

SETTLING THE MAINE WILDERNESS



Moses Greenleaf, Maine's First Mapmaker

History of the Project

by Joel Eastman

In 2006, the Osher Map Library and Smith Center for Cartographic Education at the University of Southern Maine, on behalf of the Osher Library Associates, published Walter MacDougall's masterful biography, *Settling the Maine Wilderness: Moses Greenleaf, His Maps, and His Household of Faith, 1777-1834*. Library Curator Yolanda Theunissen then began plans for a summer workshop in 2007 to create lesson plans that would encourage teachers to utilize MacDougall's book in Middle School Maine Studies classes. Yolanda asked retired USM history professor Joel Eastman, a historian of Maine, to run the workshop, which was scheduled for July 10 through August 16 at the Osher Map Library.

The participants selected for the workshop proved to be a remarkable group of experienced and beginning teachers, who were enthusiastic about the subject matter and responded with a wide variety of imaginative approaches to teaching the material to students. Julie Anderson of Portland teaches Special Education at Windham Middle School. She attended the University of Southern Maine and the University of New England, majored in Social Work, and is currently working on her Master's degree in Special Education. Jessica Graham of Portland was an Outreach Specialist at the Osher Map Library and Smith Center for Cartographic Education. She earned her undergraduate degree in History at the University of Southern Maine and had completed the first year of the university's masters program in American & New England Studies. Jonathan Graham of Portland is an Educational Technician at Biddeford Middle School. He attended the University of New England and the University of Southern Maine where he earned his undergraduate degree in Education and Philosophy. Roxann Montgomery of Westbrook has taught for 26 years, most recently 6th and 7th grade Social Studies at Lincoln Middle School in Portland. She earned a B.A. in History, a K-8 Teaching Certification at St. Michael's College, and an M.S. in Education at the University of New England.

Holly Hurd of North Yarmouth has taught history, biology, and math part-time since 1995. She attended the University of California at Berkeley and Cornell University where she

earned a Ph.D. in Biochemistry. She is currently working on a Master's degree in American & New England Studies at the University of Southern Maine and has been involved in a number of educational development and teaching projects. Dixie Hayes of North Yarmouth did not participate in the workshop, but worked with Holly on re-writing, revising, and field-testing the lesson plans. She holds a Bachelor's Degree from the University of Southern and has been teaching for 38 years, for many years and currently in the Cumberland/North Yarmouth school district.

The workshop proved to be an exciting experience for all involved. Each of the participants developed his or her area of interest and reported to the group for feedback and suggestions at the workshop meetings. Joel Eastman reviewed and edited the participant's work, and both he and Yolanda participated in discussions of the lessons. As part of the workshop, participants traveled on a field trip to Milo, Maine where they met Walter Macdougall, author of *Settling the Maine Wilderness*, a teacher, and researcher extraordinaire. Walter led the group on a tour around Williamsburg, which included Moses Greenleaf's home, a cemetery, a slate quarry, an iron mine, Katahdin Iron Works, and the Milo Masonic Temple. The trip inspired the participants and gave meaning to their work on the lesson plans, which was completed in late August.

When workshop participant Holly Hurd entered the American & New England Studies Program in the Fall of 2008, she began further work on the Greenleaf lessons as a graduate assistant for the Osher Map Library. She and Dixie Hayes taught and extensively revised and re-wrote the lesson plans over the next year according to the needs of teachers and the classroom. The lesson plans were field-tested with eight different classrooms of students. Dixie and Holly taught all but one of the lessons to Dixie's 5th grade Gifted and Talents Language Arts class in a year-long intensive study of Moses Greenleaf. Holly and Greely Middle School teacher Steve Hill also taught several of the lessons to three of his 8th grade Social Studies classes during the in 2008-9 academic year. Further field testing was done the following year by teachers Deb Crocker at Glenburn Middle School, Darryl Ellis at Carrie Ricker Middle School, Bill Hale of Mt Ararat Middle School, and by a southern Maine Homeschooling group led by parent/teacher Lisa Nelson. All the field testers returned evaluation forms with suggestions that helped improve the lesson plans. After more additions and revisions by Holly, the final product was edited by Joel Eastman.

As a supplement to the materials, Holly and her daughter, Lena Champlin, herself a Middle School student at the time, created a Moses Greenleaf "Primer," an illustrated booklet that summaries the important concepts in Macdougall's book in a student-friendly manner. Lena did all the illustrations with reference to some of Walter's drawings from his book, and Holly wrote the text with revisions, field-testing, and editing support from Dixie and Walter. The result of this three-year project is a "teacher friendly" package of lesson plans that will supplement and highlight the material in Macdougall's book for use by Middle School teachers.