

# Malaga Island & Eugenics



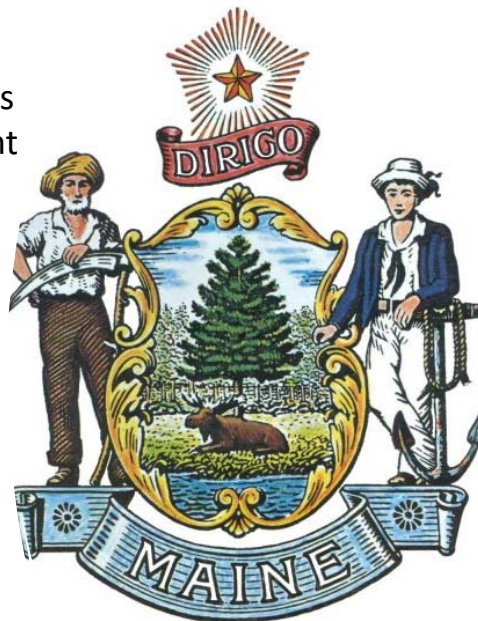
Kate McBrien  
*Maine State Archivist*

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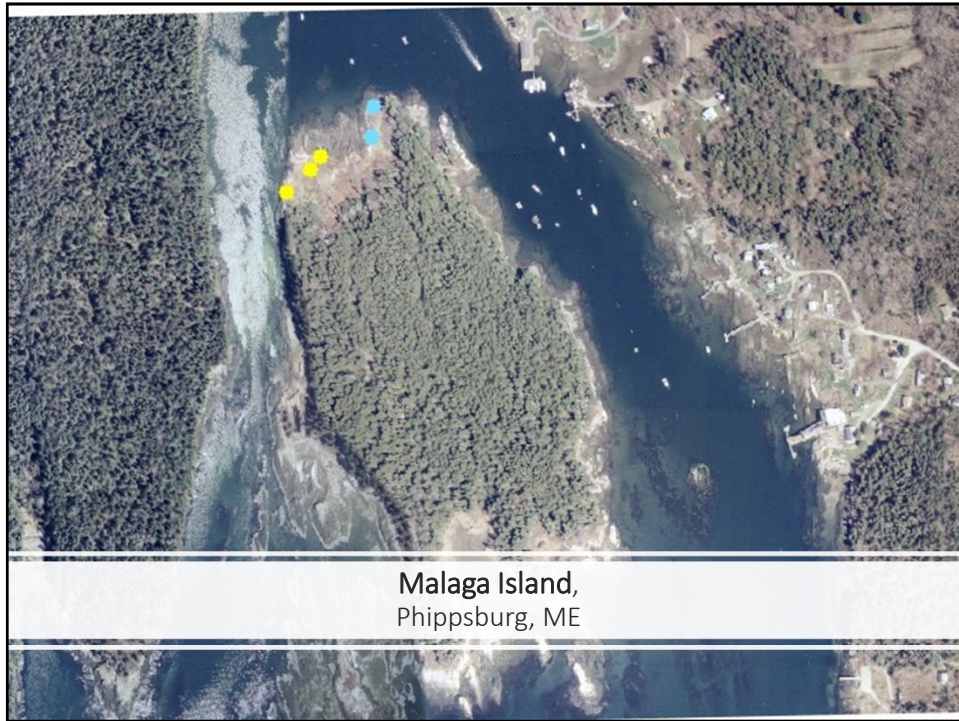
The Maine State Archives is **critical** to a transparent State Government.

