A History of the State of Maine Division of AAUW (1951)

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A HISTORY
of the
STATE OF MAINE DIVISION
of the
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION
OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN

BY ELSA KLEIN
The story of State of Maine Division
of the
American Association of University Women
in its first five years
with accounts of the various branches and
a compilation of officers and boards
of the State Division

by ELSA KLEIN

Dedicated to the members of the branches whose faith in the combined efforts of educated women brought about the formation of the State Division
THE HISTORY OF
THE STATE OF MAINE DIVISION OF AAUW

The spring of this year, 1951, may well be an appropriate time for our State of Maine Division of AAUW to begin writing its history. Five years is not a long time in retrospect. In fact, it seems only a few short months ago that 25 representatives from five branches met in Waterville and there, after much discussion, came to the conclusion that the time was ripe for establishing a State Division. It was May, 1946. And so much has been accomplished in these five short years that we fear lest the story of our beginnings be buried under the accumulating weight of present day AAUW activities. Accordingly, in the summer of 1950, the president appointed an historian whose happy task it is to review the beginnings of the State of Maine Division, chart its progress, and perhaps thereby indicate to those communities where there is no local branch what a challenging prospect lies before the university and college women all over the state.

The phrase, "the time was ripe", is not without significance in recording the history of this Division. In 1946, Maine was the last state but one to organize. For more than half a dozen years national headquarters in Washington had been urging the six branches then existing to form a state division. In 1939 Mrs. Lily Murray Jones, the North Atlantic Regional Vice President, met with members from all the branches except Houlton (Lincoln County, Bangor, Brunswick, Waterville, and Orono-Old Town) in conference at Waterville. Her charm and her enthusiasm for the project went a long way toward persuading the delegates. But those were the days of unrest prior to World War II. And as the various branches in the state discussed among themselves the possible advantages of a state division, knowing at the same time that those advantages could only be realized by a regular coming-together of widely scattered members, they felt that it would then be an organization in name only. That the time was not ripe was borne out by the fact that the war years followed immediately, with increasing preoccupation of all women in war work and with the rationing of gas. During those years the Brunswick Branch suspended activities. Other branches found their time completely absorbed by such local projects as Red Cross work, air plane spotting and filter centers, war gardening and vegetable canning for school lunches. But Mrs. Jones was persistent and in September of 1942 provided funds from the North Atlantic Regional budget to send Mrs. Clara Weber of the Waterville Branch as an observer to the State Presidents' Conference in Washington. She was simultaneously appointed by Mrs. Jones as the first Membership Chairman for Maine.

It was logical, then, when the question was brought up again after the war had ended, that Waterville should take the initiative in inviting representatives from each branch to come together for another discussion. In the meantime, each branch had had ample opportunity to talk over the pros and cons of a state division, and the delegates who came together knew how their members felt about the matter of additional dues, state committees, so-called red-tape, distances to be traveled to attend state meetings, as well as the degree of interest of their members in the broader aspects of AAUW. This time Mrs. Robert D. Glasgow came over from Albany, N. Y. as the then Regional Vice President. She told how a state division could function without infringing upon the individuality and independence of each local branch, how much broader work it could do as a unit toward furthering the aims of National, and she explained just how to establish a state division.

At this meeting, held May 16, 1946, in the Elmwood Hotel in Waterville,
there were present 25 representatives from the five active branches as follows: Waterville, 10; Orono-Old Town, 8; Bangor, 5; Houlton, 1; Lincoln County, 1. From about ten-thirty until one o'clock there was discussion; any one who had anything to say against further organizing said so. But Mrs. Glasgow and Mrs. Weber were persuasive, minds were flexible, and, in a vote taken after lunchtime had relaxed everyone, it was recorded that four of the five branches would then and there favor forming a State Division. Bangor's representatives felt they could not commit their branch to that action until they could have a definite meeting for the purpose of giving the entire group a report on the Waterville session. They spoke encouragingly, however, and felt themselves influenced by the enthusiasm of everyone else and the obvious need for statewide co-operation. Accordingly, a nominating committee was appointed for the drawing up of a tentative slate of officers to go into action as soon as a favorable answer would be received from Bangor. For there is a national ruling that no state division can be formed unless all branches in that state vote to join. Now the time seemed ripe.

Although the Bangor Branch could not meet until fall, the entire group felt that it was feasible to plan for a State Division that could function tentatively and arrange for a fall workshop. The officers, provisionally nominated in May and elected by the 25 delegates present were as follows:

President—Dean Edith Wilson of the University of Maine and the Orono-Old Town Branch—2 years.
First Vice President—Mrs. Norman Perkins, Bangor—1 year.
Second Vice President—Mrs. John Klein, Orono-Old Town Branch—2 years.
Secretary—Mrs. Joseph C. Smith, Waterville Branch—1 year.
Treasurer—Mrs. Howard Waring, Orono-Old Town Branch—1 year.

The total state membership at that time, including 12 members-at-large was 248.

The farthest north branch was Houlton, the farthest south, Lincoln County, over two hundred miles away. Still another hundred miles was added when Presque Isle stretched us farther north and York County brought us to the southern boundaries of the state. But the greatest concentration of membership fell in the beginning in the Waterville and Bangor-Orono areas.

The first board, consisting of the officers, provisionally elected, and the branch presidents, met in July, 1946, at the home of Dean Wilson in Orono for its initial work-out. A constitution, following a generally accepted form suggested by Mrs. Glasgow at Waterville, was drawn up to be presented for voting when a State Division should become legalized. Plans were also made for a Workshop to be held in the fall, again at the invitation of Waterville. Thus was begun the series of autumn get-togethers that have been so stimulating to the members and perhaps have helped stimulate other groups in the state to re-organize or establish new branches.

