



Belfast Historical Society & Museum
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APRIL 2025

Enclosed with this newsletter you will find the 2025 schedule for our programs held at the Belfast Free Library.

A reminder that the website BelfastMuseum.org is updated regularly and the 2025 programs are posted monthly. If you are not able to attend in person, the recorded programs are available for viewing on the website. The website includes: museum news, special history features, historic house marker order forms, and online membership forms. You can also follow us on Facebook and on Instagram #belfastmuseummaine.

BELFAST HISTORY WALKING TOURS

Join Megan Pinette, Belfast historian, on 1 hour + walking tours of the downtown historic district. Learn about the early settlers, waterfront industries, fires, and landmark buildings. Find out which downtown building has been moved twice and survived three fires. Tours will be held on each Friday in July and August, starting time is 1:00pm. We will meet at The Park on Main, next to the Belfast Area Chamber of Commerce, 33 Main Street.

We would appreciate a donation of \$10.00 per person in support of the Belfast Historical Society & Museum. There will be no rain dates. FMI 207 338-9229.

The Belfast Museum Celebrates 50 Years

It was on August 15, 1975 that the doors to the museum were first opened. At this time exhibits were located in the lower level of the museum building as the upper floors were rented out. The



museum opened in anticipation of the American Bicentennial celebrations scheduled for July 1976. During the first few months the museum was open, over 200 people visited and interest in local history was piqued. The first item to be accessioned in were seven letters dated July 9, 1850 to September 4, 1851, the letters were sent by Thomas Whittier Lothrop from the gold fields of California to his wife, Sophia, at their home in Belfast. Things were not going well. It wasn't until 1991 that the museum moved upstairs into current rooms. Renovations to both the

museum and to the barn in the early 2000s allowed for more exhibits and archival storage for photographs, document, clothing, and artifact storage. Thanks to the generosity of the Belfast community the collection of archival material and artifacts relevant to Belfast's history continues to grow. This support allows us to tell Belfast's story.



Hello America, Belfast Makes Radio History

March 14, 2025 marked the 100th anniversary of the history making first live trans-Atlantic long-wave radio broadcast from London, England to the experimental Radio Corporation of America's station in Belfast, Maine. This broadcast, which was then relayed from the experimental RCA station located off Congress Street, paved the way for full global communications.

The station remained in Belfast until 1929. The museum exhibit features photographs, artifacts from the site, and excerpted recordings of that history making broadcast.