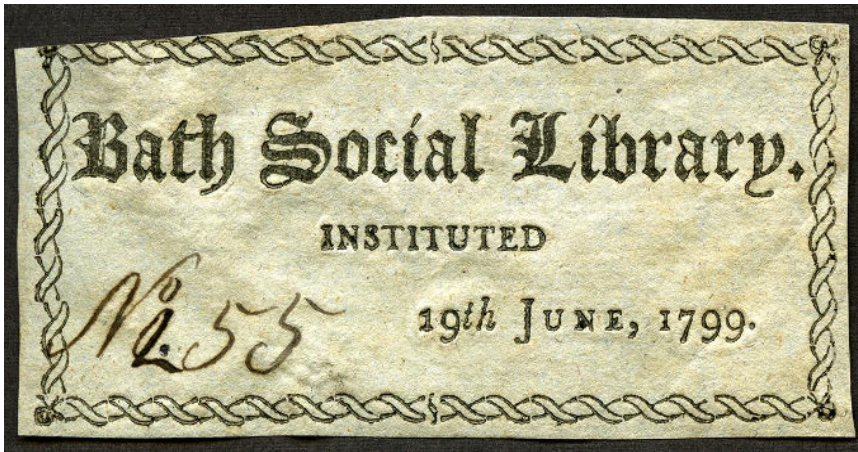


THE BEGINNING OF LIBRARIES IN BATH



We don't know exactly when the first library began in Bath, Maine. It probably was a small, private collection shared by friends or kept in one of the stores or offices, where individuals paid a fee, a subscription,

to have borrowing privileges. There was such a subscription library in Bath by June of 1799, and a bookplate from that organization has survived and is part of the collection of the Sagadahoc History & Genealogy Room. So Bath has had a "library" for more than 217 years.

Next: [PATTEN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION ESTABLISHED](#)