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The Society

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THE SOCIETY

The 158th Annual Meeting of the Maine Historical Society, attended by approximately 125 members and friends, was held at the Portland Public Library on June 14th. During the morning business session, Miss Elizabeth Ring, chairperson of the Election Committee, announced that the following persons had been elected to serve three-year terms on the Standing Committee: Benjamin Butler of Farmington; Elizabeth S. Hamill of Falmouth Foreside; Joan S. Hayden of Yarmouth; Eleanor P. Merrill of Portland; William C. Pierce of West Baldwin; Harry Z. Sky of Portland; David G. Stanley of Cumberland Foreside.

In the absence of Roger Taylor, the chairman of the Publications Committee, Thomas L. Gaffney, the director of the Society, announced that Dr. John D. Faibisy, the author of "Penobscot, 1779: The Eye of a Hurricane," *Maine Historical Society Quarterly* 19 (Fall 1979): 91-117, is this year's recipient of the James Phinney Baxter Award, which is presented annually to the author of the best article appearing during the volume-year of the *Quarterly*. We regret that the conditions of Dr. Faibisy's employment with the National Archives has prevented him from accepting the one hundred dollar Baxter Award honorarium.

At its organizational meeting, the Standing Committee elected the following officers for the current year: William C. Pierce, president, Joan S. Hayden, vice president, John E. Ham, secretary, and Donald K. Saunders, treasurer.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The Society's principal and most important activity last year was, of course, our drive to raise \$450,000, which began last October 21st with our painting exhibition at the Barridoff Galleries. So far we have raised \$238,433.80 in gifts and pledges, combined, of which \$130,032 has already been paid in. Our expenses so far have been \$29,141 in preparation for the drive and \$21,357 since the drive started.

As I said, our drive started with our exhibition at the Barridoff Galleries, at which we displayed twenty-eight of our paintings, including Michele Felice Corne's *Bombardment of Tripoli*, John Hilling's two paintings of the *Know-Nothing Burning of the Old South Church at Bath*, and G. F. Morse's paintings of the Portland fire of 1866. It was quite a successful exhibition.

During the year, we also had two highly successful series of lectures. Last November, we had three talks on the unfortunate Penobscot Expedition of 1779. The speakers were Ronald Kley and Stephen Brook of the Maine State Museum, and Stephen Hyatt of Bangor Community College. Our three talks in April were on the forts of Maine. Robert Bradley talked on the forts of colonial Maine; Donna McKinnon, a student at the University of Southern Maine, talked about Maine forts of the nineteenth century; and Joel Eastman told us about modern Maine forts.

In February, we showed that history could have its less serious moments. We celebrated Longfellow's 173rd birthday on February 27th with a reception at the Wadsworth-Longfellow House. Wolcott S. Gaines, founder of the criminal justice program at Southern Maine Vocational Institute, won the Henry Wadsworth

Longfellow look-alike contest, and was the affable host while the rest of us drank syllabub and ate cakes made according to recipes of Longfellow's time.

And while I am thanking people, I want to thank every member of our staff for the hard, hard work which did so much to make all our programs a success.

Besides the programs I have described, our own Tom Gaffney has been bringing the Society's slide program for the drive to points as diverse as Thomaston, Augusta, and York.

During the next year, we hope to broaden our Society's service to the state. With the help of Jane Moody, we are organizing a committee of advisory trustees representing all parts of the state to help us extend the geographical and cultural scope of our activities.

William C. Pierce

TREASURER'S REPORT

We have received from our auditor his statement of income and expense for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1980. Our budget adopted a year ago called for income of \$115,300 and expenses of \$126,932, making a projected deficit of \$11,632. It must be reported that our deficit at the end of the fiscal year actually amounted to \$19,588, a considerable increase over the budget projection.

This sizable difference results ultimately from a steep increase in energy costs during the year. Visitors to the Longfellow House were fewer than in previous years, undoubtedly as a result of general fears of a gasoline

shortage, together with the increased cost of gasoline. In addition, we suspect that some visitors may have been turned away at the sight of the scaffolding during the building repairs.

