





Case Studies

Maine

Name	Records	Profile (Source: Maine.gov)
<p>Dorothea Dix</p> 	<p>Link</p>	<p>1802 -1878. Born in Hampden, Maine, Dorathea Dix pioneered care and treatment for the mentally ill. During her travels to hospitals and prisons across the country, Dix observed the deplorable manner in which the mentally ill and handicapped of this nation were being treated. Dix petitioned state legislatures to allocate funding for the establishment of properly run mental institutions. During the Civil War, Dix served as the supervisor of nurses for the Union army. Once the war ended, Dix picked up right where she had left off and continued her work as an advocate for the mentally ill and handicapped.</p> <p>More information: https://www.womenofthehall.org/inductee/dorothea-dix/</p>
<p>Harriet Beecher Stowe</p> 	<p>Link</p>	<p>1811 - 1896. During the time she lived in Maine, Harriet Beecher Stowe became one of the most important figures during the Civil War period by penning perhaps the most influential novel of its time. While living in Brunswick, Maine, Stowe was inspired to write Uncle Tom's Cabin, a story that was sympathetic towards the plight of slaves in the United States. Highly controversial, this novel stirred up emotions on both sides of the slavery issue and was often used as a symbol to rally the abolitionist movement.</p> <p>More information: https://www.harrietbeecherstowecenter.org/</p>
<p>Edna St. Vincent Millay</p> 	<p>Link</p>	<p>1892 - 1950. Born in Rockland, Edna St. Vincent Millay became one of this nation's most renowned poets of the 20th Century. Millay's literary career began in earnest in 1912 at the age of 20 when she entered her poem "Renescence" into a national poetry contest and won. She went on to win the Pulitzer Prize for her book the Harp - Weaver. Millay's poetry was well known for its feminist themes and images of sexual freedom.</p>
<p>Margaret Chase Smith</p> 	<p>Link</p>	<p>1897-1995. Skowhegan native Margaret Chase Smith was elected to the U.S. Senate in 1948, making her the first woman from Maine elected to this position and also the first woman to serve in both houses of Congress. Smith distinguished herself in office by being one of the few politicians to openly stand against the "Red Scare" politics of the 1950's. Smith also made history by running for President in 1964, becoming the first woman to be seriously considered for nomination.</p> <p>More information: Margaret Chase Smith Library or the U.S. Senate Historical Office</p>

<p>Samantha Smith</p> 	<p>Link</p>	<p>1972 -1985. In 1982, Manchester native Samantha Smith captured the hearts of the world when she expressed her fears of the possible threat of nuclear holocaust in a now famous letter to Soviet Premier Yuri Andropov. Touched by the sincerity of this young Maine girl's letter, Andropov invited Smith to visit the Soviet Union, making her one of our country's youngest ambassadors for peace. Smith and her father were tragically killed in a plane crash in 1985, however, her legacy of peace and goodwill still lives on.</p> <p>More information: http://www.samanthasmith.info/</p>
<p>Gerald E. Talbot</p> 	<p>Link</p>	<p>1931- present. Gerald E. Talbot a Bangor native, was Maine's first African-American legislator, as well as a civil rights activist. He was the first president of Portland's NAACP chapter and led the passage of the Maine Fair Housing Bill and the Maine Human Rights Act. Talbot was one of the several Mainers attending the March on Washington in 1963 when Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. delivered his "I Have a Dream" speech. In the Maine Legislature, he also supported tribal sovereignty and sponsored Maine's first LGBT rights legislation. In 1995, the University of Southern Maine (USM) conferred on Gerald Talbot an honorary Doctor in Humane Letters degree and dedicated an auditorium in his name: the Gerald E. Talbot Lecture Hall. His daughter, Rachel Talbot Ross, also became a legislator and currently represents House District 40.</p>
<p>E.B. White</p> 	<p>Link</p>	<p>1899 - 1985. <i>E.B. White is revered as one of the world's greatest authors of children's stories and prose. After writing such classic tales as Charlotte's Web, Stuart Little and The Trumpet of the Swan, White and his family moved from New York to a small farm in North Brooklin, Maine where he lived for 28 years. He was born in Mount Vernon, New York.</i></p> <p>More information: Harper Collins Children's Books</p>
<p>John Jenkins</p> 	<p>Link</p>	<p>1952 - 2020. John Jenkins was born in Newark, New Jersey and came to Maine to attend Bates College. After graduating in 1974, he remained in the Lewiston/Auburn area where he worked as a martial artist and founded his own martial arts academy. He was also well-known as a community organizer and motivational speaker, both locally and nationally. Jenkins was elected as mayor of Lewiston in 1993 and later as mayor of Auburn. He was the first person in Maine history to serve as mayor of two municipalities and win a citizen-initiated write-in mayoral campaign. He was the first African-American to be elected to the Maine State Senate, serving in that body from 1996-98. He later ran unsuccessfully for Maine governor as an independent. Jenkins was a member of the World Martial Arts Hall of Fame, the USA International Black Belt Hall of Fame, and the Maine State Sports Hall of Fame.</p>