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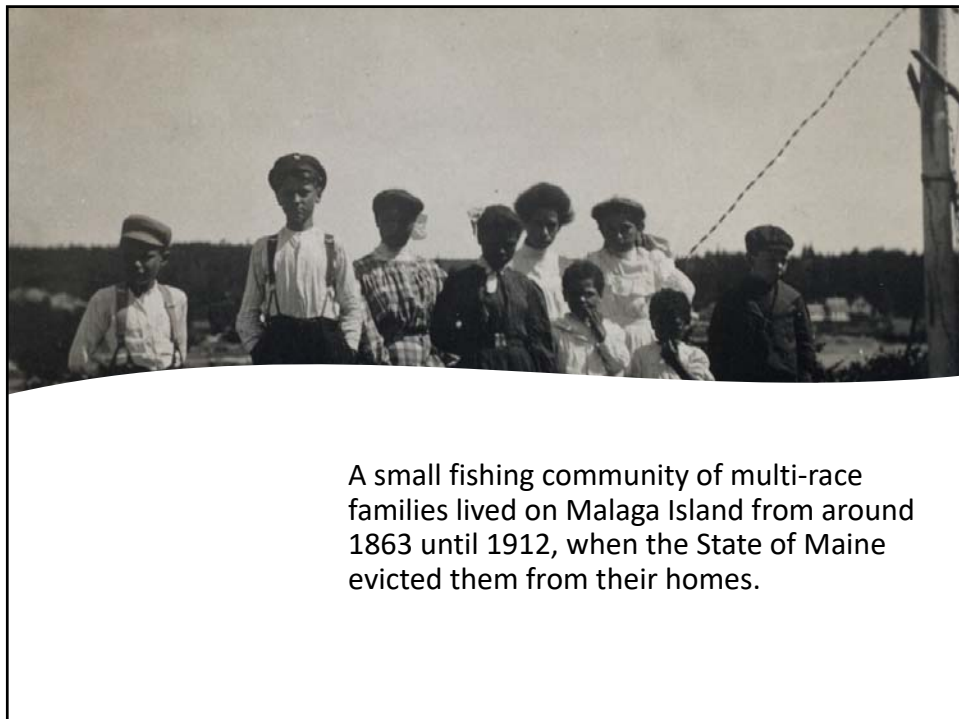
**Archives** document the critical functions of government, protect citizens' rights, enhance civic engagement, improve cultural knowledge and understanding, and ensure transparency and accountability of public officials.



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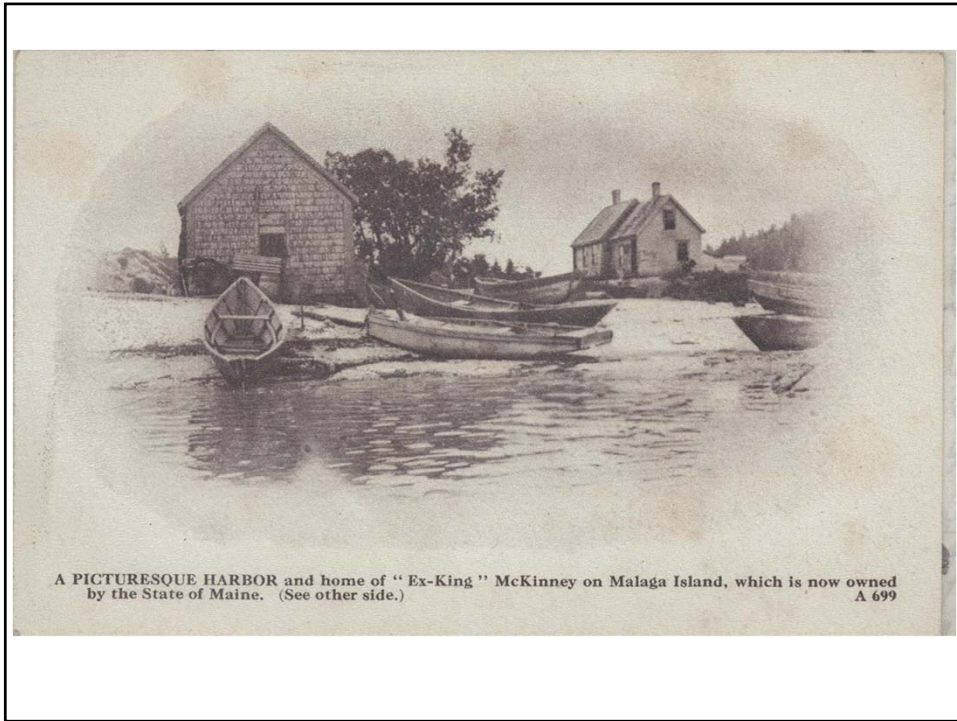


