



MAINE STATE  
MUSEUM

Meet Maine here.

# Regional Struggle - National Story

## Maine's Path to Statehood

Maine became an independent state in 1820 after more than 200 years of struggle over control of the valuable lands and waters of America's northeastern frontier.

### Regional Struggle: Who controls this land?

In the 1500s Wabanaki peoples first encountered Europeans who soon laid claim to Wabanaki homelands. Over the next centuries, Maine's political identity transformed from exclusively Wabanaki territory to English colony to a district within the state of Massachusetts.

After the American Revolution, people in the District of Maine debated and voted six times before finally approving independent statehood.

### National Story: Statehood at What Cost?

The petition for Maine statehood finally had to be approved by Congress. There, Maine's prolonged bid for independence from Massachusetts nearly collapsed as it became embroiled in the escalating national dispute over slavery. The resulting Missouri Compromise forced Massachusetts representatives from the District of Maine to decide if they would vote for Maine's statehood, even though these votes would expand slavery to new states west of the Mississippi River.



### Defining Maine

The new state of Maine came into the Union without a clear boundary to separate it from the British-controlled colony of New Brunswick.

Disputes about the location of Maine's colonial border caused confusion over control of the area's valuable forests. Maine and New Brunswick's boundaries were often the subject of heated controversy.

Defining Maine's claim to the area was a high priority for Governor Samuel Tenney. He sent a surveyor to the territory and report on the area and its resources. The report was published in 1800, showing that Maine's boundaries were on the side.

Two weeks later President Madison's general John Jayman as the main figure. He was the first to see the value of the area and to see that it was not to be divided between the two states. He was the first to see that it was not to be divided between the two states.

They created a journal and map during the long, challenging expedition. The journal was published in 1800, showing that Maine's boundaries were on the side.



### Statehood Achieved

Maine's political leaders were prepared to take the risks in governing the new state.

On March 15, 1820, Maine entered the Union as the 23rd state. Despite the Maine state constitutional convention's refusal to ratify the U.S. Constitution, the Maine state constitutional convention of 1820 as their model, get they modified it on several important matters. Maine's constitution established state support for any religious group which agreed to the non-sectarian Congregational Church as the state church. It allowed free of European and also provided the right to vote regardless of their ability to own property. It also allowed voting rights for "natural born" foreign or naturalized citizens.

The State of Maine took over land distribution, which included negotiating with Massachusetts, to the benefit of governmental authority from Massachusetts. Maine assumed all public obligations that Massachusetts had made with the Passamaquoddy and Penobscot Indians. A portion of public lands was also transferred to Maine, and Massachusetts retained thousands of acres. Maine placed its public lands and wilderness parcels under legal guardianship, with government officials designated to manage legal and financial affairs of the tribes.





Susquehanna

## Susquehanna Migration

About 3,500 years ago

group of people that  
the Susquehanna  
in the southern  
New England about  
like the earlier Moore-  
Susquehanna tradition  
hunting. Instead



# HINTS for the SICK ROOM



*John Hancock*  
MUTUAL  
LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY

OF BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

THE OLD RELIABLE COMPANY





