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The Society

Maine Historical Society

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THE SOCIETY

In commemoration of the 200th anniversary of the famous Penobscot Expedition of 1779, the Maine Historical Society held its 157th Annual Meeting on the campus of the Maine Maritime Academy at Castine on Saturday, June 16th.

At the morning business session, attended by approximately 130 members and friends, President Earle G. Shettleworth, Jr., of Augusta, presented Donald L. Philbrick and Roger B. Ray with the Society's newly established Elizabeth Ring Service Award, in recognition of their many years of unselfish dedication and devotion to the Society. Both are leaving the Standing Committee after a total combined service of seventy years.

Dr. John W. Hakola of Orono, a member of the Publications Committee, presented the James Phinney Baxter Award of \$100 to Edwin A. Churchill, of Augusta, for his essay, "The Founding of Maine, 1600-1640: A Revisionist Interpretation," which appeared in last summer's issue of the *Quarterly*. The Baxter Award, established to promote excellence in the research and writing of Maine history, is named in honor of James Phinney Baxter (1831-1921), a prominent Portland civic leader, philanthropist, and historian, who served as president of the Society from 1890 until his death in 1921.

Announcement was also made that the following individuals were elected to three-year terms on the Standing Committee: John W. Hakola, of Orono; Mrs. Nancy N. Masterton, of Cape Elizabeth; Mrs. Jane S.

Moody, of Falmouth; Bruce D. Nelson of Cape Elizabeth; William H. Pendleton, of Searsport; David C. Smith, of Orono; and J. Weston Walch, of Portland. Officers for the coming year are: William C. Pierce, of Baldwin, president; Mrs. Joan S. Hayden, of Yarmouth, vice president; John E. Ham, Jr., of Falmouth, secretary; and Donald K. Saunders, of Westbrook, treasurer.

The afternoon speaker was Stephen Brooke, chief conservator of the Maine State Museum, who presented an illustrated lecture on "The Current Efforts at Preservation of Artifacts from the Defence."

In recognition of the bicentennial of the Penobscot Expedition of 1779, the Maine Historical Society will sponsor a noontime public lecture series in the auditorium of the new Portland Public Library at Monument Square.

The first of the illustrated talks on the ill-fated American naval attack on the British forces at present-day Castine will be an historical overview of the expedition by Ronald Kley of the Maine State Museum on October 31. The second presentation will be given on November 7, by Stephen Brooke, also of the State Museum, who will detail the efforts of the museum to salvage and preserve artifacts from the Massachusetts fleet which was scuttled when a superior British naval force arrived. The final talk, dealing with land forces, fortifications, and artifacts, will be presented by Stephen Hyatt of Bangor Community College on November 14.

The public is cordially invited to bring a brown-bag lunch between 11:45 A.M. and noon; beverages and desserts will be available. The lectures will begin at 12:15 P.M. and end promptly before 1:00 P.M. There will be no admission charge.

THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

My second report to you as president of the Maine Historical Society will be brief and to the point. In my first report, I termed the year 1977-78 as one of transition, self-examination, and action for the Society. The same words can be applied to 1978-79. While successfully pursuing our immediate goal of maintaining current services without deficit spending, the Standing Committee broadened its focus to undertake an exhaustive exploration of the needs of our organization. This study was spearheaded by the Executive Committee, which met frequently during the fall and winter months. Its members, Vice President James H. Mundy, Secretary Joan S. Hayden, Treasurer Donald L. Philbrick and members William C. Pierce, Alice R. Stewart, and John W. Hakola gave generously of their time and talents.

The deliberations of the Executive Committee and the Standing Committee as a whole resulted in a clear definition of immediate future funding needs for the Society. They are as follows:

1. Longfellow House Restoration	\$ 50,000
2. Library Repairs	50,000
3. Program Development	80,000
4. Debt Retirement	20,000
5. Art Restoration	50,000
	\$250,000

To this quarter of a million dollar figure should be added a goal of \$200,000 for endowment.

Realizing that these amounts constitute a far more ambitious fund raising effort than those of the past, the Standing Committee retained the services of the nation's foremost fundraising consultants, Ketchum, Incorpo-

rated. Their assistance has resulted in the development of the Society's first major fund drive, which we plan to initiate in the coming year.