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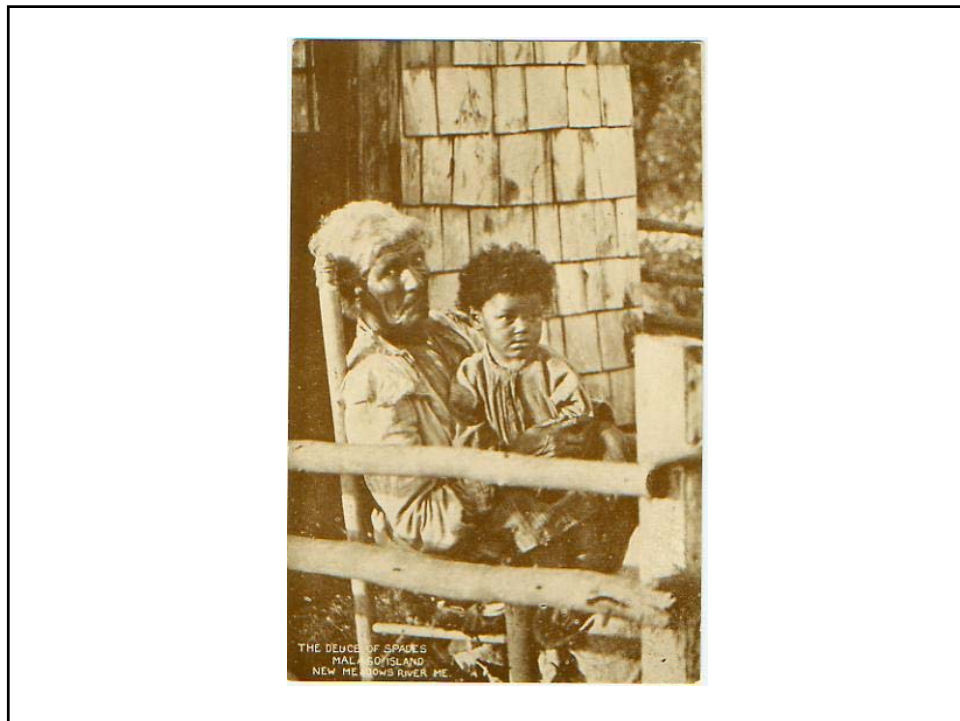


A small fishing community of multi-race families lived on Malaga Island from around 1863 until 1912, when the State of Maine evicted them from their homes.

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Missionaries operated a school on Malaga Island in 1906.  
The State opened a school building on the island in 1908.



*This is a view taken of the School in Session  
in Mrs. McKinney's house.  
I visited the school and island four times  
in week of Aug 3-10, 1907*



*School House Malaga Island*

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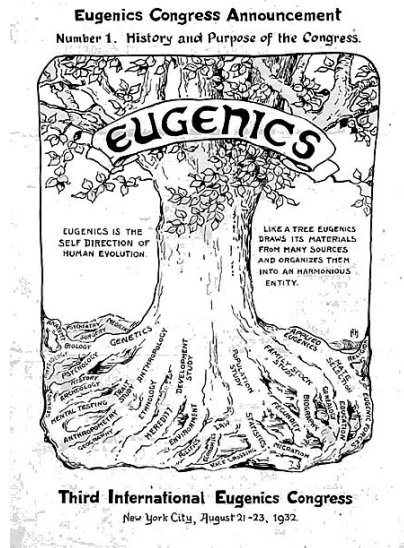
## Executive Council report 1911-1912

After viewing conditions it was decided at a Council meeting shortly after, that the good of the State and the cause of humanity demanded that the colony be broken up and the people segregated. The inhabitants then numbered about 56, a large part of whom were State paupers. It was decided that to rid the Island of its population, and to prevent further squatting that the State should hold a title to the property. The owners of the Island had endeavored to rid it of its inhabitants, and after an expenditure of \$71, abandoned the idea.