Our own expenses increased for utilities, which also included substantially higher charges for water and sewage.

The principal balance of unrestricted funds was increased from \$595,390 at year's start, to \$667,194 at its end, a net increase of \$71,804. The major item was \$101,694 in receipts to the Heritage Fund, offset by fund raising expenses of \$48,599.

The balance of restricted funds increased during the year from \$38,577 to \$44,835, an increase of \$6,258.

The Finance Committee, in its meeting of May 15, recommended to the Standing Committee a budget for the current year, which it feels to be realistic, considering the trends in costs of goods and services. It provides for a substantial deficit, and this, despite the increased assets indicated by our fund balances, emphasizes the need for careful attention to our costs and for efforts continually to increase our annual income.

During this first year as treasurer, I have depended on the general assistance and advice of both staff and Society officers, in particular Mrs. Sigrid Austin. To them I offer sincere thanks for the patient help.

Donald K. Saunders

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENSE

for the years ended March 31, 1980, 1979 and 1978

	1980	1979	1978
Income:			
Interest and dividends:			
Unrestricted funds	\$ 46,401	\$ 43,593	\$ 40,512
Restricted funds	2,353	2,553	1,640
Longfellow House savings interest	353	128	87
	49,107	46,274	42,239
Dues	22,163	19,666	18,978
Gifts	1,460	10,503	25,822
Grants	24,800	31,100	19,160
Longfellow House receipts	9,264	11,771	9,201
Book sales	6,063	4,225	6,516
Other	4,760	3,737	2,691
	117,617	127,276	124,607
Expenses:			
Salaries, library	56,162	54,002	52,831
Salaries, Longfellow House	9,524	10,560	8,278
Longfellow House expense	4,452	7,478	6,924
Employees' retirement plan	1,633	—	—
Insurance	2,928	2,166	2,307
Utilities	9,108	7,900	5,707
Pensions	1,320	1,320	1,320
Repairs and maintenance	2,088	2,266	736
Supplies	3,043	2,018	1,873
Payroll taxes	6,903	5,587	4,817
Telephone	1,454	1,250	1,228
Newsletter and printing	9,754	8,662	8,990
Postage and mailing service	3,455	3,143	2,638
Professional services	2,800	2,044	2,544
Custodian fee	1,293	1,132	1,161
Interest	1,549	1,709	2,141
Travel	418	155	194
Equipment purchased or rented	1,823	364	1,568
Expenditure of Restricted			
current funds	4,248	3,691	1,720
Miscellaneous	1,786	1,910	1,582
	125,741	117,357	108,599
Carried forward	(8,124)	9,919	16,048

	<i>1980</i>	<i>1979</i>	<i>1978</i>
Brought forward	\$(8,124)	\$ 9,919	\$ 16,048
Other disbursements and transfers:			
Life beneficiaries – Morton Fund	3,960	3,960	3,960
Transfer of unexpended Restricted current funds	894	1,765	—
Transfer of book sales to Moulton Fund	4,587	2,566	3,497
Transfer of book sales to Bicen- ennial Fund	1,476	1,659	3,019
Appropriation of special appeals gifts for building fund debt retirement	—	—	5,000
Income added to principal of Conant Fund	547	470	309
	11,464	10,420	15,785
Excess of income over expenses and transfers (deficit)	\$(19,588)	\$(501)	\$ 263

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Membership: It is a pleasure to note that during the past year the Society enrolled 288 new members. While this very healthy gain was partially offset by the resignation or death of 199 members, we ended the year with a net gain of 89. This is the first time in four years that we have shown an increase in membership.

Wadsworth-Longfellow House: The restoration of the front facade of the Wadsworth-Longfellow House was completed just in time for this season's opening on June 2nd. With the scaffolding removed and the House restored to its former stately beauty, we hope that there will be a substantial increase in the number of tourists over last year when the exterior construction and the gasoline crisis combined to reduce the number of visitors from 8,074 in 1978 to only 5,568 last summer. This decline resulted in an unanticipated operating loss for the House of approximately \$4,400 last year.

