



# Maine State Archives

## Department of the Secretary of State

[www.maine.gov/sos/archives](http://www.maine.gov/sos/archives)

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## HARMFUL CONTENT ADVISORY POLICY

The Maine State Archives' mission is to preserve and provide access to the permanent records of Maine State Government. The collections span more than two centuries and may contain content and language that may be deemed harmful or difficult to view. Some records, and the language and images in them, may reflect outdated, biased, or offensive views and actions. While objectionable today, the content has been maintained as it was originally created to preserve the historical record and may be reflected within our catalog, finding aids, and descriptive materials.

Harmful or difficult content may:

- reflect racist, sexist, ableist, misogynistic/misogynoir, and xenophobic opinions and attitudes;
- be discriminatory towards or exclude diverse views on sexuality, gender, religion, and more;
- include graphic content of events such as violent death, medical procedures, crime, wars/terrorist acts, natural disasters and more;

The Maine State Archives applies content warnings to collections that have been identified as having harmful or difficult content. Members of the public who encounter materials that should have a warning or that contain problematic language in catalog descriptions should notify Archives Staff at [maine.archives@maine.gov](mailto:maine.archives@maine.gov). Staff will review the collection or description and may apply a harmful content warning or update the cataloging description in a way that balances the preservation of original context with an awareness of the effect of language on our users.

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