Maine was Henry Schenck Tanner's *A New Map of Maine*, which appeared in twenty-eight variants between 1833 and 1860. Seven variants are displayed here [18-24], including two in the form of pocket maps [20, 23] and one as an early attempt at full-color printing [24].

18 [T70] Henry S. Tanner

A New Map of Maine

State I / From Henry S. Tanner, *Tanner's Universal Atlas*
(Philadelphia, 1833)

Engraving, hand-colored; 36cm x 28.5cm

19 [T83] S. Augustus Mitchell

A New Map of Maine

State XI / From S. Augustus Mitchell, *A New Universal Atlas*
(Philadelphia, 1846)

Lithograph, hand-colored; 38.5cm x 30.5cm

20 [T77] Henry S. Tanner

A New Map of Maine

State VII / Philadelphia, 1845

Lithograph, hand-colored; 37cm x 29cm

21 [T93] S. Augustus Mitchell

A New Map of Maine

State XXI / From S. Augustus Mitchell, *A New Universal Atlas*
(Philadelphia, 1854)

Lithograph, hand-colored; 38.5cm x 30.5cm

22 [T95] Charles Desilver

A New Map of Maine

State XXIII / From [S. Augustus Mitchell], *A New Universal Atlas*
(Philadelphia: Charles Desilver, 1857)

Lithograph, hand-colored; 35.5cm x 28cm

23 [T92] S. Augustus Mitchell

A New Map of Maine

State XX / Philadelphia: Thomas, Cowperthwaite & Co.,

1852

Lithograph, hand-colored; 38cm x 30.5cm

24* [T79] S. Augustus Mitchell

A New Map of Maine

State IX / In S. Augustus Mitchell, *Maps of Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont, Massachusetts & Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, and New York City* (Philadelphia, 1846)

Lithograph, printed color; 40cm x 32cm

Collection of David Rumsey

THE NORTHEASTERN BOUNDARY CONTROVERSY

Maine's northern boundaries — the U.S. northeastern boundary — remained in dispute from the Revolutionary War to the final compromise in the 1842 Treaty of Washington, better known as the Webster-Ashburton Treaty. The keen interest in the affair generated many maps on both sides of the Atlantic [25-27].

25 [T101] *Maine and the Disputed Territory*

State I / From *The Family Magazine* [New York] 4 (1839)

Wood block with inserted type; 19cm x 16.5cm

26 [T103] Wilbur Curtiss

Map of the Seat of War Showing the Disputed Territory

Boston: Wilbur Curtiss, [1839]

Lithograph; 25cm x 20.5cm

Collection of Edward V. Thompson

27 [T108] John G. Deane

Map of the State of Maine ... Showing the Boundaries of the State, and Parts of the Adjacent British Provinces

State II / Portland, 1842

Engraving, hand-colored; 84cm x 57cm

Collections of the Maine State Library

MAPS OF MAINE, 1834-1852

Maine was represented on a wide variety of maps between 1834 and 1852, in wall maps [28, 30], in atlases [29], in a variety of educational formats [31-33].

28 [T109] Lewis Robinson

An Improved Map of Maine

[State I / South Reading, Vt.]: Lewis Robinson & Co., 1835

Engraving, hand-colored; two sheets, 72.5cm x 61cm

Collection of Edward V. Thompson

29 [T111] Thomas G. Bradford

Maine

State I / From T. G. Bradford, *A Comprehensive Atlas Geographical, Historical & Commercial* (Boston, 1835)

Engraving, hand-colored; 25cm x 18.5cm

30 [T126] William Anson

Map of Maine

State VII / Portland: S. H. Colesworthy, 1853

Engraving, hand-colored; 60cm x 36cm

Collection of Edward V. Thompson

31 [T128] S. Augustus Mitchell

No. 5.

MAINE

From *Mitchell's Series of Outline Maps for the Use of Academies and Schools* (Philadelphia: S. Augustus Mitchell, [1841])

Lithograph, hand-colored; 69.5cm x 58.5cm

Collections of the Osher Map Library and Smith Center for Cartographic Education

32 [T135] George W. Fitch

Fitch's Mapping Card – Plate No. 3

From George W. Fitch, *The Youth's Mapping Book* (Brooklyn, 1848)

Lithograph; 11cm x 9cm

Smith Collection, Osher Map Library and Smith Center for Cartographic Education

33* [T136] Samuel G. Goodrich

Maine

From S. G. Goodrich, *A National Geography for Schools* (New York, 1850)

Lithograph; 11.5cm x 8cm

J. H. COLTON

Joseph Hutchins Colton (1800-1893) and his son George Woolworth Colton (1827-1901) dominated geographical publishing in the 1850s, producing a wide variety of guidebooks, wall maps [34], gazetteers, pocket maps [35], travel guides, and of course atlases [36-37].

34 [T140] Joseph H. Colton

Colton's Railroad & Township Map of the State of Maine

State II / New York: J. H. Colton, 1853.

Lithograph, hand-colored; 86.5cm x 69cm

Collection of Edward V. Thompson

35 [T145] Joseph H. Colton

Maine

State II / New York: J. H. Colton, 1854.

Lithograph, hand-colored; 40.5cm x 32cm

36 [T148v] Joseph H. Colton

Maine

State V variant / From George W. Colton, *Colton's Atlas of the World* (New York, 1855)

Lithograph, hand-colored; 40.5cm x 32.5cm

Collection of Edward V. Thompson

37 [T150] Joseph H. Colton

Maine

State VII / From George W. Colton, *Colton's General Atlas* (New York, 1857)

Lithograph, hand-colored; 35.5cm x 28.5cm

MAPS OF MAINE, 1853-1860

Publishers beyond the commercial centers of Philadelphia and New York also printed maps of Maine, both locally [39-40] and internationally [38]. At the same time, other publishers produced highly decorative works [41].

38 [T161] A. & C. Black

Maine

State III / From A. & C. Black, *Black's Atlas of North*

America (Edinburgh, 1857)

Lithograph, printed color; 38.5cm x 27.5cm

39 [T164] J. B. Mansfield

New Map of Maine

State I / Bangor, Me.: J. B. Mansfield, 1855

Lithograph, hand-colored, with pasted-on typeset sheets; 111cm x 85cm

40 [T168] A. J. Coolidge

Maine

State II / From A. J. Coolidge and J. B. Mansfield, *History and Description of New England: Maine* (Boston, 1860)

Lithograph, hand-colored; 56cm x 40.5cm

41 [T171] Ensign, Bridgman & Fanning

Maine.

New York: Ensign, Bridgman & Fanning, [1860]

Lithograph, hand-colored; 82.5cm x 63cm

Credits

Dr. Edward V. Thompson curated *Printed Maps of Maine* with the invaluable assistance of Prof. Matthew Edney, Ron Levere, David Neikirk, Robert Spencer, Yolanda Theunissen, and Lindsey Weeks. The exhibit was installed by Stuart Hunter. The Maine State Library, Maine Historical Society, and David Rumsey very graciously lent works from their collections.

Printed Maps of the District and State of Maine, 1793-1860 is available from Nimue Books & Prints, 117 Norfolk St., Bangor, ME 04401, for \$65 (plus \$5 shipping within the USA and \$3.25 for Maine sales tax if appropriate).