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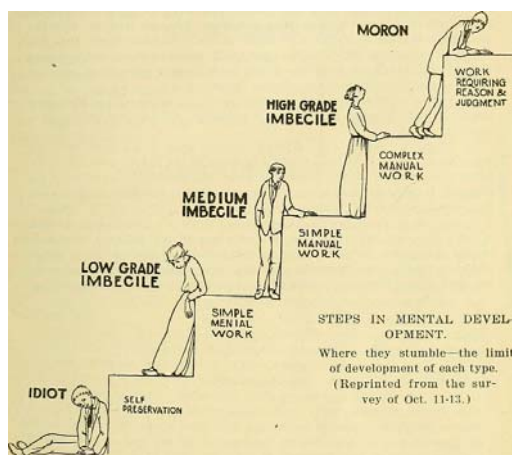
## What is Eugenics?

*Eugenics* is the study of how to arrange reproduction within a human population to increase the occurrence of heritable characteristics regarded as desirable.



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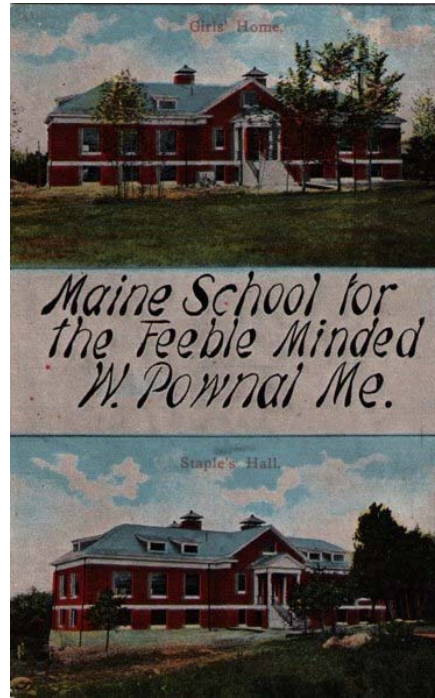
## Feeble-Minded



In many states, including Maine, the application of Eugenics focused on the control of those individuals deemed "feeble minded".

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- **1903:** Maine State Legislature appointed a committee to look into the “advisability of establishing a Home for the Feeble-minded of the State”
- **1908:** Maine School for the Feeble Minded opened, modeled after the Massachusetts School for the Feeble-Minded in Waverly, MA
- **1911:** residents of Malaga Island institutionalized in the Maine School for the Feeble Minded



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### Report of the Maine Commission for the Study of the Feeble-minded, 1917-1918

Appointed by Governor Carl E. Milliken 1917

"Whereas, a study and survey of the conditions and needs would materially assist a future Legislature in determining a policy to be pursued in the matter"