In order to put the House on a more solid financial basis, the Society has hired work-study students from various Maine colleges to act as guides. Under the work-study program, the Society is responsible for only one-fifth of the students' salaries. Providing tourism returns to more normal levels this summer, we expect the Longfellow House operation to show a profit for the first time in many years.

The Society is especially grateful to the members of the Longfellow Garden Club for the faithful support and assistance rendered during the past difficult year. The Club and its members have generously given of themselves, their time, and their resources in maintaining the Garden to the same exacting standards as have characterized it since its reconstruction in 1923. The Club

has also been most gracious in decorating the Longfellow House for a number of special functions that have taken place there in recent months.

On July 1st, the Society will submit another application to the Maine Historic Preservation Commission for a matching grant to be used in completing the exterior restoration of the House. If approved, the grant will enable the Society to repoint the brickwork of the remaining walls, repair and repaint the windows and woodwork, and replace the roof. In addition, the electrical wiring, now about seventy years old, will be replaced, and a dehumidification system will be installed in the basement. The Maine Historic Preservation Commission will notify grant recipients by January 1, 1981.

Mrs. Julieanne B. Irving is the staff supervisor for the current season, and she will be assisted on a full-time basis by Susan A. Daley, Kathleen M. Joyce, Michele C. Powers, and Miles R. Parker. The volunteer guides are: Patricia McGraw Anderson, Paul F. Conley, Rita W. Douglas, Helen B. Eckert, Donald Foster, Catherine Harkness, Rachel Higgins, Anne C. Hooke, Roxie M. Insel, Mrs. Daniel P. Johnson, C. Mildred Jordan, Donna Damon Miller, Josephine O'Hare, Mrs. Laura Orcutt, Mrs. Dorothy Small, Mrs. Helen S. Smythe, Phyllis R. Sweetser, and Mrs. Robert Williamson.

National Register: Application has been made to the Maine Historic Preservation Commission to have the Maine Historical Society's library building entered on the National Register. Designed by Alexander Wadsworth Longfellow, a noted Boston architect and nephew of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, the building is located just behind the Wadsworth-Longfellow House on Congress Street. Dedicated on February 27, 1907, the hundredth anniversary of the poet's birth, the building houses the largest research collection available to the students and scholars of Maine history. If the library is deemed worthy

of inclusion on the Register, the Society will then become eligible to receive federal assistance in making the estimated \$50,000 worth of repairs to the roof, cornicing, windows, and brickwork required to restore the building to sound condition.

Library Volunteers: The Society owes a special debt of gratitude to Beth Bailey, Marion Chick, John Calvin Stevens, and Susan Wallace for the many hours they have contributed over the past year in assisting the staff with the processing and organization of the collections. Their faithful and conscientious service has done much to lighten the workload of the staff and to facilitate the effective use of the library and its resources.

Staff: During the past year there have been a number of staff changes. Miss Cynthia J. Murphy of South Windham joined the staff in August as Library Assistant. A graduate of South Portland High School, Miss Murphy had been employed at the South Portland Public Library for four years prior to coming to the Maine Historical Society.

Mrs. Rae R. Brown, our Manuscript Assistant since 1977, resigned on September 19, 1979, in order to assume a position in the audio-visual department of Freeport High School. Rae's position has been filled by Mr. Arthur J. Gerrier who had worked as a guide and supervisor at the Longfellow House for several seasons. Arthur is a graduate of Colby College and has done graduate work in historic preservation at the University of Vermont.

Mr. Clayton E. Shepley, our custodian, has resigned, and his position has been filled by Mr. William D. Barry.

At this time, I would personally like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to all members of the staff and the Standing Committee for the support and assistance rendered during the past year. Special thanks are also due to Miss Alice Mary Pierce, our fund-raising

coordinator, and to many, many concerned individuals who have taken time from their busy schedules to assist us with the *Maine Heritage Fund*.