A digression now about the Workshops—they are distinct and separate in purpose from the annual meetings held always in the spring. There is no official business transacted at that time, and the emphasis on program, as a rule, falls on local and state interests rather than on national and international problems. They provide a gathering for round-tables and panel discussions rather than for set speeches. They provide, best of all, a chance for the members in far separated branches of the state to get acquainted with each other, to learn how other branches meet their local problems, and, believe it or not, to learn the geography of their state. To facilitate such objectives it has been a policy of the Board to alternate meeting places for the fall and spring meetings so that at least once in three years members from the more densely populated south will have a chance to travel north. Thus a greater number of members in those smaller but non-the-less active branches may enjoy the stimulation and enthusiasm engendered whenever AAUW groups meet. Long live the Workshops!

Since the Workshops are not business meetings, there was no need to await official recognition of the State Division before the first fall get-together. But this official status was not long in coming, for at their first fall meeting the Bangor Branch voted unanimously to support a State Division. So at the first annual meeting, held in May, 1947, in Bangor, the State of Maine Division
was really born. It was the last but one state in the union to affiliate with National. It felt timid and uncertain about where it should take its first steps. But it knew the five branch members were full of enthusiasm, and it knew there were definite tasks awaiting the energies of co-ordinated groups. The first was that of increasing membership in individual branches and helping new groups to get started. A second job less definite of procedure, was to help solve educational problems in communities throughout the state.

From this point on the history of the State of Maine Division is one of continued growth, both in the number of members and in activities. During 1947 Brunswick Branch reorganized and invited the Division to hold its second Fall Workshop in their town. York County started its branch with 15 members in March, 1947, more than doubled within the year, and at present counts 77. Later in 1947 came Presque Isle, and in 1949 the Mt. Desert Island Branch was formed, each one eager to entertain the State Division as soon as possible. The 1950 Workshop met in Bar Harbor with 105 representatives, more than twice the number attending the first Workshop four years earlier. The first, simple, uncluttered constitution has been revised three times as the organization grew and new problems arose for which some policy must be established. Dues, originally only 10 cents per member, have of necessity been raised first to 15, then to 50 cents in order that the jobs to be done by a state organization could be effectively carried out. During the first years of its existence the state division had great difficulty in filling the ten offices of state chairmen from the five original branches. But as membership increased and new branches were formed, there grew up an increasing realization among the women in the state that there was interesting and challenging work to be done by those committees. So, whether from a sense of duty, a willingness or desire to be of service, and (or) a president with time to put on the job and an unusual power of persuasion, AAUW members, from Presque Isle to Saco, have accepted those chairmanships. Branches all over the state are now kept informed of the work of the State Division through these various committee chairmen.

The particular projects that the state has undertaken as a group have been headed by the chairmen of the various committees corresponding to the committees of National. Foremost, perhaps, is that of the Fellowships. There has been a state chairman of that project as early as 1936, when Mrs. MacVeagh of Brunswick was so appointed by National. She was followed by Mrs. Huddleston of Orono, then by Mrs. Averill of Old Town, who was still chairman when the State Division was formed. Under her enthusiastic guidance the contributions to what had then come to be called the Mary E. Wolley Fellowship Fund passed the $40,000 quota set for the state. Money is still being asked for to be used for International Grants. For one of the first and biggest aims of the AAUW, especially as affiliated with the International Federation of University Women, is to provide opportunities for gifted and talented women, no matter what their nationality, to carry on work already started in the fields of science, literature and art. Now, more than ever, we must help the women of the war torn countries to find their places again in the intellectual world.

A more recent project, initiated by Miss Laura Beam, Art Associate in Washington, and incidentally a native of Machias, Maine, is that of promoting art among school children. At the 1950 Workshop she presented our State Division with an exhibit of 50 paintings done by school children of other states to serve as a stimulus to our own young people. In both 1950 and 1951 the art chairman of several of our branches have promoted their own local contests to provide an exhibit of paintings from which the best are selected for a traveling national exhibit.

The work done by members of the Education, Legislative, Social Studies and Status of Women Committees is overlapping to a certain degree. But their accomplishments, especially in this last year when the legislature was meeting, are more than worthy of mention. The chairmen or their representatives attended many sessions at Augusta. They urged members and branches to write frequently to their legislators. Such influence and persuasion was conceded by many legislators to have been a great aid (1) in providing for two women members on the University of Maine Board of Trustees, and, (2)
supporting the needed University appropriations. As a member of the Women's Legislative Council in Augusta we now take our place with the other women's organizations in the state. And as individuals in its several communities AAUW has won real recognition from state officials as intelligent thinking and acting women.

The Committee on Publicity first under Mrs. Carlton Brown of Waterville and then Mrs. Gardner of Bangor, has constantly brought the work of all the various groups before the public eye and has been made an invaluable contribution to the success of our State Division.

The history of the State Division would be inadequate if it did not indicate how the five original branches themselves came into being and how they progressed during their years of independence. Mention should also be made of those older women in the state who, twenty-five years ago, helped to build up the local groups of college women. It was their persistent loyalty to the ideals of AAUW, their realization always that college women must be both thinking and acting women, that prepared the ground so well for our present rapidly growing state organization.

Thus we end the first five years of our state-hood, a not too awkward child, I hope. If we stumbled and groped along at first, and have not yet quite reached maturity, we have acquired a certain degree of self-confidence. We know how to work together and enjoy doing so. We look forward to broader contacts and closer friendships, to reflecting the program of National wherever that program is pertinent in our communities, and to making the AAUW a thinking and intelligently working force wherever a branch exists.

SUMMARY OF STATE PROJECTS—From the President's Report at the Fifth Annual Meeting.