The challenges which face the Maine Historical Society are immense, but mastering them will insure the future of an integral part of Maine's heritage. As my term as both president of the Society and a member of the Standing Committee ends, I ask that you join with me in a continuing commitment to meeting the needs and goals of the Maine Historical Society.

Earle G. Shettleworth, Jr.

THE TREASURER'S REPORT

The fiscal year of the Society ends on March 31. We now have our auditor's statement of the financial condition of the Society prepared by Arthur W. Cobb, Jr. CPA. Copies of his report are available for your inspection. At the annual meeting of the Society in Lewiston a year ago, I reported that the Standing Committee had adopted a budget for the fiscal year which provided for a deficit of \$15,932 between expected income and operating expenses. I am happy to say that this deficit was nearly wiped out, for the auditor's report shows that our expenses exceeded income by only \$501. This result was accomplished in part by the dropping of one salaried position during the year and by stringent economies in the accounts for repairs, printing, postage and equipment, although expenses for heat and electricity and expenses for the operation of the Wadsworth-Longfellow House exceeded the budget.

The deficit was further reduced by several grants from local municipalities of \$1,100, a number of generous gifts from members and friends and an increase in the income from our invested funds over the amount budgeted for the year.

I would, therefore, say that the financial condition of the Society is satisfactory. This does not mean that we are out of the woods financially. We have dipped into our principal funds substantially during the last few months for the initial start-up expenses of the Capital Funds Campaign of which you have heard and will be hearing more. A number of investments were changed during the year to provide better security and better income but in doing so substantial paper losses were incurred. The book value of all of our funds at the end of the fiscal year totaled \$633,967 and the market value was some \$45,000 more than that.

The Finance Committee has recommended and the Standing Committee has adopted a budget for the current fiscal year, with once more an expected deficit. There are few substantial changes from prior years' experience. The salary account provides for a modest contribution to individual retirement accounts for our staff. The increased price of fuel and electricity has been recognized. The budget attempts to continue to support the ongoing program of the Society in its many successful, worthwhile and exciting aspects.

As I retire from my duties as treasurer, my thanks are again due to the president and members of the Standing Committee and to the hardworking and efficient staff. I know that my successor can count on their continuing support.

Donald L. Philbrick

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENSE

for the years ended March 31, 1979, 1978 and 1977

	1979	1978	1977
Income:			
Interest and dividends:			
Unrestricted funds	\$ 43,593	\$ 40,512	\$ 38,230
Restricted funds	2,553	1,640	1,811
Longfellow House savings interest	128	87	257
	46,274	42,239	40,298
Dues	19,666	18,978	18,990
Gifts	10,503	25,822	6,689
Grants	31,100	19,160	24,090
Longfellow House receipts	11,771	9,201	8,671
Book sales	4,225	6,516	7,218
Other	3,737	2,691	1,817
	127,276	124,607	107,773
Expenses:			
Salaries, library	54,002	52,831	52,648
Salaries, Longfellow House	10,560	8,278	7,693
Longfellow House expense	7,478	6,924	7,291
Insurance	2,166	2,307	2,881
Utilities	7,900	5,707	5,375
Pensions	1,320	1,320	1,320
Repairs and maintenance	2,266	736	234
Supplies	2,018	1,873	2,341
Payroll taxes	5,587	4,817	4,453
Telephone	1,250	1,228	1,421
Newsletter and printing	8,662	8,990	10,286
Postage and mailing service	3,143	2,638	4,809
Professional services	2,044	2,544	2,509
Custodian fee	1,132	1,161	2,584
Interest	1,709	2,141	2,296
Travel	155	194	203
Equipment purchased	364	1,568	2,275
Expenditure of Restricted			
current funds	3,691	1,720	1,811
Miscellaneous	1,910	1,582	2,489
	117,357	108,559	114,919
Carried forward	9,919	16,048	(7,146)

