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## The Society

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## THE SOCIETY

The 156th Annual Meeting of the Maine Historical Society, held on the campus of Bates College in Lewiston on June 17th, was attended by approximately 130 members and guests.

At the morning business session, announcement was made that the following persons had been elected to serve three year terms on the Standing Committee: Mrs. Virginia Adamson of Peaks Island; Mrs. Eleanor B. Conary of Gilead; Joseph W. P. Frost of Eliot; John E. Ham, Jr. of Falmouth; Bruce W. Hazelton of Cumberland Center; James H. Mundy of Scarborough; and Mrs. Frances Peabody of Portland.

E. Marie Estes and Elizabeth Ring, both of Portland, were elected Honorary Members of the Society. First employed as a hostess at the Wadsworth-Longfellow House in 1904, Miss Estes resigned her duties as reference librarian in February, 1970, after a total of sixty-six years of service. Affectionately known to her friends as "Mrs. Longfellow," Miss Estes' long association with the Society links today's members with generations long past. Now in her "youthful" nineties, she has lost nothing of her grace, charm, and good cheer.

Miss Ring, chairman of the history department of Deering High School at the time of her retirement in 1969, has been a member of the Standing Committee since 1949. In addition to having served as vice president from 1956 until 1973, she was also acting director from 1963

until 1966, and editor of the *News-Letter* from 1961 until 1966. Well known as a teacher and writer of Maine history, Miss Ring will always be remembered for her 1935 survey of Maine manuscripts which resulted in the publication of *A Reference List of Manuscripts Relating to the History of Maine* in 1938. Although the list has never been updated, it remains a most valuable research tool even today. Of like importance is her *Maine Bibliographies: A Bibliographical Guide*, published by the Society in 1973 as part of the Maine History Bibliographical Guide Series.

At its organizational meeting the Standing Committee elected the following officers for the current year: Earle G. Shettleworth, Jr., president; James H. Mundy, vice president; Joan S. Hayden, secretary; and Donald L. Philbrick, treasurer.

Mrs. Ellen Goodwin Torrey has joined the staff as reference librarian. Born and reared in West Gardiner, Maine, Mrs. Torrey received her B.A. in history from the University of Maine at Orono in 1974. Following graduation, she worked as a guide at the Wadsworth-Longfellow House during the summers of 1975 and 1976. Ellen currently resides in Portland with her husband, Dr. Stephen Torrey, who is doing his internship at the Osteopathic Hospital of Maine.

## *THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT*

The past year has been one of transition, self-examination, and action. At this time last year the Maine Historical Society faced the search for a new director, a \$12,500 operating deficit, a \$26,000 mortgage on the Nichols Hall addition, and major repairs on both the Wadsworth-Longfellow House and the Library. I am pleased to report that the Standing Committee accepted the challenge presented by these problems and has made genuine progress towards solving them.

My first responsibility as president was to appoint a search committee for a new director. Consisting of Dr. Alice R. Stewart, James H. Mundy, Donald L. Philbrick and myself as chairman, this committee prepared a job description for the position and placed advertisements in several Maine newspapers, stipulating a December 1, 1977, deadline for accepting applications. From the fifty individuals who applied, the committee selected four highly qualified candidates to interview. Following interviews with these four applicants, the committee made the unanimous recommendation to the Standing Committee that the Society's acting director, Thomas L. Gaffney, be appointed director as of January 1, 1978. This recommendation was unanimously approved by the Standing Committee at its December 16, 1977, meeting.

The decision to hire Mr. Gaffney as director was based upon the outstanding work which he had accomplished for us as manuscripts librarian as well as the administrative capabilities which he had demonstrated during his seven months as acting director. His first six months as director have already confirmed the wisdom of our choice, and we have every confidence in his ability to continue to carry out the work of the Society.

Second only to finding a capable administrator was the problem of financing the Society's on-going operations. Within the last decade, staffing and services have grown significantly as a direct response to an increasing interest in Maine history and genealogy on the part of our members and the public at large. Coming in a highly inflationary period, these new demands resulted in a dramatically expanded budget which quickly placed us in the position of running a deficit of \$10,000 to \$15,000 each year, a deficit that is charged to principal. It was clear that if this practice continued, all the assets developed by the Society over the past century and a half would be in jeopardy.

When I called the Standing Committee together on July 22, 1977, for a special meeting on the financial status of the Society, there were two choices facing us. The first was to curtail staffing and services in order to balance the budget and avoid the impending \$12,500 deficit. The second was to embark upon a fund raising campaign. Standing Committee member J. Weston Walch rose to the occasion by offering to make a \$5,000 gift to the Society if we could raise the \$7,500 balance by December 15, 1977.

As a result of this meeting, a fund raising committee was appointed to develop a strategy for providing for both the immediate and long-term financial needs of the Society. Under the able leadership of Elizabeth Ring who had conducted our 1972 fund drive, the committee sent a letter of appeal to all of the Society's members and friends which outlined the following three point goal:

- (1) To raise \$7,500 to match the Walch challenge grant of \$5,000 to eliminate the current deficit.
- (2) To raise \$6,500 to assist in providing for a director's salary beginning January 1, 1978.
- (3) To raise \$26,000 to repay the balance of the outstanding debt on the Nichols Hall addition, thus re-

moving this item from future annual budgets.

The work of the fund raising committee, coupled with the solicitation efforts of individual members of the Standing Committee, resulted in 330 gifts totaling \$25,822. This money enabled the Society to meet its budgeted commitment without incurring a deficit, to hire a new director, and to retire \$5,000 of the \$26,000 debt. While falling short of its \$40,000 goal, this fund drive produced the most generous outpouring of support for the Society in its history, and we are deeply grateful to all who participated.