1. Award of State of Maine Grant of $500 for International Fellowship to Dr. Lysia Saxe of Denmark.

2. Appointing of two women to the Board of Trustees of the University of Maine.

3. Annual membership award to woman graduate of Bates, Colby and the U. of M.

4. Children's Art Project.

5. Establishment of State Roster of Women.
THE BRANCHES

BANGOR

The Bangor Branch, organized in 1924 with 13 members, has grown over the years both in size and activities, numbering 97 in 1951. On looking over the names of their 14 past presidents, one recognizes many women who have been and still are very active in the community life of the city. Its first president was Mrs. Edward Godfrey, who has maintained an active interest in the work of the branch throughout the years, especially in the field of international relations. Her contributions to the community include membership on the first Bangor City Council under the city manager type of government, and a thirty-years membership on the board of directors of the Good Samaritan Home. She helped organize the League of Women Voters and the Maternal Health League, having served as president of each group as well as of the E. M. C. H. Auxiliary. Another outstanding past-president of the Bangor Branch, but no longer living in Maine, is Mrs. Carol Lord Means. Her capable participation in community affairs led her to active roles in the fields of education and social agencies. She was the first woman member of the Bangor School Board, and its chairman; she served on the building committee of the Vine Street School and was a member of the State Education Policy Committee; she was delegate to the Mid-Century White House Conference for Children and Youth. Her moving from Bangor has been a great loss, not only to the AAUW, but to the entire community.

The fourth president of the branch, and also a charter member, was Miss Bernice Dunning, a graduate of Wellesley in 1912, and head of the mathematics department in the Bangor high school. In spite of her retiring personality, her influence in the branch has been felt from its beginning until she died in 1950; for 25 years there was not a year that she did not have some part in the affairs of the Bangor Branch, and whatever it was, it was well done. In 1931 she was instrumental in establishing the Mary L. Webster Scholarship Fund honoring a Bangor teacher. To date, 22 girls have received this award. Throughout the years Miss Dunning was one of its trustees and managed its finances, quietly adding a bit to it now and then. The year she died, a loan fund called the Bernice B. Dunning Scholarship Loan Fund was formed in her memory by the Branch, from which Bangor girls may borrow when necessary.

Miss Webster, for whom the scholarship fund was named, was also an early member of the group. Her interests in teaching had taken her both to Washington, where she enjoyed the hospitality of the International House, and to Paris where she stayed at Reed Hall. Perhaps it was just these contacts with the IFUW that led her to leave a bequest, at the time of her death in 1948, of $500 to the Mary E. Wooley Fellowship Fund.

Another member whose passing, in 1951, was a great loss to the branch was Miss Rachel Connor, much beloved Dean of Girls in the Bangor high school for 25 years. She was long a most faithful member, offering always constructive suggestions and supporting the highest ideals and aims of AAUW.

All through the years the Bangor Branch has had opportunities to entertain various national officers and speakers of note, from Dr. Ada Comstock Note-stein, National President, and President McCracken of Vassar, both of whom helped in the organization, to Dr. Lysia Saxe of Denmark, the 1951-2 holder of the State of Maine Fellowship Grant. Each winter a speaker of note at the Bangor Theological Seminary Convocation is guest of honor at an AAUW Convocation luncheon, to which the members of the Orono-Old Town Branch are always invited.
Civic problems also keep the members busy. They helped on the working out of a salary scale for teachers, sponsored an art contest for school children, a woman candidate for the school board (and got her elected), and actively backed the state legislative program. Since this included the naming of a woman to the Board of Trustees of the University of Maine, the Bangor Branch was particularly proud when, the bill having passed, one of their own members, Miss Jessie Frazier, was one of the two appointees.

During Christmas vacation the college women of the vicinity are entertained at an annual Christmas Tea.

The only study group is one on International Relations, which meets regularly with Miss Grace Reed as chairman.

The activities of the Bangor Branch in the State Division have been enthusiastic from the start. In 1947 they joined with the Orono-Old Town branch as hostesses for the first annual meeting, which was held on May 15 at the Penobscot Valley Country Club. It was at that meeting that Dr. Helen White, retiring National President, spoke. They were also hostesses for the Workshop in 1949. Bangor provided the first First Vice President, Mrs. Norman Perkins, who later has held chairmanships of both the arts and the social studies committees. The treasurer from 1948-51 was Mrs. Raymond Floyd whose efficiency in the office brought about the first budget planning. In 1951 Mrs. Jess Storey brought her talents to further state art work. Mrs. William E. Gardner, chairman of publicity from 1950-52, has presented the work of AAUW to the state in a way that has contributed much to the prestige of the organization both in the state and at national headquarters.

BRUNSWICK

The Brunswick Branch, founded in May, 1930, with 19 members, seven of whom are still active, is justly proud of the fact that the earliest efforts in the state on behalf of the Fellowship Fund were made by their group. Mrs. Kenneth C. M. Sills, the first president, and Mrs. Lincoln McVeagh, who was appointed State Fellowship Chairman by National, took visiting national officers to Waterville, Bangor, Lewiston, and other nearby communities, to speak for the Fund. These included the then president, Mrs. Dorothy Atkinson, Dean Cronkhite of Radcliffe, Dean Marjorie Nicholson Horton of Smith, and Miss Edith Thompson, a Commonwealth Fellow from Scotland.

During the war the branch suspended activities, but Mrs. Clyde Congdon was to remain president until such time as they could re-organize. Her services to the AAUW and to the Brunswick School Committee were recognized and her participation in the 1947 Workshop on Education Problems in Maine, by her appointment as State Chairman of the Education Committee in 1947-8 and her participation in the 1947 Workshop on Education Problems in Maine, held in Brunswick. This branch, even before its re-organization, sent representatives to Waterville to the planning meetings for a State Division, and since its re-activation in 1947 has been most active. It at once invited the Fall Workshop to be held there, at which time over 70 members gathered for a stimulating session and enjoyed as well the hospitality of President and Mrs. Sills in their spacious home.

