

## 2025 Programs at the Belfast Free Library

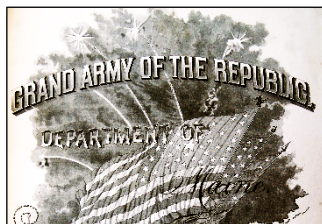
*The Belfast Historical Society presents talks of local historical interest on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month from April through October. All presentations are at 7:00pm in the Abbott Room at the Belfast Free Library and are open to the public. Seating is limited to 75. FMI visit [BelfastMuseum.org](http://BelfastMuseum.org) or call 207 338-9229. These programs will be recorded and can be viewed on Belfast Community Television and on the museum website.*



### **April 28: Harry Nelson, radio historian**

"Hello America, the Story of the Experimental RCA Radio Station in Belfast" will be the topic. March 14, 2025 marked the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first live trans-Atlantic long-wave radio broadcast from London, England to the Radio

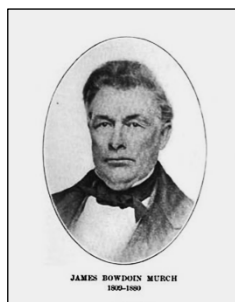
Corporation of America's relay station in Belfast in 1925. This broadcast paved the way for full global communications.



### **May 19: Stephen A. Goldman, MD Psychiatrist and Civil War historian,**

"The Grand Army of the Republic: How Warrior Identity and Survivor Obligation Drove Union Veterans to Fight Jim Crow" will be the evening's topic. How and why Union veterans assumed critical roles as moral and political forces,

particularly through the nation's most prominent bi-racial postwar organization, the Grand Army of the Republic.



### **June 23: Dana Murch, local genealogist, and Historical Society member**

"Ordinary People, Extraordinary Lives: 200 Years of the Murch Family in Belfast" will be the evening's topic. There will be stories about the *Mayflower*; the War of 1812; pump and block making; lawyers, judges, and postmasters; Gettysburg; poetry; ice-making; hydro-electric generation; weather-keeping; shoe shops; the Pygmy Circus; and World War II



"Broiler Capital of the World" Belfast questioned its future.

### **July 28: Megan Pinette, BHS President**

Belfast – Biggest Little City in Maine Before MBNA Came A' Calling" will be the evening's topic. We will look at the years preceding the arrival, in 1995, of the credit card company MBNA. Prior to their arrival, Belfast had seen both boom and bust years following the end of the poultry industry in the late 1980s. No longer



### **August 25: David Ruberti, BHS VP**

"Belfast, When the Cows Were Still Wearing Pajamas" will be the evening's topic. The evening will feature a myriad of postcards and images of a bygone era. You will see downtown, neighborhoods, churches, schools, businesses, the waterfront, and some fun. David shall be your tour guide.



### **September 22: Jan Eakins, Cultural Historian**

"Warding Off Witches to Protect House and Home" will be the evening's topic. We will discuss concealed shoes and other protective devices long-used to keep witches and bad luck at bay in Maine and around the world. We will examine shoes from the BHS&M's collection, and learn how to find shoes and witch marks in old buildings around us and then what to do. If you have discovered an old shoe or object hidden in your house or barn, bring it, a photo or story to enrich our discussion.

### **October 27: Kevin Johnson, Photo Archivist at the Penobscot Marine Museum**



"Packed Like a Can of Sardines" will be the evening's topic.

The program will illuminate how the sardine industry supported Maine coastal communities for well over a century. The workforce in canneries included thousands of women, even more than the number of men fishing for herring. This

industry was a part of the economic, cultural, and social fabric of families and communities all along our state's coast. The Penobscot Marine Museum will be celebrating this industry in their *Sardineland* exhibit and photo archivist Kevin Johnson will cast a net into PMM's photo archives and share many fishy photos and the stories behind them in his presentation.