



Norway Museum & Historical Society

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June 2026

NMHS News!

The Board of Trustees announces new officers for 2026. They are:

Brad Cummings President and Program Organizer
Marcy Gray Secretary, **Ann Siekman** Treasurer.

Susan Denison is our Curator, Researcher, and Archivist

And in case you don't know, our current board members and what they work on for NMHS are:

Peter Hammond

Building & Grounds
Collection Committee

Carol Rice

Oral History Project Coordinator

Brian Partridge

Volunteer & Docent Coordinator

Beverly Curtis

Marigold Tea Room Coordinator
Program Assistant

Ed Staples

Research and Open Hours Host
Collection Committee

Bruce Watts

Building & Grounds

Alden Emerson

Building & Grounds

MANY THANKS TO THESE WONDERFUL PEOPLE WHO ARE ALL VOLUNTEERS!!

We welcome anyone interested in helping with any of these projects. Contact the NMHS directly or any of the board members.



Norway, Maine was known historically as the “**Snowshoe Capital of America.**” The first program of 2026 will be Tuesday, June 9th, at 7:00 pm. **Paul Cote, owner of Pa’s Tradin’ Company in Oxrord**, will present a program of “Memories & Stories of Snowshoes.” He has a remarkable collection of snowshoes and he will bring some collectibles as well as share the stories associated with them.

Everyone is welcome.

This program is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served.

The Norway Arts Festival will be held on Saturday, September 12th. Our **Marigold Tea Room** at 471 Main Street will be serving a piece of homemade pie, along with a scoop of ice cream & a beverage for just \$5.00. Please join us!!!

Oral History Project

Join other residents of Norway to share memories of the town and activities through our Oral History project. For example:

What do you remember about Barjo's and the Stones?

- Evelyn Marshall had a nice story about trick-or-treating at Josephine's house.

Who did you see perform at the Opera House?

- Esther Estes saw Ken McKenzie!

What did the Heywood Club contribute to the Crockett Ridge neighborhood and Norway?

- Emelia Fogg, Evelyn Marshall and Barbara Townsend reminisced to share.

What was it like to drive milk into town before school?

- Bill Gibson told us.

How much time was saved doing payroll at Oxford Hills when the first computer was purchased?

- Ethel Lacourse remembered.

Did you ever do anything like throw rocks at the apple tree, or get chased by the bull?

- Emilia Fogg and Linda Ellingwood did.

You can listen to these wonderful stories on our website. Contact the NMHS to schedule an oral history interview. It's easy. It's fun. And your stories will add richness to our history.

Historic Declaration of Independence Broadside Coming to Norway

We're pleased to let you know that the Norway Memorial Library has been chosen as the Oxford County site to host a rare copy of the Declaration of Independence, as part of a statewide tour organized by the Maine Historical Society. The Declaration will be on display at our library on October 8 for student visits, and on October 9 and 10, 2026, for public visits.

This tour will bring one of Maine's most treasured historical artifacts to each of the state's 16 counties between July and October 2026, offering residents a unique opportunity to see and reflect on one of the nation's founding documents during the 250th anniversary of American independence.

The document is one of just 26 surviving copies of the historic Dunlap Broadside, printed in Philadelphia on July 4, 1776, to announce American independence to the colonies. This copy is from the collection of the Maine Historical Society.

More information for scheduling your free visit will be available as the tour dates get closer. Keep an eye on the library's website. <https://norwaymemoriallibrary.org>

Happy 250th Birthday, America!

Norway Museum & Historical Society has been busy this spring planning summer programs and, most recently, presenting programs to three 3rd grade classes from Rowe Elementary School down the street. What fun we had with these energetic and inquisitive students. They learned about The Great Fire of 1894, the history of the Rowe School, and Norway's rich snowshoe making tradition. We hope to have inspired some future historians.

Our summer programs are taking shape. The June 9 program will feature Paul Cote, owner of Pa's Trading in Oxford. Paul has many years of collecting various artifacts of historic interest. He has a remarkable collection of snowshoes and items related to the former Paris Manufacturing Company located at his Oxford location. Paul will be bringing some of his interesting collectibles as well as the stories associated with them to this June program.