Exhibitions: Important works from the Society's painting and museum collection were featured in a number of major exhibitions during the past year. The most important of these, "Art Treasures of the Maine Historical Society," was graciously hosted by Mr. & Mrs. Robert Elowitch, the owners of Portland's Barridoff Galleries. This stunning exhibit, on view from October 21st through November 2nd, gave the public a rare opportunity to view and appreciate a representative sample of the Society's important collection of Maine art. Although the paintings are frequently made available to responsible galleries throughout the state, this was the first time that such a large selection was presented to public view under the auspices of the Society, which, unfortunately, lacks adequate display space within its own building. This exhibit marked the kickoff of the Society's *Maine Heritage Fund*.

Ten paintings, lithographs, and broadsides from the collections were included in F. O. Bailey's "Flames Over Portland," an exhibition of Portland fire art. Running from April 11th through May 10th, the exhibition was cosponsored by the Maine Historical Society and the Portland Fire Museum.

On May 9th and 10th, Greater Portland Landmarks held an antique show and sale which included an exhibition entitled "Needlework Yesterday and Today" which featured two choice items from the Society's textile collection: a nineteenth-century mourning picture by Sarah Moore of Portland, and Samuel Freeman's eighteenth-century embroidered vest.

We are also pleased to note that sixteen paintings from our collections are currently on display in the State

House and in the Blaine House, the governor's official residence. On view in the public rooms of the executive mansion are Charles E. Beckett's *Martin's Point*, (c. 1850), Beckett's *Winter Scene Near Portland*, (c. 1848) and Everhardus Koster's *Ship Grecian*, (c. 1855). Charles Codman's *Shipwreck at Pond Cove* (date unknown) and a *View of Portland Harbor, Cushing's Island and Fort Scammel from Fort Preble* (c. 1812) by an unknown artist hang in private rooms of the mansion.

Bookbinding & Painting Conservation: A gift of \$500.00 from the Simmons Foundation has enabled the Society to rebind an additional 145 books during fiscal year 1979/80, and an additional 189 books have recently been sent to the bindery using funds derived from the non-member use fee of \$2.00. The generous support of the Simmons Foundation and the Maine State Commission on the Arts and Humanities has also made possible the restoration of J. B. Smith's painting of the brig *Harriet* of Portland rescuing the crew and passengers of the British ship *Unicorn*, which sank off the Grand Banks of Newfoundland on November 9, 1851. The details of the rescue are recounted in Freeman Cleaves, "All Souls Saved," *American Neptune* 27 (January 1967): 61-65.

Accessions. As in past years, we would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere appreciation to all the members and friends of the Society who have generously contributed to the library and museum collections. These contributions, even when relatively minor in and of themselves, have the cumulative effect of adding greatly to the overall diversity and strength of the collections.

William B. Jordan, Jr. of Portland has contributed an important plaster bust of Francis Ormond Jonathan Smith (1806-1876), a famous Portland politician, attorney, and entrepreneur. Executed by Franklin Simmons, one of Portland's internationally famous sculptors who also

designed Portland's Longfellow statue and Civil War monument. The bust is one of few surviving visual images of F. O. J. Smith who achieved national notoriety as a business partner of Samuel F. B. Morse, the inventor of the magnetic telegraph. Mr. Jordan has also given a plaster bas-relief of Sylvester Breakmore Beckett (1812-1882) done by the noted sculptor Benjamin Paul Akers (1825-1861).

Two important reverse portraits on glass were received from the family of Alex M. Burgess, through Dr. and Mrs. Samuel Burgess of Needham, Massachusetts. Painted by Benjamin Greenleaf (1786-1864?), an artist noted for his reverse paintings on glass, the portraits present charming likenesses of Captain Parker McCobb (1785-1847) of Phippsburg and his wife Rebecca (b. 1790).

From Mrs. Marguerite J. Jenkins of Westbrook and Mrs. Eulalia Connors of Midford, Connecticut, the Society has received two handsome oval portraits of Joshua (1794-1866) and Deborah A. Haskell (1797-1866) of Topsham. These portraits, now hanging in the library building, were painted by Phillip Spooner Harris (1824-1884) who worked in Bath in 1855-56.