Joan Benoit Samuelson



[Link](#)

1958 - present. Freeport native, Joan Benoit Samuelson made history at the 1984 Summer Olympic Games in Los Angeles as she raced to the gold medal in the inaugural women's marathon event. She has also won prestigious events such as the Boston Marathon and the Chicago Marathon and set the second fastest time ever posted by a woman in a marathon. Joan is currently working to establish a nationally prominent road race in Maine.

More information:

<https://www.beach2beacon.org/newsroom/joan-benoit-samuelson-race-founder/>

Milton Bradley



[Link](#)

1836 - 1911. Born in Vienna, Maine in 1836, Milton Bradley moved to Lowell, Massachusetts at the age of eleven. In adulthood believing that play benefited children, Bradley developed games through which positive childhood development was stimulated. Bradley is credited as being the first person in the United States to print kindergarten materials in English.

More information: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Milton_Bradley

Christopher J. Cassidy



[Link](#)

1970 - present. Christopher J. Cassidy, a U.S. Navy SEAL Captain, was selected as an astronaut by NASA in 2004. He is a veteran of two space flights, STS-127 and Expedition 35. During STS-127, Cassidy served as a Mission Specialist and was the 500th person in history to fly into space. Cassidy recently (2000) served as commander on the International Space Station for Expedition 63. He is a recipient of the Bronze Star with combat 'V' and Presidential Unit Citation for leading a nine-day operation at the Zharwar Kili Cave on the Afghanistan/Pakistan border. Born in Salem, Massachusetts, Cassidy considers York, Maine to be his hometown and he is a graduate of York High School.

More information:

<https://www.nasa.gov/astronauts/biographies/christopher-j-cassidy/biography>

Jessica U. Meir



[Link](#)

1977 - present. Jessica U. Meir was selected by NASA in 2013. Meir most recently served as flight engineer on the International Space Station for Expedition 61 and 62. From 2000 to 2003, Dr. Meir worked for Lockheed Martin's Human Research Facility, supporting human physiology research. During this time, she also participated in research flights on NASA's reduced gravity aircraft and served as an aquanaut in an underwater habitat for NASA Extreme Environment Mission Operations (NEEMO). She is a private pilot and is conversational in Swedish and Russian. Born and raised in Caribou, Maine, Meir is a graduate of Caribou High School. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Biology from Brown University, A Masters of Science in Space Studies from the International Space University, and a Doctorate in Marine Biology from Scripps Institution of Oceanography (UCSD).

More information:

<https://www.nasa.gov/astronauts/biographies/jessica-u-meir/biography>

Bernard Lown



[Link](#)

June 7, 1921-February 16, 2021. Dr. Bernard Lown was a cardiologist who developed the direct current defibrillator and the cardioverter for correcting disordered heart rhythms. He is credited with many medical break-throughs and life-saving innovations that modernized cardiac care and cardiac surgery.

Lown received many honors and recognitions for his work, including the Nobel Peace Prize in 1985 for his co-founding of the International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War organization.

Lown was born in Lithuania and immigrated to Maine at age 14, where he graduated from Lewiston High School in 1938. He went on to earn a bachelor's degree in zoology from the University of Maine and his medical degree from Johns Hopkins University.

Throughout his life, he wrote many articles and books, and worked as a professor of cardiology at Harvard. Among other pursuits, he founded the Lown Cardiovascular Center, Lown Cardiovascular Research Foundation, and the Lown Institute, which focuses on healthcare reform.

In 2008, the former South Bridge from Lewiston into "New" Auburn was named in his honor as the Bernard Lown Peace Bridge.

More information: <https://lowninstitute.org/about/dr-bernard-lown/>