Besides their keen interest in Fellowships, the branch has furthered a profitable International Study Group under the scholarly and provocative leadership of Mrs. Ernest C. Helmreich. The earlier literary study group was replaced in 1948 by one on music and the arts. This was led by another early member of the group, Miss Helen Varney, for many years a teacher of art in the Brunswick schools and leader for the cause of art in the community. Under her guidance classes in painting, sketching and stencilling have developed to the extent that she now holds both beginning and advanced classes. And an evening class for student wives soon developed into a community project. That is the true spirit of AAUW.

Two annual projects for the branch are the Fellowship Fair for the raising of money for the Fellowship Fund and the Christmas Tea for high school senior girls and returning undergraduate college women. Mrs. Noel C. Little, who has been a most active member for over twenty years, representing the branch at earlier regional and at state meetings and recently on the
WOMAN'S LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, is now guiding the branch in its present period of renewed activity.

HOULTON

In March, 1929, fifteen charter members founded a branch at Houlton. Membership remained small for a good many years, but when plans were being made for the State Division, Houlton sent an enthusiastic representative; then at the first annual meeting it presented one of the most stimulating reports of the session. Within the next few years the branch more than doubled its membership. It is one of the few branches of the state with more than half its membership made up of young mothers and housewives; and with only a very small percentage of older women or those with more-or-less leisure. Therefore we salute Houlton for its accomplishments in the past five years: namely, starting a P. T. A.; organizing the teachers and helping them get raises in salary; raising $100 each year for a scholarship to a high school girl graduate; contributing $45 to the Fellowship Fund; raising $75 for the Aroostook Hospital; and providing public discussion of Maine’s tax problems.

Their programs have for the most part been given by speakers on topics of educational, political and world interest. In 1951-52 their topic for a stimulating year's study was the "American Scene".

Houlton was represented on the first State Board of Directors by their president at the time, Mrs. Arnold Peabody. Then from 1948-50 Miss Helen Mitchell was First Vice President, having previously served as chairman of the committee on Status of Women. Her contributions to the success of the AAUW branch in Houlton are well worthy of mention. They began with her help in organizing the group, have taken her through all the major offices of the branch and out into the community in numerous civic enterprises. She was a member of the Town Council, chairman of the Recreation Center, of T.B. Christmas seals, has held various political and governmental offices in the area, and has been past president of the B. P. W., and the Girl Scout Council.

Luella Green Ebbett, another very active member, has also given of her time and energy to community projects. She served on the Houlton School Board, in the Republican Women's Club, as president of the Garden Club, the Women's Club, and as treasurer of the State Federation of Women's Clubs, besides being very active in church work. She was also a member of the State Committee of AAUW for revision of by-laws.

The honor roll of the Houlton Branch should carry the name of Annie Richardson Barnes, who died in October 1951. A graduate of Colby in 1894, she became the first president of the Houlton Branch. Her participation in church and Sunday school work, with Camp Fire Girls and the Bovs' Club, on hospital board and in W. C. T. U, for forty years were only a part of the activities that made her such a valuable and much loved member, not only of the AAUW, but of the whole community.

LINCOLN COUNTY

Organized in October, 1926, with about a dozen charter members, and still small in numbers, the Lincoln County Branch has maintained a fine homogeneity and friendliness in the small communities of the county for the past 25 years. Members derive primarily from Damariscotta, Damariscotta Mills, South Bristol and Newcastle. They base their year’s program on study topics, such as The United Nations, Civilian Defense, the Rural Church, Modern Poetry, etc. It is a year-round group, meeting in the summer for a July picnic on the coast and a Silver Tea in August, to both of which all college women in the community, summer visitors included, are invited. The tea is a memorable occasion for all who attend, for it is held in one of the fine old homes of that region and usually has many guests. The contributions are given to the scholarship loan fund.

The present membership includes five charter members. One of these, Mrs. Dorothy Roberts, is editor of the Lincoln County News. Mrs. Abbie Evans is connected with a music settlement in Philadelphia and has published
two volumes of poetry. Miss Hattie Fossett and Mrs. Helen Linscott have braved the coldest of winter weather to attend State Board Meetings.

The branch gives an annual tea for the senior girls of Lincoln Academy, it keeps up a scholarship loan fund for a local girl at college, and has contributed regularly to the Fellowship Fund.

MOUNT DESERT ISLAND

The Mt. Desert Island Branch is the youngest in the state. It organized in April, 1949, with 25 members, a number that doubled in the two years following. The first president was Dr. Elizabeth Russell, a holder of the Edith Pemberton Nourse Fellowship in 1939-40, and at present a member of the research staff of the Roscoe B. Jackson Memorial Laboratory at Bar Harbor. Also the mother of three sons and a daughter, she yet found time to raise a $200 scholarship for a high school girl graduate. The first award to attend the state board meetings during her term of office and convey to the other branches the encouraging progress of the island branch. Mrs. John Conti of Bar Harbor is the state's fourth treasurer.

Mt. Desert's problems in organization and program planning are those peculiar to a branch that has its membership scattered throughout several towns on an island, with three-fourths of its members housewives and mothers of small children. So their first interest was to stimulate island solidarity. Their next was to encourage high school girls to go on to college. In their first year they sponsored a successful summer musical at the Bar Harbor Y. W. C. A. was made in 1951.

The members have shown active interest in the island school problems, they have sponsored a tea for returning women college students at Christmas, have held summer meetings at which AAUW members vacationing on the island were guests, and have entertained special summer scholarship students from the Cancer Research Laboratory. In October, 1950, they were hostesses on a golden autumnal day to the State Workshop, which was attended by 105 members from all branches of the state. The highlights of that occasion were the presence of Dean Althea K. Hotel, National President; a tour of the Jackson Memorial Laboratory under the hospitality of Dr. and Mrs. Clarence Cook Little; and the first annual exhibit of the Maine Children's Art Project.