Three figurines of Alice, Allegra, and Edith, the Longfellow daughters who were immortalized by the poet in "The Children's Hour," were presented to the Society last August by Stowell's Jewelers of South Portland. Manufactured by Cybis, the nation's oldest porcelain studio, the figurines were accepted on behalf of the Society by President William Curtis Pierce. They can now be seen in the Longfellow House.

The United States Customs Service in Portland has donated portraits of John Anderson (1792-1853) and Luther Jewett (1793-1856), both of whom once served as collectors of customs in Portland. Also received were

twenty-seven photographs of other customs officials of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

Eight pieces of Portland Glass, in the shell and tassel pattern, were received from Mr. Charles K. Pierce of Portland. The receipt of these pieces complement the Society's existing collection of Portland Glass.

Mrs. Helen L. McGilvery of Melrose, Massachusetts, donated three eighteenth and nineteenth-century samplers. One, an alphabet sampler, was done in 1799 by Margaret Crie. Another alphabet sampler is by an unknown maker, as is the third which contains the genealogy of the John Miller family.

A brass powder flask said to have been carried by General Peleg Wadsworth during the American Revolution was presented to the Society by Mr. John W. Hay of Westbrook.

Miss Gertrude D. Maling of Kennebunk has donated a number of interesting pieces. Included are several class rings and pins for the Portland High School classes of 1891, 1894, and 1897.

From Mr. Harold E. Curtis of Madison, New Jersey, the Society has received eight volumes of diaries of the Walker family of Kennebunk. Covering the period 1828-1893, the diaries were kept by Tobias (ca. 1794-1865), Edwin (ca. 1820-1891), and Daniel Walker (1860-1928). In addition to frequent mention of farm activities, the diaries contain passing references to religious and political affairs, local deaths, Millerism, Know-Nothings, the Civil War, and other events.

The American Antiquarian Society of Worcester, Massachusetts, has donated a collection of genealogical notes compiled by William Somers Thompson (1854-1924) consisting of abstracts, 1688/9-1811, of births, deaths, and marriages taken from the town records of Wells; a list of family records compiled from the records of

Wells; abstracts, 1701-1868, from the records of the First Church of Christ of Wells; notes taken from the journals of Tobias Walker of Kennebunk, including deaths and marriages for the period 1828-1839; notes from the autograph book of Lucy Agnes Thompson, including marriages and deaths, 1862-1892; and abstracts taken from the records of the Titcomb family descended from William Titcomb of Newbury, Massachusetts.

Typescript genealogies of the descendants of Actor Patten (b. ca. 1691/2), Matthew Patten (1690-1773), Robert Patten (b. ca. 1693/4), and William Patten (1693-1720) were received from Mrs. Clara Bowen of Hallowell, Maine.

A daybook of Eleazar Alley Jenks (1776-1807), covering the period 1801-1805, was received from Mr. Albert C. Burke, Jr. of South Portland. The daybook contains a record of advertising and subscription payments to the *Portland Gazette*.

Mrs. Edna Weymouth of West Valley, New York, has presented the Society with abstracts of vital records, 1840-1945, from the town records of Troy, Maine. Also given was a brief history of Troy by Frederick R. Weymouth.

From the Windham Historical Society, the Society has received a surveyor's plat of the division of lands in Windham. The plat, perhaps prepared by Joseph Noyes, surveyor, in 1763, provides the names of the lot owners in the second and third divisions.

During the past year, the Society has made a major attempt to fill some of the gaps in the newspaper collection. Twenty-eight reels of the weekly *Augusta Kennebec Journal* (1825-1913), twelve reels of the *Belfast Republican Journal* (1829-1968), and five reels of the *Topsham Maine Times* (1968-1973) have been added to the collections. In addition, through the generosity of

the late Mrs. Effie I. Drake of Portland, twenty-four reels of the *Bangor Whig and Courier* (1837-1855) have also been purchased.

