

Before Acadia: Adventure and Discovery

How the Champlain Society's explorations led to the creation of Acadia National Park

The Mount Desert Island Historical Society welcomes the community to attend the opening of our Champlain Society exhibit, "Before Acadia: Adventure and Discovery" on June 23, from 4 to 6 pm, at the Somesville Museums and Gardens. Refreshments will be provided.

The origins of Acadia National Park can be found in a group of Harvard University students who spent summers on Mount Desert Island during the 1880s and '90s. They were bright, funny and energetic, but also very committed to the appreciation and understanding of this beautiful island. Calling themselves the "Champlain Society," they conducted systematic natural history surveys of the island's flora and fauna, geology and weather. During the course of their summer studies, they became concerned about the island's future. This concern carried into their adult lives, and led ultimately to the founding of Acadia National Park.

Caption for Attached Image: The Champlain Society gathers at camp Pemetec on the shore of Somes Sound. Each holds a tool or instrument representing their field of exploration.