ORONO-OLD TOWN

The Orono-Old Town Branch, originally called the University of Maine Branch, was founded in May, 1924, with about 14 charter members. During the first year it grew to 26, and now, after 28 years of activity numbers 101. The largest membership has been 112. Nine full meetings are held each year, with various study groups getting together sometimes twice each month. The program, usually presented by members individually or as panel discussion, has shifted its interest from general cultural and educational topics to the discussion of specific problems in those fields as well as in social and legislative needs. It follows currently the plans set forth by National, several meetings each year being under the leadership of committee chairmen. There is always a meeting for the senior women of the university and one for foreign students.

Study groups, developed after the membership became too large for home meetings, are open to any women in the community. They include such interests as Child Education, the Family, Great Books, Creative Writing and International Relations.

Local projects began almost with the birth of the branch when it established a Loan Fund in 1925 by the proceeds of an entertainment in the Town Hall that netted $268. It is now supported by an annual student dance at the end of Freshman Week. Sixty-seven students have received assistance to date. Loans totaling $7,660.25 have been made from the fund which now stands at $4,744.99.

There have also been financial contributions to Red Cross, Health Bonds,
Summer Playground, Nursing Fund, Orono Community House and the Orono Public Library.

In 1938 the branch conducted a health survey of the locality with particular concern for the milk and water supply.

Indicating that AAUW is an active part of community life is the list of projects wherein they have cooperated with various groups: with the Women's Club in civic needs; with Kiwanis in managing a summer canning project during the war for school lunches; with the Junior Chamber of Commerce in organizing the Town Planning Board; with the League of Women Voters in a survey for the guidance of the Board; and with the University of Maine Farm and Home Week Program in arranging an educational toy exhibit over the past several years.

Interest in the formation of the State Division has been ever vital, even when it was a minority report. When the State Division was finally formed, its first president was Dean Edith Wilson. Perhaps by virtue of its fairly central location, the Orono-Old Town Branch has been able to function regularly on the state board, thereby deriving from those contacts continued inspiration and an eagerness to carry on the broader aspects of AAUW. Through a legislative chairman, appointed annually since 1930, the local group has kept in touch with state legislation and has frequently sent resolutions and letters to Augusta concerning educational and social needs. The faithful attendance of Mary Louise Giddings, branch president at the time, at legislative sessions in Augusta, together with our state president, Edith Abbott, is responsible in great part for the passing of the bill granting appointment of two women to the Board of Trustees of the University of Maine.

Among national projects that have received continued support by the branch is foremost the Fellowship Fund, contributed to annually since 1930. The war years brought cooperation with Red Cross in helping furnish equipment for Dow Field in 1942, in urging blood donations, helping with OPA and rationing, of organizing Civilian Defense, and in contributions for Care packages since 1948. These Care Packages, 8 in number, were made possible by the voluntary giving up of refreshments at regular meetings, the hostesses instead contributing to a Care Fund. It was handled through the International Relations group, which also made extra contributions at their study meetings. They sent as well, ten bundles of used clothing to Great Britain and Korea.

Among the early members of the group whom the local branch is proud to claim is Dr. Caroline Colvin, a founder, who taught history at the university for thirty years and served as Dean of Women for five. After her retirement from the university in 1932 she has been living in Richmond, Indiana, still actively studying and writing.

Dr. Ava Chadbourne, a native of Maine, graduate of the university and now Professor Emeritus of Education, living in Bangor, has contributed significantly to the educational progress of the state and has written widely in her field.

Dr. Edith Patch came to Maine from Minnesota at the turn of the century but has become a true lover of Maine. Her recognition as an entomologist is international; her skill and charm in the writing of science books for children have made her beloved among people of all ages. We are glad she can still be active in our AAUW.

Promoting the Fellowship idea have been two faithful members, Mrs. H. J. Huddilston of Orono, and Mrs. A. G. Averill of Old Town, each in turn heading the state work even before the State Division was formed. Interest in that project was heightened when Miss Alice Stewart, a graduate of the university in 1937 and teacher of history in Bangor, received the Kathryn McFale fellowship for a year of study in Canada on The Imperial Policy of Sir John A. MacDonald, Canada's first Prime Minister. After getting her doctor's degree with honors at Radcliffe in 1946, Miss Stewart joined the history department at the University of Maine. Her generosity in giving time to discussions and lectures on international relations has been a great asset to AAUW.
PRESQUE ISLE

This northernmost branch, including members from Ashland, Easton, Stockholm and Presque Isle, was formed in October 1947, with 18 charter members. In the next four years that number grew to 43 and has already provided the State Division with a Social Studies Chairman and a First Vice-President, Mrs. Norman MacDonald. The entire branch works together as a study group, meeting twice each month. It has concentrated one year on social studies, another on both music and social studies, approached under the head of “Women in America”. There has been considerable interest, too, in International Relations. They have helped in a community recreation program, have sponsored an art project and are currently making a survey of health and welfare needs. Their Social Studies Chairman attended the White House Child Conference. Money raising projects for local needs and the Fellowship Fund included bridge parties, a Scotch auction, and the sale of jewelry. Their biggest undertaking was that of being hostesses for the 1951 Fall Workshop, when, in spite of glowing and rainy skies, they sold Aroostook County to the 71 delegates who came from the 7 other branches of the state.

It is interesting to note that the teaching profession has provided many of the leaders in AAUW at Presque Isle. Mrs. Beulah Williams has combined librarianship with her teaching of history in the high school. Mrs. Avis Thompson Lamoreau, who taught there before her marriage, returned to that profession in 1946 and has served on the school board for 6 years. Mrs. Rose Carver Tilley has been head of the language department in Ashland since 1918 and always active in teachers’ clubs in that region. And the present president, Mrs. F. J. Anderson, has again answered the call for teachers.