Conducted a survey of potential feeble-minded individuals in the State

Included 10 case studies of Maine families

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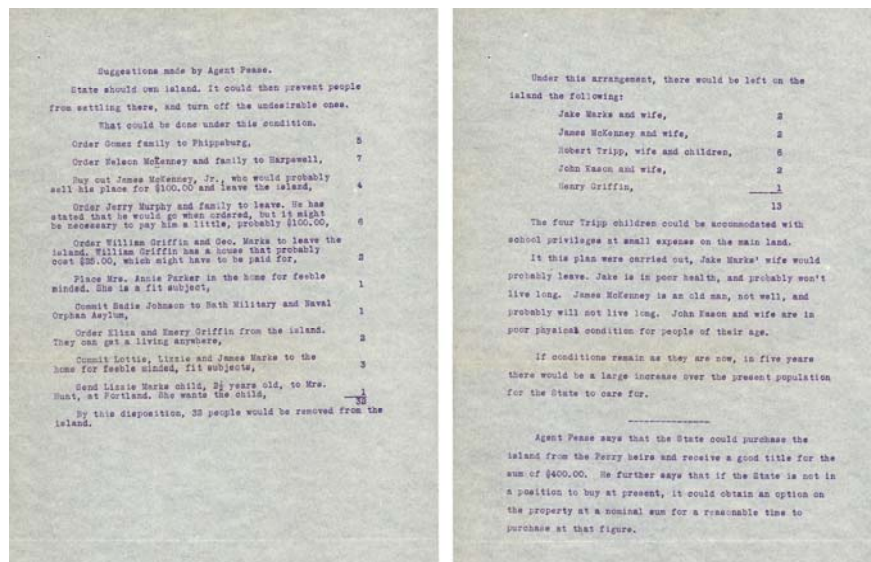
## Commission recommendations:

"Broadly stated, the sociological need of the inhabitants of Maine is that her well equipped citizens work together to formulate and attack certain definite social and economic problems. The intellectual and moral standards of the State's inhabitants as a whole may be advanced faster and their efficiency be increased by seeking to humanly diminish the burden of feeble-mindedness."

You can view the entire report on the Internet Archive here: <https://archive.org/details/reportofmainecom00nati/page/n7/mode/2up>

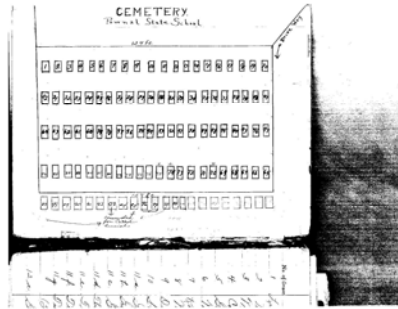
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## Executive Council reports, 1911



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# Pineland Cemetery



Removed from Malaga buried Nov. 1912

- 11a: Rufus Griffin
  - 11b: Harry Griffin
  - 11c: Timy Griffin
  - 11d: Three Easton children (Names unknown)
  - 11e: Calvin Tripp (children of Laura Tripp)
  - 11f: Laura Tripp (children of Laura Tripp)
  - 11g: Two Griffin children (no names)
  - (father, Henry Griffin)
  - 12a: Roxanna Griffin
  - 12b: Ellen Griffin
  - 12c: Lucy Griffin Johnson
  - 13: Elizabeth Darling
  - 14: Hannah Marks
  - 15a: George Griffin
  - 15b: Harold Murphy
- 
- 6. Jake Marks Jan. 1912
  - 8. James Marks May 25, 1912
  - 18. Annie Parker May 30, 1916
  - 39. William Gomez Nov. 17, 1919
  - 41. Lizzie Marks Dec. 15, 1921
  - 64. Etta Marks Jan. 26, 1925
  - 80. William A. Marks April 13, 1928

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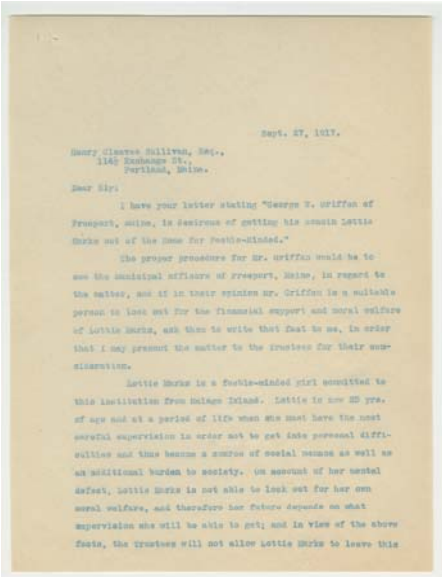