Great progress has also been made in overcoming another major deficiency in the library by the acquisition of seventy-seven volumes of Quebec marriage records and genealogies. In part, the marriage records include St. Pierre de Sorel (1675-1966), La Baie du Febvre (1715-1966), Beauport (1673-1966), Varennes (1693-1963), LaPrairie (1670-1968), Region of Drummondville (1683-1968), Notre Dame de St. Hyacinthe (1777-1969), St. Hyacinthe (1853-1968), Ville de Granby (1844-1968), L'Outaouais (1815-1973), and the Ville de Levis (1815-1950). Also included are comprehensive marriage records for the counties of Brome (1831-1967), Missisquoi (1846-1968), Portneuf (1881-1950), Napierville (1823-1969), LaPrairie (1751-1972), and St. Jean (1828-1950). To complete the set, the Society has also purchased the last twelve volumes of *Genealogie des Familles Originaires des Comtes de Montmagny, L'Islet, et Bellechasse* by Brother Eloi-Gerard Talbot.

Thomas L. Gaffney

NEW MEMBERS

FROM MAINE Bangor: Mrs. Joan A. Woodcock *Bar Harbor:* Mrs. George O'Neil *Biddeford:* Mr. Michael A. Remillard *Cape Elizabeth:* Mrs. M. Vivian Santerre *Cumberland Center:* Mr. & Mrs. Paul E. Merrill *Falmouth:* Mr. Harold L. Mason, Mrs. A. H. Stockly, Dr. & Mrs. William F. Taylor *Freeport:* Mr. Jonathan S. Fillmore, Mr. Henry F. Picking *Gorham:* Ms. Joyce K. Bibber *Greenville:* Ms. Linda L. Hubbard *Hallowell:* Mrs. William L. Vaughan *Jay:* Mrs. Arthur N. Raymond *Kennebunkport:* Mr. & Mrs. Paul R. Dunn *Lewiston:* Ms. Cynthia J. Peters *Ogunquit:* Mr. Philip L. Kimball, Jr. *Portland:* Ms. Florence M. Baston, Mr. Stanley T. Bennett II, Ms. Kathleen G. Coyne, Ms. Gloria S. Duclos, Ms. Mary J. Norton, Mrs. Florence Y. Sager, Mr. Raymond B. Shaw *Saco:* Ms. Ethel C. Dorais *Scarborough:* Mr. John D. Delahanty, Ms. Victoria E. Ham *South Berwick:* Ms. Catherine Stevens *South Bristol:* Mr. and Mrs. John T. G. Nichols *South Freeport:* Mr. Henry C. Thomas *South Portland:* Ms. Margaret Wilkins *Springvale:* Acton-Shapleigh Historical Society *Steep Falls:* Ms. Joan Greenlaw *Westbrook:* Ms. Arlene Pingree, Ms. Elizabeth Ryder *Wilton:* Mrs. Maxine A. Scott *Yarmouth:* Mr. Richard A. Bennett, Mr. David D. Selleck *York:* Mrs. Carolyn Martin *York Harbor:* Mrs. James S. Erwin.

Other States CALIFORNIA Alta Loma: Mrs. Linda Stufflebean *Corona:* Mrs. Vera L. Fauskin *San Marcos:* Ms. Doris Bradley *CONNECTICUT Glastonbury:* Ms. Jacqueline T. Gove *DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA Washington:* Ms. Louise Warner *FLORIDA Eustis:* Ms. Phyllis E. Potter *MARYLAND Silver Spring:* Mr. Kenneth G. Dyer *MASSACHUSETTS Arlington:* Miss Constance R. Milton *Ashland:* Mrs. Cynthia C. Winterhalter *Framingham:* Ms. A. Carolla Haglund *Littleton:* Ms. June E. Pierson *Wellesley Hills:* Ms. Bettina Bucknam *MICHIGAN Southgate:* Ms. Doris J. Morales *MISSOURI Independence:* Mr. Reed M. Holmes *NEW HAMPSHIRE Dover:* Mr. Richard W. Lord *Durham:* Mr. John B. Graham *NEW JERSEY North Caldwell:* Mr. Charles B. O'Hara, Jr. *Pt. Pleasant:* Mr. J. Chris Arndt *NEW YORK New York:* Mr. Fred D. Nash *PENNSYLVANIA Newtown Square:* Mr. Charles C. Jamison *SOUTH CAROLINA Marion:* Ms. Audrey L. Hunter *VERMONT Brattleboro:* Mrs. Anne C. Nash *VIRGINIA Arlington:*

Mr. Arthur S. Greenwood *McLean*: Dr. & Mrs. Ira I. Somers
WASHINGTON Bellevue: Ms. Judith W. S. Zimmerman.

