



WHO IS JDGF?

The Jefferson Davis Grant Foundation (JDGF) is a Maine 501-c3 not-for profit which concentrates its efforts on funding production and distribution of scholarly historical films and other media. The organization was created in 2005 by Maine filmmaker Jeff Dobbs, and is named in memory of Dobbs' great-grandfather, Jefferson Davis Grant. Grant was a Bangor native who was in many ways representative of the rich culture and inimitable character of the State of Maine.

WHY ARE WE HERE?

The people behind JDGF noticed a general need in public and school libraries for high-quality, accessible history materials featuring Maine subject matter. JDGF was created to seek public and private funding in an effort to change that. With this basic goal in mind, JDGF will serve two primary functions: 1.) funding production of films; and 2.) facilitating the distribution of the extant catalog (see list) and newly created films (as they become available) to libraries across the state.

WHAT'S THE GUIDING PHILOSOPHY?

Maine has a long heritage of shipbuilding, maritime and industrial innovations. Hundreds of artists and writers, captains of finance and industry, politicians, all have roots or have made their homes in this state. And there are all the unique places that form Maine's 'history of place', such as the Allagash Waterway and Acadia National Park. With JDGF, we hope to secure the funding to better document the people and places of Maine's history on film, and to see that the resulting media make their ways into every library in the Maine State Library system.

WHAT'S THE PROCESS?

With educator's needs in mind, discussions have already begun with the Maine State Library and the Maine Department of Education in search of the best methods to seek input on JDGF projects from educators, librarians, and archivists. This first JDGF project is going forward as "History Media as Educational Resources for Maine, and Initiatives for Distribution", or "History MERMAID". When fully functional, this project will serve JDGF's goal of placing copies of an already extensive catalog Maine history films in libraries across the state.

A first phase of History MERMAID is to solidly document the perceived deficit of materials through communication with educators and library staffs around the state. JDGF has already been granted access by

the Maine State Library (MSL) to their communications. With this access, JDGF will first gather information documenting presumed deficits, as well as information that will help JDGF focus selection and funding of future film projects with an eye to the evolving Maine Learning Results. The network will also be used as a means to disseminate information about the films, their availability, and History MERMAID in general.

FUNDRAISING

JDGF is actively seeking funding to cover the costs developing the most effective forms of communication with these professionals, and to cover the cost of dissemination through the MSL network. The next phase will be to secure funding for duplication of the films for distribution, and to cover mailing and delivery costs through the MLS systems. Distribution will be continuing as the catalogue expands, and continuing funding will be necessary. JDGF plans for some of this funding to eventually be self-generated. (See attached calculations.)

Additionally, JDGF will facilitate the funding of production of films themselves. The selection of topics will be guided by the information gleaned from educators and librarians through the aforementioned MSL system, and by input from Maine Public Broadcasting Network, who will air the films as they are produced.

WHAT'S THE DEEP BACKGROUND ON JDGF?

The JDGF board currently comprises the following individuals: Jefferson G. Dobbs (Bar Harbor, Maine), Executive Director; Gail Caruso (Bar Harbor, Maine); Candyce Keon Emlen (Mount Desert, Maine). Jefferson G. Dobbs is also the principle of Dobbs Productions, which has provided the start-up funding for JDGF. JDGF will continue to receive funding from Dobbs Productions, as required, and continuously as based on formulas created to funnel profits from the commercial sale of films back into JDGF. (see attached calculations.)

Dobbs Productions has been doing history-based films for a number of years, working with historical societies and private archives, and marketing the films the public in shops across Maine,. The films have been sold to libraries at a discounted rate, but this has been done so as a private company, often at a loss.

Dobbs Productions was also the force behind the retrospective/prospective video created for former Maine governor Angus King's inaugural ceremonies, and enjoys a long and successful relationship with the Maine Public Broadcasting Network, who brings many of the films to viewers every year. MPBN is positioned to air any future film created with JDGF funding.

Similarly, many of the creative collaborators with whom Dobbs has worked over the years will bring their talents to the projects planned for development by JDGF. These include composer John Cooper, who

teaches music at College of the Atlantic, and Jack Perkins, whose gifts as a visual artist, writer, and broadcast journalist have already graced a number of Dobbs projects.

WHAT'S IN THE PIPELINE?

Film projects on JDGF's short list (created under informal educator and library advisement) include a multi-part series on the history of sailing ships, documentaries of Maine's luminaries of literature and industry, and biographies of Margaret Chase Smith and Joshua Chamberlain, among others.