Marks family, Malaga Island

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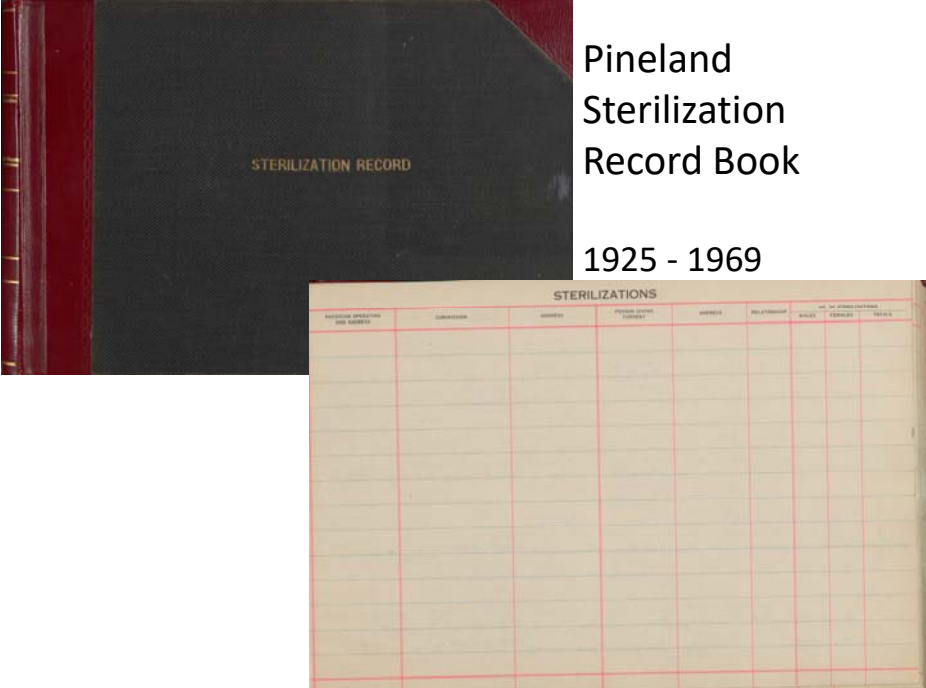






"Dear Sir:  
 ... Lottie Marks is a feeble-minded girl committed to this institution from Malaga Island. Lottie is now 23 yrs. Of age and at a period of life when she must have the most careful supervision in order not to get into personal difficulties and thus become a burden to society. On account of her mental defect, Lottie Marks is not able to look out for her own moral welfare, and therefore her future depends on what supervision she will be able to get..."

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Pineland  
 Sterilization  
 Record Book

1925 - 1969

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22-  
May 3,  
March, 1940  
July 6, 1939

EUGENICALLY STERILIZED (STATE OF MAINE)

Males	Females	Total	
0	30 28	30 28	not at Pownal State School, operated on elsewhere. (7 of these from Bangor State Hospital by compulsory law)(2 from Bangor voluntary law)
14	28 27	42 41	inmates at P. S. S., of whom 11 boys and 19 girls were operated on at P. S. S.
0	5	5	temporary patients from State School for Girls operated on at P. S. S.
0	0	0	(temp. patients from St. Reform. for Women operated on at P. S. S.)
14	60 62 63	74 75 77	

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	Males	Females	Total
Compulsory Law	1	7 54	8 55
Voluntary Law	13	53 56	66 69
<b>Total</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>60 61 63</b>	<b>74 75 77</b>

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MAINE SCHOOL FOR FEEBLE-MINDED  
MENTAL EXAMINATION - REVISED BINEY TESTS.

Name Anna Barber Date 30 10 19

Examined Feb 6 1939 Mental Age 7 1/2

6  
11 1/2  
Total to write the name

Examined by Dr. H. L. ...

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