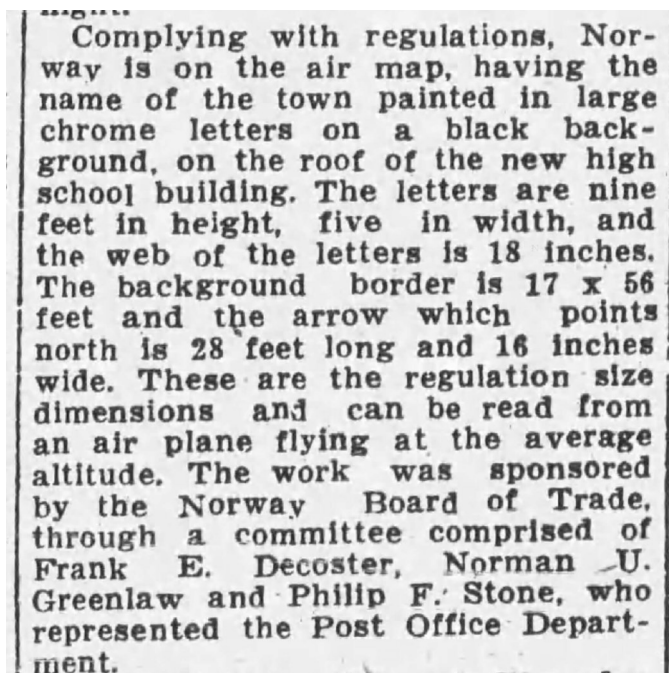
In July, our program will present a history of cottage development on Lake Penneesseewassee (Norway Lake) with particular emphasis on the cottages on three islands midway up the lake: Bass Island, Mid-Lake Island, and Rock Island. Current owners of these properties will be participating in the program. The cottages that still exist on these islands are among the oldest structures on the lake. The date for the July program is not yet finalized.

Lastly, on August 11, we will be presenting a program related to the Revolutionary War period and how Norway residents factored into the events of the day. While Norway was not yet established in 1776, future settlers of Norway did play a part in the birth of the Nation and in the some of the place names in Norway. We also hope to incorporate some history of the Native American presence in the area from this time.

We look forward to a busy summer as we celebrate our country's 250th birthday. Please join us for our summer programs and don't hesitate to stop by the Museum on Tuesday afternoons or Saturday mornings through the summer months. As always, many thanks for your continued support!

Brad Cummings, President

While searching for something else, we came across this interesting bit of news in the August 9, 1930 *Lewiston Sun*. Does anyone know anything about giant letters painted onto the Norway High School roof to aid in air navigation? The few aerial pictures we have seen were taken decades later and nothing is on the roof. We presume the Post Office was involved because shorter-distance air mail service was being developed around this time.



Complying with regulations, Norway is on the air map, having the name of the town painted in large chrome letters on a black background, on the roof of the new high school building. The letters are nine feet in height, five in width, and the web of the letters is 18 inches. The background border is 17 x 56 feet and the arrow which points north is 28 feet long and 16 inches wide. These are the regulation size dimensions and can be read from an air plane flying at the average altitude. The work was sponsored by the Norway Board of Trade, through a committee comprised of Frank E. Decoster, Norman U. Greenlaw and Philip F. Stone, who represented the Post Office Department.

My Favorite Things

Susan Denison, Curator

Earlier this spring, we received a big envelope from Edward Holt of Harpswell, stuffed with clippings, articles and other things collected by Mr. Holt's late aunt, Della Klament. Mrs. Klament, who passed away in 2003 at the age of 95, was a longtime resident of Norway. Also in the envelope was this big blue cloth banner, which we had never seen before. Obviously, the banner was created to mark the town's sesquicentennial, celebrated in 1936.

Among our many photographs, we have a couple taken on Main Street when it was decked out with bunting for the town's 150th birthday. Sure enough, if you look closely, you can see identical banners hanging over the door of every business pictured.

Mrs. Klament was an employee of the J.J. Newberry store on Main Street for 30 years, starting in the 1930s. While we don't have a 1936 photo showing Newberry's, I think we know where our banner was displayed. I'm glad Mrs. Klament kept it, and I'm glad it has returned home 90 years later.





Every store in the Opera House, plus the fire station on the right, displaying their banner over their doors



The buildings that are now 290 and 300 Main Street.

Norway Museum & Historical Society

Our Mission:

The mission of the Society is to bring people together to share, celebrate and learn about Norway's heritage, by collecting, caring for and exhibiting Norway's historical treasures; by facilitating the collection of and research into family and local history; and by providing programs that make our history meaningful that engage people of all ages.

Norway Museum & Historical Society
is now open on
Tuesdays 1-4 and Saturdays 9-12
through Labor Day
Come in and see our Museum Collection

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