An outstanding exception to this rule of the pedagogue is Mrs. Arla MacDonald, wife of the city manager and First Vice President of the State Division. Her interests are in social work, which she did in Winnipeg and Toronto, Canada, and, after her marriage, in Augusta. There she served on Red Cross committees, in the League of Women Voters, and on the Board of the Y. M. C. A.—Women’s Division. Her years in Presque Isle have likewise been filled with community service besides the duties of family life.

WATERVILLE

The Waterville Branch bears the honor of being the oldest in the state, having organized early in the year of 1924. At the time the State Division was formed they had already grown to 75 members and had for years been very active in small study groups. At present they support groups for International Relations, Creative Arts and Literature. Their particular pride has been an annual used-book sale, whereby they have provided each year a loan scholarship to a Colby woman student. To help the Colby Building Fund they sponsored a concert by Frederick Jagel, Metropolitan tenor. As a non-profit venture for children in the community they brought the Claire Tree Major Play, “Old King Cole”.

This they did by individual guarantees on the part of the members, by a 90% active participation in the project and the help of the teachers. Over 50% of the school children bought tickets. Also for the benefit of the youngsters in Waterville they organized and maintained a Play School during 1949-50. For young women in the community they assisted in the planning and presenting of “Her Own Business Clinic” in 1951.

Their outlook has well co-ordinated local with national needs. Activity in promoting the State Division was enthusiastic and significant and continues so with the years. A real contribution was made to the state through Dr. Luella K. Norwood, second State President, who represented Maine at the International Federation meetings in Toronto in the summer of 1948, and again at the National Biennial Convention in Seattle in 1949. Her reports of these meetings were vivid and delightful.

Other members of the branch who have served in the State Division have been Mrs. Joseph C. Smith, the state’s first secretary; Mrs. Gordon Smith, a first vice president and later chairman of the Education Committee;
Mrs. Carlton D. Brown, the first publicity chairman; Miss Frances Thayer, secretary under President Norwood; and Mrs. Albert O. Piper, membership chairman.

Mrs. Edward N. Risley, a charter member and the first president of the branch, still continues to serve in AAUW. Always active in community affairs, she agreed in 1950 to become state art chairman and sponsored the first State of Maine Children’s Art Project.

The enthusiasm of Mrs. Carl Weber for AAUW has carried her name beyond the local confines into both state and national areas. She campaigned for a state division in the early forties and was sent to Washington to the State Presidents’ Conference in 1942 as an observer by the regional officers. Thus she became the first state membership chairman even before the division was formed, a position she continued to hold on the first board. She also lists Girl Scouts and publications among her other interests.

The annals of the Waterville Branch would not be complete without mention of Dean Ninetta Bunnels, who retired from Colby College as Dean of Women in 1949. The affection of the branch for her and their recognition of her work in organizing the branch as well as helping place Colby on the approved AAUW list was expressed in a set of resolutions drawn up at the time of her resignation.

**YORK COUNTY**

York County Branch was founded in 1947 with about 15 charter members. In four years, perhaps partly influenced by the stimulus of the State Division, it leaped to 77 members. Their activities have usually astounded the older groups in the state, for they work with such unbounded enthusiasm and accomplish so much. They sponsor annually a “Pop Concert” by the Portland Symphony Orchestra to raise money for a scholarship fund (as much as $583 one year!). They sell candy regularly for bridge parties, teas, etc. They report good sale of the United Nations Cook Book for the Fellowship Fund. They have had study groups in Social Studies, Child Guidance, and Literature, and classes in stenciling, painting and rug-hooking. In the field of education they sponsored a public gathering with Henry Foy, head of the National Citizens’ Committee for Public Schools, as speaker. Their contribution to the Fellowship Fund has increased annually. Their under-graduate Christmas Coffee is a gala affair. In preparation for that they visit all the high schools in the county to get lists of girls attending accredited colleges. Then each girl is called for by a member who is introduced at the Coffee. Three girls from different colleges are asked to speak on their experiences. It sounds good.

But their services to AAUW have been more than local. When they were only a year old, they entertained the Fall Workshop and set a model for organization that was a challenge to all future Workshops. They have provided the State Division with its second treasurer and third president in the charming and capable person of Edith Abbott; with its third secretary, Olive Landry; a First Vice-President, Mrs. E. Forrest Fettinger, who planned the good programs for two annual meetings; and two committee chairmen, Mrs. Roger Moore (Fellowship) and Mrs R. Pierpont Jordan (Status of Women).
STATE MEETINGS

ANNUAL MEETINGS WITH REPORTS AND ELECTIONS OF OFFICERS

1946 WATERVILLE, May 16  Attendance 25
Organizational meeting with Mrs. Robert Glasgow, Regional Vice President

1947 BANGOR, May 15  Attendance 70
Getting acquainted — Reports from the five charter branches
Aims and Achievements of AAUW — Dr. Helen White, retiring National President
Aid to Displaced Persons—Dr. Frank Foster

1948 HOULTON, June 2-3  Attendance 50
The AAUW National Educational Survey of College Women — Dr. Constance Warren
Our Candidates for State Legislature — Their Stand on Education
Financing our Education — Panel discussion led by Mr. Philip Annas and Dr. Himy Kirshen

1949 WATERVILLE, May 12-13  Attendance 114
University Women and Displaced Persons — Dr. Phoebe Morrison
International Relations: Education in Primary and Secondary Schools of Great Britain — Mrs. Estyn Evans; Our Responsibility to Displaced Persons — Professor Paul Fullam; Wandering People — Dr. Phoebe Morrison
Regionalism in the British Isles — Professor E. Estyn Evans

1950 BRUNSWICK, April 28-29  Attendance 99
What is Education for Women? — Dean Barbara Aiken Sherman
The Future of American Economy — Dr. Mabel Newcomer

