Skowhegan History House Museum & Research Center

Meet the Curator

Benjamin Doty

Ben Doty is a native of the Skowhegan area who spent many of his formative years in the pastoral farming community of Cornville. He has been going to History House since the age of 10, when a fifth grade class project brought him and some friends to the museum. Eventually, they wrote and assembled a small guidebook intended for kids their age visiting History House. When Ben was 13, he worked with former History House Curator Lee Granville on a project scanning History House photos to be uploaded to the Maine Memory Network.

Ben would go on to leave Skowhegan to attend college, earning a BA in English and Political Science at the University of Maine in Orono and an MA in Modern and Contemporary Literature at Birkbeck, University of London. His true interest in all of this was the archival research that went into essays: delving into the history underneath a political event or a literary movement and coming up with the primary documents to get to the truth of the matter.

Back in Skowhegan, Ben has immersed himself in local history. In addition to his position as Curator of History House, he also works at the Margaret Chase Smith Library in Skowhegan and the Kennebec Historical Society in Augusta, caring for the history of our area and helping others to access it.

While at History House, Ben has begun a program to scan and catalog all of the museum's photos in order to better preserve them and make them easily accessible. He is also hard at work on a project that will create a permanent space for rotating exhibitions and is researching and assembling the first exhibit for it, about the log-driving history of Skowhegan. In addition, he enjoys giving tours and helping people to research in History House's archives, as they allow him to share the riches he finds in History House's archives with fellow explorers of history.