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The Society

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THE SOCIETY

The 158th Annual Meeting of the Maine Historical Society will be held in Portland on Saturday, June 14th. The main speaker will be Dr. Allan R. Whitmore, an associate professor of history at the University of Southern Maine. The address, "A Guard of Faithful Sentinels: The Know-Nothing Appeal in Maine, 1854- 1855," draws upon Dr. Whitmore's decade of research involving Maine's anti-Catholic Know-Nothing movement which resulted in the tarring and feathering of Father John Bapst at Ellsworth and the burning of the Old South Church at Bath. Dr. Whitmore is the author of "Portrait of a Maine 'Know-Nothing': William H. Chaney (1821-1903), His Early Years, and His Role in the Ellsworth Nativist Controversy, 1853-1854," which appeared in the *Quarterly's* summer issue of 1974. More detailed information on the Annual Meeting will be provided at a later date, but, in the meantime, please mark your calendars.

The Maine State Commission on the Arts and Humanities has awarded the Society a matching grant of \$745.00 for the conservation of a painting of the brig *Harriet* of Portland and an additional \$500.00 has been contributed toward this project by the Simmons Foundation. The painting depicts the *Harriet's* daring rescue of the 325 passengers and crew members of the British ship *Unicorn* which sank in a storm off the Grand Banks of Newfoundland on November 9, 1851. For his role in this heroic rescue, Captain Levi Marston of the *Harriet* was awarded a gold medal by the British

government. The medal and relevant correspondence are also in the collections of the Society. The painting, given by Miss Mabel Marston of Yarmouth, Maine, in 1957, was done by J. B. Smith, an English passenger aboard the *Unicorn*, from a pencil sketch made from the deck of the *Harriet* following his rescue.

Over \$175,000 in pledges and donations have been received by the Society's Maine Heritage Fund campaign, and an application was submitted under the Challenge Grant Program of the National Endowment for the Humanities on February 1st. If the application is approved by the National Endowment, the Society will become eligible for a matching grant of one federal dollar for every three dollars raised from other sources.

On February 27th, the Society celebrated the 173rd anniversary of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's birth by hosting a gala reception at the Wadsworth-Longfellow House, which was attended by approximately three hundred members and guests. Presiding over the festivities was Mr. Wolcott S. Gaines of Portland, the winner of the Society's first annual Longfellow look-alike contest which was generously cosponsored by F. O. Bailey Antiques of Portland.

The House was especially decorated for the occasion by the Longfellow Garden Club and the following ladies acted as hostesses: Mrs. Virginia B. Adamson, Mrs. Edward Y. Blewett, Mrs. Eleanor B. Conary, Mrs. Randolph P. Dominic, Jr., Mrs. Robert J. Elowitch, Mrs. Sarah Bridge Graves, Mrs. William D. Hamill, Mrs. Richard H. Hayden, Mrs. Stephen McD. Johnson, Mrs. Donald B. Kirkpatrick, Mrs. Carleton G. Lane, Mrs. Bernard J. Lewis, Mrs. John McInnes III, Mrs. Clinton D. Merrill, Jr., Mrs. Gerard Lang Miller, Mrs. Kenneth Nelson, Mrs. Millard S. Peabody, Mrs. Sherwood Pickering, Mrs. Parker Poole, Jr., Mrs. Joseph E. Porter,

Mrs. John B. Robinson, Mrs. John E. Robinson, Mrs. Granville I. Smith, Mrs. Barbara Stetson, Mrs. George F. Talbot, Mrs. William H. Truesdale, and Mrs. Millicent Vetterlein.

NEW MEMBERS

FROM MAINE Bar Mills: Mrs. Lawrence E. Schofield *Bridgton:* Mrs. Eleanor Macdonald *Cape Elizabeth:* Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Clark, Mr. Walter P. Jacob, Mr. Norman W. Neil, Jr. *Chebeague Island:* Mrs. Barton F. Curit *Cumberland Center:* Mrs. Jean L. Doane, Mrs. Priscilla F. Gray *Cumberland Foreside:* Mr. & Mrs. William U. Niss *East Poland:* Mrs. Marjorie D. Chamberlain *Falmouth:* Mr. George Bradley, Mr. H. Dexter, Jr., Mr. Kenneth B. Fobes, Mr. Theodore S. Johnson *Freeport:* Mr. M. L. Morris *Gorham:* Mr. & Mrs. Vincent W. Johnson, Miss Margaret Lamb, Mrs. Hope B. Mitchell *Gray:* Mrs. Glendon Cobb *Kennebunk:* Mr. Holmes P. Crabtree *Lewiston:* Mr. Fred L. Riley, Mrs. Nancy A. Taylor *North Whitefield:* Mr. Onofrio Sabatine *Portland:* Mr. Paul E. Conley, Ms. Margaret M. Cook, Mrs. Vivian F. Dickinson, Mr. & Mrs. Randolph P. Dominic, Jr., Mr. Michael Drinan, Mr. James R. Flaker, Mrs. Nancy L. Gallagher, Mr. William H. Howison, Mrs. Arthur Wells Jones, Mr. John F. Kimball, Mrs. Clinton D. Merrill, Jr., Mr. Thomas E. Nunes, Mr. Glenn Eben Perry, Ms. Vivian Russell, Miss Laura M. Small, Mr. Herbert E. Stone, Mr. Gerald E. Talbot, Mr. Peter B. Thomas, Mr. Allen J. Voisine, Mrs. Kay White *Rockport:* Mrs. Theodore S. Sprague *Scarborough:* Mrs. Robert W. Prout, Mr. Christopher D. Snell *Skowhegan:* Mr. Eric R. Lahti *South Paris:* Mr. Frederick L. Attwood *South Portland:* Mrs. Martha W. Winslow *South Windham:* Mr. Donald W. Hunter *Standish:* Mrs. Mae E. Sennett *Temple:* Mr. & Mrs. Hartley C. Farmer *Tenants Harbor:* Mr. Wallace M. Gage *Thomaston:* Rev. Robert Howard *Turner:* Mrs. Marguerite C. Varney *Warren:* Mr. & Mrs. Bartholomew J. Pellicani *Whitneyville:* Dr. John C. Bodger *Yarmouth:* Mrs. Kimberly A. Darling, Mrs. Diane M. Hamilton, Mr. Matson M. Lord, Mr. & Mrs. Wilmont M. Schwind, Jr.

*Other States CALIFORNIA Chester: Mrs. Emma Callaghan
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 Valley: Mrs. Leonore Dorr Wiley COLORADO Gunnison: Mr.
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 Spring Harbor: Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence J. Hahn Honeoye Falls: Mrs.
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 Nancy DeLux RHODE ISLAND Westerly: Mrs. William R. Kelly
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