1951 ORONO-OLD TOWN, May 11-12  Attendance 144
Status of Women — presenting some of Maine’s AAUW members in their respective fields; Mrs. Kenneth C. M. Sills (Status of Women); Dr. Percie Turner (Education); Mrs. Edwin L. Giddings (Legislation); Dr. Louise A. Stedman (Social Studies); Miss Ina Van Hee (Fellowship); Miss Elizabeth Sylvester (of Ginn and Co.)
Who is Free in a Technical World? — Mrs. Rockwell R. Stephens

FALL WORKSHOPS

1946 WATERVILLE, September 21  Attendance c. 45
Social Studies Programs in our Communities — Mrs. Edith Hyslop-Sherrard
Relating AAUW to Community and State — Mrs. Robert Glasgow

1947 BRUNSWICK, October 2  Attendance 70
Report of July IFUW Meeting in Toronto — Dr. Luella F. Norwood
Report of New England Presidents’ Conference — Dean Edith Wilson
Educational Problems in Maine: Forum and Discussion — Professor Athern Daggett, Mrs. Clyde Congdon, leaders

1948 SACO, October 5  Attendance 74
Report of State Presidents’ Conference in Washington — Dr. Luella F. Norwood
Federal Government and Education — Senator Margaret Chase Smith
Guidance in Education: Panel discussion — Dean Edith G. Wilson; 
Mrs. John Romanyshyn (Child Welfare Division in Bangor); Mrs. 
Chester Baker (Guidance Officer, Waterville); Mrs. Ruth Wilson 
(Counselor for Girls, Morse H. S., Bath); Mrs. John Cass (Director 
of Guidance, State Dept. of Education); Mrs. Leon Sprague (Director 
of Guidance, Orono H. S.)

1949 BANGOR, October 6
Report of Biennial AAUW Convention in Seattle — Dr. Luella F. 
Norwood
Women in Legislation — Mrs. W. Clayton Lytel
Interest Group Discussions — led by state committee chairman

1950 BAR HARBOR, October 5
What Do We Do With AAUW Money? — Dean Althea K. Hottel, 
National President
The IFUW at Zurich — Dean Althea K. Hottel
How Can Maine Pay For Better Schools? — Dr. Thomas King
Interest Group Discussions at Luncheon, led by state chairman
Special Features — Tour of Jackson Memorial Laboratory; First Annual 
Exhibit of Maine Children’s Art Project

1951 PRESQUE ISLE, October 5-6
Reflections on Human Relations — Professor Anders Myrhum
Interest Group Discussions, led by state chairman
The Talbot Story — presented by members of the Presque Isle Branch
How Can AAUW in Maine Meet its Responsibilities? Panel dis- 
cussion: Mrs. Norman Perkins (State Social Studies chairman); 
Dean Edith Wilson; Mrs. Gordon Smith (State Education chair- 
man); Mrs. R. P. Jordan (State Status of Women chairman); Miss 
Margaret Dickie (Branch President, Bar Harbor)
Special Features — Tour of Cole Potato Farm; Flight over area, cour- 
tesy of Northeast Airlines (cancelled because of rain); Gift of bag 
of Blue Goose potatoes from the Potato Industry Council to each 
delegate.

_________________________________

SUMMARY OF SPEAKERS AT STATE MEETINGS

NATIONAL OFFICERS
Dr. Helen White — President 1941-47
Dean Althea K. Hottel — President 1948-50
Mrs. Robert Glasgow — North Atlantic Regional Vice President to 1948
Mrs. W. Clayton Lytel — North Atlantic Regional Vice President 1949.
Mrs. Edith Hyslop Sherrard — Social Studies Associate
Dr. Phoebe Morrison — International Relations Associate
Dr. Mabel Newcomer — Professor of Economics, Vassar, Social Studies 
chairman
Dr. Constance Warren — National Education chairman

GUEST SPEAKERS
Professor E. Estyn Evans, Belfast, Ireland and Bowdoin College
Mrs. E. Estyn Evans, Belfast, Ireland
Miss Ina Van Hee — Foreign student at the University of Maine
Mr. Philip Annas — Deputy Commissioner of Education in Maine
Professor Athern Daggett — Department of Government, Bowdoin College
Professor Frank Foster — College of Education, University of Maine
Professor Paul Fullam — Department of History, Colby College
Mr. Ernest H. Johnson — State Tax Collector
STATE OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

CONSTITUTING THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

1946
President: Miss Edith G. Wilson, Orono
First Vice-President: Mrs. Norman Perkins, Bangor
Second Vice-President: Mrs. John Klein, Orono
Secretary: Mrs. Joseph C. Smith, Waterville
Treasurer: Mrs. Howard Waring, Orono.
Directors: Miss Helen K. Bachrach, Newcastle
Mrs. Arnold S. Peabody, Houlton

1947-48
President: Miss Edith G. Wilson, Orono
First Vice-President: Mrs. Gordon Smith, Waterville
Second Vice-President: Mrs. John Klein, Orono
Secretary: Mrs. Benjamin Speicher, Orono
Treasurer: Mrs. Floyd N. Abbott, (Saco) Portland
Directors: Miss Helen K. Bachrach, Newcastle
Mrs. Arnold S. Peabody, Houlton
Arts: Mrs. Norman Perkins, Bangor
Education: Miss Agnes Mantor, Farmington (resigned)
Mrs. Clyde Congdon, Brunswick
Fellowship: Mrs. A. G. Averill, Old Town
International Relations: Mrs. Gordon N. Johnson, Houlton
Membership: Mrs. Carl J. Weber, Waterville
Publicity: Mrs. Carleton D. Brown, Waterville
Social Studies: Mrs. Noel C. Little, Brunswick
Status of Women: Miss Helen Mitchell, Houlton