	<i>1979</i>	<i>1978</i>	<i>1977</i>
Brought forward	\$ 9,919	\$ 16,048	\$(7,146)
Other disbursements and transfers:			
Life beneficiaries — Morton Fund	3,960	3,960	4,360
Transfer of unexpended Restricted current funds	1,765	—	—
Transfer of book sales to Moulton fund	2,566	3,497	5,006
Transfer of book sales to Bicentennial Fund	1,659	3,019	2,212
Appropriation of special appeals gifts for building fund debt retirement	—	5,000	—
Income added to principal of Conant Fund	470	309	288
	10,420	15,785	11,866
Excess of income over expenses and transfers (deficit)	\$(501)	\$ 263	\$(19,012)

Note: Certain reclassifications have been made in the presentation of prior years' amounts to be consistent with current year reporting.

THE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Membership: The continuing erosion of our membership base is a disturbing trend. Primarily as a result of raising membership dues from \$10.00 to \$15.00 in January 1976, total membership in the Society fell from a high of 1,680 in the spring of 1975 to 1,533 by the spring of 1978. Although the Society attracted 190 new members during the 1978/79 fiscal year, the loss of 305 members during this period offset the gain by 115 members.

Unless the current inflationary spiral is soon brought under control, we can only anticipate further losses. Pessimism on this point is prompted by the fact that many of the 190 new members were induced to join the Society because of the imposition on non-members of a genealogical search fee of \$5.00 for mail inquiries, and because the library use fee for non-members was raised from \$1.00 to \$2.00. While some of the new members will undoubtedly remain loyal, it is only realistic to expect that many, if not most, will permit their membership to expire once having completed their research projects.

Under these circumstances, we feel obliged to encourage all those truly interested in the long-term welfare of the Society to do what they can to encourage their friends and neighbors to become members and to join with the Society in the important task of collecting and preserving the historical heritage of Maine.

That the Society is truly an institution serving all the people of Maine is reflected in a recently completed geographical analysis of the membership. That analysis shows that our membership is located in approximately 200 towns and cities throughout the state, and in 38 other states, and in Canada as well. Out-of-state residents account for nearly twenty-four percent of our total membership, the greatest concentration being in:

Massachusetts (69); New York (42); New Hampshire (31); California (20); Connecticut (19); New Jersey (15); Maryland (14); Pennsylvania (13); Florida (12); Vermont (11); and Iowa (10).

Wadsworth-Longfellow House: The Wadsworth-Longfellow House began its summer season on June 4th under the general supervision of Arthur Gerrier who has worked at the House during the past two seasons. Arthur, a graduate student in historic preservation at the University of Vermont, will be assisted by Miss Leigh Beth Braley of Portland, Bernard J. Devine, Jr., of South Portland, Miss Nancy M. Spear of South Portland, and Miss Teresa L. Tripp of North Windham.

As in past years, Mr. Earle G. Shettleworth, Jr., and Dr. Hilda M. Fife graciously conducted an orientation for the guides on Saturday, May 26th. Mr. Shettleworth dealt with the architectural history of the House and with its furnishings, while Dr. Fife imparted some of her vast knowledge of Longfellow and his poetry.

Work at the House should present the guides with some interesting challenges this season. With the first phase of the restoration project now underway, the guides will have to cope with tourists entering through the Congress Street entrance as well as with painters, masons, and carpenters climbing through the windows from the staging that now covers the front facade of this historic structure. We sincerely hope that the inconvenience naturally resulting from the restoration program, combined with the fears of the projected gasoline shortage, does not significantly discourage Society members and tourists from taking advantage of this opportunity to visit one of America's most important historic landmarks.

The restoration is being conducted under the supervision of Mr. Sylvanus Doughty, an architect with Maineform Architecture of Augusta, Maine. Mr. Doughty

has had considerable experience with historic preservation, having worked on the Black Mansion at Ellsworth and on the Chocolate Church and Custom House at Bath.

Extensive repairs will be made to the brickwork of the front facade by Mr. Richard Hossman, owner of the Royal River Brick Company, Yarmouth. Woodwork and window repairs are being executed by Waning & Son, Inc., of Westbrook.

