

Edward Kaynor
Portland
LD 1474

In 1990 I applied for and was accepted into a Master's Program at the University of Colorado for the Study of Native American Religions.

On the first day of classes my adviser asked me what tribe I wanted to study. When I told him a tribe from Maine or another New England state, he told me there was little or no available information on New England tribes and I should focus on western or southwestern Native People. After I completed my degree studying the Lakota and Nez Perce we moved back to New England and settled in Portland, Maine.

In the past year I have become a member of the Unitarian Universalist Church and an active member in their Wabanaki Ally Team. I have also participated in a number of lectures, film showings, and tours given by Atlantic Black Box. The purpose of ABB is to unearth much of the historical records concerning Indigenous and African American people that were hidden or destroyed by the colonists.

Through my recent studies of Native People I realize there is actually a very rich history of Native American culture right here in Maine that is being uncovered and brought to light. We need to pass LD 1474 and use it to educate all Maine people.