1948-49
President: Dr. Luella K. Norwood, Waterville
First Vice- President: Mrs. Gordon Smith, Waterville
Second Vice-President: Miss Helen Mitchell, Houlton
Secretary: Miss Frances Thayer, Waterville
Treasurer: Mrs. Floyd N. Abbott, Portland
Arts: Mrs. Norman Perkins, Bangor
Education: Miss Edith G. Wilson, Orono
Fellowship: Mrs. A. G. Averill, Old Town
International Relations: (not filled)
Legislation: Mrs. Edward C. Kirkland (resigned Feb. 1949)
Membership: Mrs. Carl J. Weber, Waterville
Publicity: Mrs. Carleton D. Brown, Waterville
Social Studies: (not filled)
Status of Women: (not filled)

1949-50
President: Dr. Luella K. Norwood, Waterville
First Vice-President: Mrs. E. Forrest Fettinger, Saco
Second Vice-President: Miss Helen Mitchell, Houlton
Secretary: Miss Frances Thayer, Waterville
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**1950-51**

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**1951-52**

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BRANCH PRESIDENTS

BANGOR
1925-27 Mrs. Edward Godfrey
1927-29 Mrs. John Wilson
1929-31 Mrs. Howard Field
1931-33 Miss Bernice Dunning
1933-34 Mrs. Ernest Jones
1934-35 Mrs. Charlotte Meinecke
1935-37 Mrs. Ernest Jones
1937-39 Mrs. Edward Herlihy
1939-41 Mrs. Alfred Perry
1941-43 Mrs. Marie Perry
1943-45 Mrs. Carol Lord Means
1945-47 Mrs. Merrill Bowles
1947-49 Mrs. Earl Spaulding
1949-51 Mrs. Norman Perkins
1951- Mrs. Roland Carpenter

BRUNSWICK
1930-31 Mrs. Kenneth C. M. Sills
1931-33 Mrs. Lincoln MacVeagh
1933-34 Mrs. Edward C. Kirkland
1934-36 Mrs. Philip Garland
1936-37 Mrs. Edward C. Kirkland
1937-39 Mrs. Ernest C. Helmbreich
1939-41 Mrs. Stanley B. Smith
1941-43 Mrs. John Cones
1943-47 Mrs. Clyde Congdon
Activities suspended during war
1947-48 Mrs. Kenneth C. M. Sills
1948-50 Mrs. F. Webster Brown
1950-52 Mrs. Noel C. Little

HOULTON
1929-33 Mrs. Charles Barnes
1933-35 Mrs. Leon Howe
1935-37 Miss Helen Mitchell
1937-39 Miss Irene Dwelsey
1939-41 Mrs. Donald Walker
1941-43 Miss Hean Watson
1943-45 Miss Sigrid Tompkins
1945-47 Mrs. Arnold Peabody
1947-49 Mrs. John Hall
1949-51 Mrs. William Terry
1951- Mrs. John Perry

LINCOLN COUNTY
1926-28 Mrs. Chester Clark
1928-30
1930-32 Miss Hattie Fossett
1932-34 Miss Ava Dodge
1934-36 Mrs. Edwin M. Hill
1936-38
1938-40 Mrs. Roswell Linscott
1940-42 Mrs. Chester Clark
1942-44 Mrs. Weston M. Hilton
1944-46 Mrs. Harry Hall
1946-48 Miss Hattie Fossett
1948-50 Miss Helen K. Bachrach
1949-50 Mrs. Alexander Charlton
1950-52 Mrs. Roswell Linscott

MOUNT DESERT ISLAND
1949-51 Dr. Elizabeth Russell
1951- Miss Margaret Dickie

ORONO-OLD TOWN
(elected in May of year)
1924 Dr. Caroline Colvin
1925 Mrs. Karl Sax
1926 Mrs. W. S. Taylor
1927 Mrs. N. R. Bryan
1928 Mrs. A. M. Turner
1929 Dr. Ava Chadbourne
1930 Miss Marion Buzzell
1931 Mrs. Emma Fitch
1932 Mrs. Asa Adams
1933 Mrs. Lillian Berlew
1934 Mrs. Franklin Dove
1935 Mrs. Iva Burgess
1936 Miss Elizabeth Ring
1937 Mrs. Carl Otto
1938 Mrs. John Huddleston
1939 Mrs. E. Clifford Nelson
1940 Mrs. John Crawford
1941-42 Mrs. Gregory Baker
1943 Mrs. J. Howard Waring
1944 Mrs. John Klein
1945 Miss Edith Wilson
1946-47 Mrs. Ernest Jackman
1948-49 Mrs. Irwin Douglass
1950-51 Mrs. Edwin Giddings

PRESQUE ISLE
1947-48 Mrs. J. C. W. Cooper
1948-49 Mrs. Beulah A. Williams
1949-50 Mrs. Hobson Lamoreau
1950-51 Mrs. Harold Tilley
1951- Mrs. F. J. Anderson

WATERVILLE
1924- Mrs. Edward H. Risley
Records incomplete until
1931-33 Mrs. Benjamin Carter
1933-35 Miss Florence Dunn
1935-37 Mrs. A. Galen Eustis
1937-39 Mrs. J. Franklin McCoy
1939-41 Mrs. Carl J. Weber
1941-43 Mrs. Gordon W. Smith
1943-44 Mrs. Norman Perkins
1944-45 Mrs. Carleton Brown
1945-47 Mrs. Elmer Warren
1947-49 Mrs. Harold Hersom
1949-51 Mrs. Philip Bither
1951-52 Mrs. Gordon W. McKey

YORK COUNTY
1947-48 Mrs. John F. Durham
1948-49 Mrs. Roger Moore
1949-51 Mrs. Carl Landry
1951- Mrs. Clarence Crosby
# TABLE OF MEMBERSHIP AND FELLOWSHIP CONTRIBUTIONS

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Total contributions in 6 years $1322.85

*Includes contributions from friends of AAUW.

1952 membership reported at Winter Board Meeting as 695.

Discrepancy in number of members as reported by branches and by the treasurer is due to the irregularity of date when membership was reported.