Because of spiraling construction costs, the amount of work to be accomplished with the \$33,000 in grants received from the Community Development Program of Portland and the Maine Historic Preservation Commission has been scaled down significantly. Originally, we had hoped to have all exterior walls and masonry repointed, but, now, primary attention will be given to the Congress Street facade. Likewise, rising costs have forced us to omit doing any work on the wooden trim and windows on the back of the House.

To assist the Society in coping with the ever-increasing maintenance needs of the Wadsworth-Longfellow House and property, the Longfellow Garden Club, last summer, generously paid to have extensive repairs made to the badly disintegrating masonry wall separating the Longfellow Garden from the adjacent parking lot. For this, the Society is, indeed, grateful. It is also appropriate at this time to thank the members of the Garden Club for the careful attention paid in maintaining the Longfellow Garden according to the same exacting standards as have characterized their efforts in past years.

Publications: Because of waning interest, the Society's annual prize essay contest has been discontinued. Concerned by the declining number and quality of submissions in recent years, the Standing Committee, on the recommendation of the Publications Committee, has

established the James Phinney Baxter Award. Named in honor of James Phinney Baxter (1831-1921), a prominent Portland civic leader, philanthropist, and historian, who served as president of the Maine Historical Society from 1890 until his death in 1921, the award carries an honorarium of \$100, and will be presented to the author of the best article published in the *Quarterly* during each volume year. It is hoped that the establishment of this award will serve to promote excellence in the research and writing of Maine history.

Bookbinding: As a result of generous public and private support, the Society has made significant strides in coping with the Library's acute bookbinding needs. In recent months, a total of 556 books, periodicals, and theses have been rebound. This achievement was made possible by a \$500 conservation grant from the Maine State Commission on the Arts and Humanities, matched by a like amount contributed by Mrs. Effie I. Drake of Portland. Another \$1,000 grant came from the Simmons Foundation which, just recently, has donated another \$1,000 to be expended for bookbinding and painting conservation. All those who rely upon the resources of the Maine Historical Society are indeed grateful to these generous benefactors.

While the progress is significant, much remains to be done. Due to the combined effects of age and heavy usage over the years, literally hundreds of volumes which are either difficult or impossible to replace are threatened by certain destruction unless means can be found to assist the Society in coping with this problem. A recent survey of the collection showed that more than 1,200 works needed immediate rebinding, and that a like number will require similar attention in the relatively near future. This survey, concentrating on the most heavily utilized portion of the collection, excluded the Society's extensive collection of early Maine legislative and government documents, nearly

all of which are in need of attention. Care was also taken to exclude from the survey all volumes whose bindings are at least marginally adequate. In view of the overall age of the collection, we anticipate that the bookbinding requirements will rapidly escalate in the years immediately ahead.

Bates Internship Program: While the financial inability of the Society to hire a full-time curator of manuscripts greatly handicaps our ability to deal adequately with our vast manuscripts collection, a useful assist was provided by Debbie Atkins and Anne Kingston, both seniors at Bates College. As participants in the Society's sixth manuscripts internship program which is conducted biennially in cooperation with Bates College, these students obtained valuable experience in the techniques of archival management. During their program, they sorted and cataloged an extensive collection of architectural drawings deposited with the Society several years ago by the Portland firm of Beal, DePeter, and Ward, Inc. They also made extensive progress in arranging and cataloging our valuable collection of daguerreotypes, and each also processed a small manuscripts collection.

Staff: The past year has been marked by an unusual number of staff changes. In November, Mr. Charles D. Heseltine, the Society's very energetic and helpful custodian since 1966, retired. He was replaced by Mr. Clayton E. Shepley, a long-time resident of South Portland, who, in his more active years, had been engaged in both insurance and banking. Upon Mr. Heseltine's retirement, the custodian's position was reduced to half-time in an effort to economize somewhat on salary expenses.

In April of this year, Mrs. Julieanne B. Irving resigned her position as library assistant and supervisor of the Wadsworth-Longfellow House. Her decision to leave was

prompted by both pregnancy and a desire to spend more time with her family. Julie first began work with the Society in July 1971.

