

Saco's History

The [City History](#) section of the City of Saco website offers a wealth of information about Saco's history. Thomas Hardiman, former curator at the [Saco Museum](#), has prepared "[An Introduction to Saco History](#)" and "[A History of Factory Island](#)", both of which would be great places to begin reading.

Saco has nine properties that are individually listed on the [National Register of Historic Places](#), and the [Downtown History](#) serves as a good introduction to the physical and social history of the downtown. For more information on some of our landmark buildings in the downtown, read on to the "[History of the Old Dyer Library](#)" and "[A History of Saco City Hall](#)", derived from the 1950 Saco Annual Report Inaugural Address. Finally, be sure to take the "[Walking Tour of Main Street](#)", prepared by Thomas Hardiman, which consists of 27 historic buildings and sites along a ½ mile section of Main Street.

Dyer Library and Saco Museum Resources

Visit the Dyer Library and Saco Museum, located at 371 Main Street.

They offer:

- Programs and events for the whole family to enjoy
- Painting classes
- Book discussion group
- Knitting & Craft group
- Books on Saco history
- Online book catalog, where you can check if the book you want to borrow is in!
- Virtual gallery tours hosted by the Executive Director Leslie Rounds & Museum Director Tara Raiselis
- Exhibits – Their current exhibit is “Buried in Time, Hidden Stories from Laurel Hill Cemetery.” This exhibit runs through October 21, 2018.

In addition, the library has “The Roy P. Fairfield Maine History Room” which has collections containing 10,000 manuscripts, historical papers, photographs and maps of York County and Saco surrounding areas. To make an appointment to research or peruse in the Maine History Room, call (207) 283-3861, ext. 110.

A DLSM card is FREE to all residents of Saco and grants unlimited free admission to the Saco Museum for you and your guests! For all others, just \$35 a year gets you borrowing privileges at the Dyer Library PLUS unlimited free admission to the Saco Museum for you *and* your guests. Visit the circulation desk at the Dyer Library, call (207) 283-3861, or e-mail cspaulding@dyer.lib.me.us to get your card today!

Looking for even more History, check out the Maine State Archives!

The Maine State Archives, a bureau within the Department of Secretary of State, maintains approximately 95 million pages of official State records considered to be permanently valuable. These include maps from the Land Office, photographs from the Dept. of Economic Development, trademarks registered with the Secretary of State, Civil War soldiers' portraits returned to the Adjutant General and numerous gifts of historically important materials donated by individuals, to list a few.

They also offer access to an online Digital Maine Repository which is one of several services of the Maine State Library to facilitate digitization of - and enhanced access to - collections related to Maine history, genealogy, culture and government.

The repository was designed to host a variety of media including books, images, maps and documents, as well as audio and video collections. Since its launch in 2013, partnerships with Maine libraries, historical societies, museums and other local organizations have helped grow the Digital Maine repository collection to include thousands of original source materials that have never before been available online. Examples include:

- Map collections;
- Church records;
- Local histories;
- Genealogy research;
- Town reports;
- Images from Maine communities; and
- Reports, publications and research created by state agencies

In 2017, the Maine State Library launched a service hub of the Digital Public Library of America (DPLA) to provide greater exposure to digital collections created and shared by Maine institutions.

In addition, there is currently a "Digital Maine Transcription Project" going on. This project invites you to make significant Maine documents accessible online through the use of crowdsourcing.

DMTP started in 2016 as a collaborative project of the Maine State Archives and Maine State Library. The decision was made to open up access to as many digital images of original documents as possible, but staff lacked time to transcribe them.

Building upon other national projects such as those at the Smithsonian and University of Iowa, staff developed this partner project to encourage members of the public to participate. Individuals can now assist us by transcribing the documents which they find interesting and share their work with the world. Volunteers can work from the comfort of their homes. Just create a login and start transcribing!

<http://www.maine.gov/sos/arc/index.html>