EDITOR'S NOTE

In the second decade of the nineteenth century, an unusual religious phenomenon popularly known as Cochranism gained sway over the inhabitants of the backcountry towns of York and Cumberland counties. The moving spirit was Jacob Cochran, a man apparently without formal theological schooling, but possessed of an uncanny knowledge of human nature, great oratorical skill, and a powerful hypnotic influence over his followers.

Exactly when Cochran made his first appearance in Maine is unclear. In June of 1817, however, an extraordinary religious revival, lasting six weeks, swept the northern part of Saco, resulting in the conversion to Christ of a thousand or more repentant sinners. Although regularly ordained clergy were in attendance, Cochran is credited with having played an important role in the revival, during which he did or said nothing to bring his religious views under scrutiny. Once conscious of his power to influence people, however, he began to wander from the paths of orthodoxy. Setting out on his own, he began to denounce both Freemasonry and organized denominational churches and advocated "rebaptism" as a means of washing away sectarian stains as well as the "mark of the beast." Formally known as the Society of Free Brethren and Sisters, Cochran and his followers advocated communal ownership of property and claimed for themselves the miraculous powers of healing the sick, raising the dead, and casting out devils.

Cochran overreached himself, however, when he attacked the institution of marriage and urged his followers, married and unmarried, to take "spiritual mates," with whom they could engage in sexual relations, legal marriage vows notwithstanding. The practice of free love shattered the domestic harmony of many households in York and Cumberland counties and brought down the

weight of the law on Jacob Cochran, who was brought before the Supreme Judicial Court in 1819 and sentenced to four year's imprisonment on several counts of adultery.

Cochran's incarceration appears to have had the desired effect of sapping the vitality of the movement. While the subsequent history of the Society of Free Brethren and Sisters and its founder are largely shrouded in mystery, there is evidence to suggest that Cochran later plied his arts in South Hadley, Massachusetts, and in Stratham, New Hampshire, in 1835. In the latter place, he is said to have established a "convent," inhabited by members of both sexes.

"The Cochran Fanaticism in York County" is presented to our readers in the hope that it will stimulate serious research on a religious cult that has not yet been fully investigated. While it is regrettable that the identity of the author is not known, the paper, written in 1867, was based on personal interviews with Cochran's contemporaries and provides helpful insights into a movement about which relatively little has been published.

Those interested in pursuing the study of Cochranism further should consult Rev. Ephraim Stinchfield's early attack entitled *Cochranism Delineated; or a Description of, and Specific for, Religious Hydrophobia, Which was Spread, and Is Still Spreading, in a Number of the Towns in the Counties of York and Cumberland, District of Maine* (Boston, 1819). Gamaliel E. Smith made a transcript of Cochran's trial, which he published as a *Report of the Trial of Jacob Cochran on Sundry Charges of Adultery and Lewd and Lascivious Conduct* (Kennebunk, 1819). An extensive contemporary view of Cochranism, appearing over the signature of an "Eye Witness," can be found in the Limerick *Morning Star* of July 24, 1839, reprinted from the Portland *Christian Mirror*. Later informative accounts can be found in G. T. Ridlon's *Saco Valley Settlements and Families* (Portland,

1895), and in Daniel Remick's *History of Kennebunk from Its Early Settlement to 1890* (N. p., 1911). While both authors devote full chapters to Cochranism, Remick's comments on Cochran's accidental discovery, while keeping store in Fryeburg around 1815, of his ability to mesmerize people is particularly interesting. Edward Bourne also comments on Cochranism in his *History of Wells and Kennebunk* (Portland, 1875), as do the authors of several other local histories. Finally, the interested researcher should also be made aware that John M. Marshall, a man whose father, Captain Joel Marshall, knew Cochran intimately, wrote a series of articles on the subject for the *Biddeford Journal* between 1888 and 1894.