Mrs. Ellen G. Torrey, our reference librarian since last August, will be leaving on June 22nd. She will accompany her husband, Dr. Stephen A. Torrey, Jr., to Clementon, New Jersey, where he has accepted a residency in pediatrics. Mrs. Torrey will be replaced by Miss Mary-Kate Murphy, a recent graduate of the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, who has broad experience in library and archival operations.

On a more positive note, it is a pleasure to announce that the Standing Committee has recently voted to provide the professional staff with a pension plan. It is hoped that this move will place the Society in a somewhat better position in its attempt to attract and retain qualified personnel.

Volunteers: The Society is deeply indebted to its volunteers who generously donate their time and talent to the accomplishment of the many routine, but useful, tasks implicit in the successful operation of any specialized library. Particularly worthy of mention in this regard are Mrs. Esta J. Astor, Miss Beth Bailey, Miss Marion Chick, Miss Marion Dunn, Daniel Lorello, and Mrs. Esther Payne, all of whom have made important contributions during the past year.

Anyone interested in typing, organizing scrapbooks, indexing, or working with other aspects of the collections is encouraged to consider volunteer service with the Society. Without such assistance, our ability to render effective service to our library patrons is greatly diminished.

Acquisitions: The collections of the Society continue to be enriched through the generosity of members and friends.

Cited below are just some of the significant contributions received during the past year.

Typescript copies of the Limington proprietors' records, 1774-1803, were given by Mr. Robert Taylor of Steep Falls. Mr. Taylor also provided the Society with photocopies of the birth, death, and marriage records of Limerick, Maine, for the period 1774-1876.

Dr. Peter T. Cyr of West Baldwin, Maine, has donated a collection of papers belonging to the family of Ephraim Brown (1798-1853) of Baldwin. Covering the period 1820-1914, the collection includes the papers of Ephraim Brown, Jerusah (Hill) Brown (1805-1888), Frank B. Brown (1845-1908), Timothy R. Brown (1847-1914), and Wallace B. Brown (1834-1860).

The papers of Stephen A. Jones, a Waldoborough sailmaker, were given by Mr. Steve Riley of Cumberland Foreside. Covering the period 1875-1924, the collection includes lists of vessels built in Bristol, Damariscotta, Newcastle, Nobleboro, and St. George.

Three volumes of records of the First Parish Church of Portland were presented to the Society by the Church. These records cover the period 1726-1826, and include baptisms, admissions, dismissals, warrants and minutes of meetings, and church accounts.

Mrs. Peter Jenness of Cape Elizabeth has donated two large county maps of Cumberland and York, printed in 1851 and 1856, respectively.

In December, Mr. William B. Jordan, Jr., of Portland, presented the Society with a volume containing what is undoubtedly the most complete extant record of burials in Portland's famous Eastern Cemetery. Recording burials from 1707 until 1962, the records give age (or date of birth), date of death, and grave location within the cemetery. A detailed map of grave locations was also provided.

From Mrs. Loring Munro of Stuart, Florida, the Society has received five Wadsworth family manuscripts, the most interesting of which is a handwritten copy of Ichabod Wiswall's pamphlet, "A Judicious Observation of That Dreadful Comet Which Appeared on November the 18th 1680 and Continued Until the 10th of February Following . . ." Annotated "John Wadsworth, his verses made up by his grandfather — Ichabod Wiswall. Written out or Transcribed March ye 31st 1784," this manuscript should help to settle forever the controversy which has surrounded the authorship of the published version which was printed in London by J. Darby in 1683. The confusion as to authorship resulted from the printer's error in confusing an "I" with a "J" Thus, the printed work was credited to "J.W. in *New-England*," rather than to "I. W. in *New-England*."

The First Congregational Church of Wells, Maine, has deposited the records of the First and Second Congregational Churches of Wells with the Society. The First Church records, consisting of six volumes covering the period 1750-1964, contain baptisms, marriages, and deaths, as well as treasurer's records and warrants and minutes of church meetings. The Second Church records consist of twenty volumes for the period 1831-1959, and contain essentially the same type of information found in those cited above.

The Maine Old Cemeteries Association (MOCA) has presented the records of Edwin W. Marble, a memorial stonecutter, who plied his trade at Bath, West Bath, and Skowhegan. This collection, containing the records of a number of other firms, consists of over 100 volumes, and spans the period 1853-1943. The Marble records are now in the process of being carded by MOCA which has donated two teak catalog cabinets to the Society in which to house the cards. When completed, it is estimated that

cards will be made for approximately 38,000 people. By any measure, the Marble papers will prove to be a bonanza for genealogists.

The Central Maine Power Company has made a significant contribution to the Society's transportation holdings by the gift of 196 volumes of financial records relating to Maine street-railway companies. Covering the period 1863-1935, these records provide valuable information on the following roads: Portland & Forest Avenue Horse Railroad; Portland Railroad Company; Westbrook, Windham & Naples Railway; Portland & Cape Elizabeth Railway; Rockland, Thomaston & Camden Street Railway; Norway & Paris Street Railway; Waterville & Fairfield Railway & Light Company; Waterville & Oakland Street Railway; Waterville, Fairfield & Oakland Street Railway; Lewiston, Augusta & Waterville Street Railway. Other roads are included as well.

Mr. Richard F. Dole of South Portland, a frequent contributor, has recently donated his extensive collection of Maine railroad memorabilia. In addition to photographs and hundreds of printed circulars and time schedules of the Maine Central Railroad, the Society has added 304 books and pamphlets to its railroad holdings from this collection. The manuscripts portion, as yet unprocessed, contains miscellaneous inventories, letter books, and records of the Maine Central Railroad, the Androscoggin & Kennebec Railroad, and the European and North American Railway. When completely ready for public inspection, the collection should delight the many railroad enthusiasts who visit the Society each year.

The Tate House at Stroudwater (Portland), has donated an interesting collection of 113 lantern slides of historic

houses in Maine. The documentary value of the collection is enhanced by the fact that some of the structures pictured no longer exist.

Thomas L. Gaffney

NEW MEMBERS

FROM MAINE Bar Mills: Dr. Donald G. Johnson *Camden:* Mr. & Mrs. James M. Perry *Cape Elizabeth:* Mr. John E. Gilmore, Mrs. Nancy N. Masterton, Mr. & Mrs. Roger C. Peterson *Caribou:* Father Frank Morin *Cumberland Foreside:* Mrs. Jane G. McMahon *Falmouth:* Ms. Anne S. Upton *Farmington:* Dr. Arlene F. Low *Gorham:* Mrs. Lucille S. Bangs *Machias:* Mr. Robert W. Sloan *Ocean Park:* Mrs. Jillian C. Jakeman *Penobscot:* Mr. Wyllys Terry, Jr. *Portland:* Ms. Carol Brown, Mr. Henry L. Donovan, Mrs. Dorothy M. Healy, Mr. Arthur Rowe III, Mr. Stewart A. Townsend, Ms. Margaret F. Wilkinson *Scarborough:* Mrs. June Jensen *Searsport:* Mrs. William G. Bowen *South Portland:* Mrs. Arthur Tuck *Waterboro:* Ms. Velda B. Welch *Westbrook:* Mr. James F. Murphy, Mrs. Susan Ruch *Yarmouth:* Mrs. Anne P. Hazzard.

Other States ARIZONA Sedona: Mr. Allen Pendergraft *Tucson:* Mr. Shaw Livermore *CALIFORNIA Corona del Mar:* Mr. Larry Brundage *Costa Mesa:* Mr. Gladstone F. Hatch *La Habra:* Ms. Nola Burkitt *Lake Elsinore:* Mr. Robert Dawe *San Rafael:* Mr. Irving F. Blabon *CONNECTICUT Waterford:* Ms. Anita Emily Stewart-Gorra *MASSACHUSETTS Chestnut Hill:* Mr. Alan Rogers *MINNESOTA Long Lake:* Mr. Roger Avery Stubbs *MISSOURI Columbia:* Ms. Rosalind P. Signaigo *NEW HAMPSHIRE Freedom:* Ms. Elizabeth R. Godfrey *TEXAS Baytown:* Mr. David A. LaGrange *VERMONT Rutland:* Mrs. Payson Rex Webber *WASHINGTON Olympia:* Mr. Irvin T. Ward *WEST INDIES Castries:* Ms. Ruth Taplin.