The third major area of concern for the Maine Historical Society during the past year has been the deteriorating condition of its two properties, the Wadsworth-Longfellow House (built in 1785-1786) and the Library (built in 1907). While the Society has benefited by limited financial assistance in various forms from the State of Maine since the mid-nineteenth century, we had never sought federal funds until the pressing needs of our two buildings steered us in that direction. The result has been that the Society requested and received \$15,000 in federal Community Development money from the City of Portland for exterior brickwork repairs on the Wadsworth-Longfellow House. These funds are being matched by an additional \$15,000 federal Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service grant from the Maine Historic Preservation Commission. While these federal funds are expected to cover most of the cost of the immediate problem of crumbling brickwork on the facade of the House, other basic needs such as proper insulation will require us to look to public and private sources in the near future.

Unfortunately, the status of exterior repairs to the Library is far bleaker. While the Society was successful in its first application for \$3,000 in Community Development

funds from the City of Portland, a change in federal regulations prevented us from obtaining the \$12,000 requested in our second application. Thus, of the \$15,000 needed to repair the roof, cornicing, window sashes, and brickwork of the Library, \$12,000 remains unfunded, leaving the exterior fabric of the building in an increasingly deplorable state of deterioration.

Even bleaker are the budgetary prospects for the coming year. Last month the Standing Committee approved a minimum budget for essential services which projects a deficit of approximately \$15,000. Regrettably, this does not provide for the seriously needed staff positions of manuscripts librarian and objects curator. To balance this budget and provide for building repairs and debt retirement, the Society must again appeal to the generosity of its members and friends. In addition, we must reassess our present level of requests to such traditional funding sources as the Maine legislature. Moreover, we must continue to explore the possibilities of assistance from such new governmental sources as the Maine Commission on the Arts and Humanities, CETA, the National Historical Publications and Records Commission, and the National Institute of Museum Services.

According to William Willis who served as president of the Maine Historical Society from 1855 to 1865, our organization "in its early years made but slow progress. It was poor; it had to struggle with many difficulties; it was dependent for its resources on an annual assessment, which came slowly into the treasury or not at all. Little interest was then taken in historical studies; our people were so much absorbed in their material occupations, and so few with surplus capital took an interest in historical or literary pursuits, that they made no contribution for their advancement."

After reflecting upon this statement, we can take heart that despite the seriousness of our present difficulties, the Maine Historical Society has progressed a long way from Willis's dismal description of our early years. The nation's fourth oldest historical organization, we now have more than 1,500 members, the finest collection of printed and manuscript material pertaining to Maine history and genealogy in the state, a pictorial and three-dimensional objects collection of rich diversity, and numerous publications to our credit.

With these unparalleled resources, we are striving to fulfill our purpose by providing access to Maine's past for all who seek it. None of us ask that we return to the past, but we do insist that what remains from the past be available to each generation so that they can learn from it. Such a holding action by alert contemporaries of each generation has been and continues to be our essential role.

Based upon the accomplishments of the past year, I am confident that the membership and Standing Committee of the Maine Historical Society possess the determination, the commitment, and the concern necessary to find the means to meet the challenges of our role, both in the coming year and in the years that follow.

Earle G. Shettleworth, Jr.



## *THE TREASURER'S REPORT*

Just one year ago at the Annual Meeting of the Society at Farmington, I reported as chairman of the Finance Committee that a budget had been adopted which showed a deficit in the operating account of \$12,528 and I urged the Society to set about to find the means to raise the funds to wipe out this deficit. The challenge was accepted, and not only was the deficit met, but enough additional funds were raised so that \$5,000 could be applied to the outstanding bank loan incurred for the Nichols Hall addition of 1972.

The fiscal year of the Society ends on March 31, and the auditor's report as of that date shows that our total income from all sources was \$124,607.00. Our operating expenses for the year were slightly over the expected amount budgeted, but thanks to the success of the special appeal for gifts and after the payment of the \$5,000 on the bank loan, we ended the year with a surplus of income over expenses and transfers of \$263.00.

The Finance Committee had its annual budget meeting on May 15th of this year and recommended to the Standing Committee at its May meeting a budget for the current year. I feel it is a realistic budget which recognizes continuing inflation in the costs of goods and services which we must obtain, yet does not impair the activities which the members of the Society have a right to expect. The budget as finally approved again provides for a substantial deficit between expected income and expenses which we must continue to provide for. I am sure that the staff and officers of the Society will be looking into new sources of income during the coming year in order to reduce or eliminate this deficit.

In my first year as your treasurer, I have relied upon the assistance of Mrs. Sigrid Austin, your very able and

efficient secretary, and my special thanks to Roger B. Ray, who after many years as treasurer and president of the Society, has continued his loyal service in reviewing the portfolio of securities in the Society's endowment funds and shared with me the wealth of his long experience.

Donald L. Philbrick

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENSE

for the years ended March 31, 1978, 1977 and 1976

	1978	1977	1976
<b>Income:</b>			
<b>Interest and dividends:</b>			
Unrestricted funds	\$ 40,512	\$ 38,230	\$ 35,997
Restricted funds	1,640	1,811	1,513
Longfellow House savings interest	87	257	143
	42,239	40,298	37,653
Dues	18,978	18,990	17,100
Gifts	25,822	6,689	5,593
Grants	19,160	24,090	27,900
Longfellow House receipts	9,201	8,671	9,665
Book sales	6,516	7,218	4,588
Other	2,691	1,817	1,885
	124,607	107,773	104,384
<b>Expenses:</b>			
Salaries, library	52,831	52,648	54,847
Salaries, Longfellow House	8,278	7,693	5,276
Longfellow House expense	6,924	7,291	4,654
Insurance	2,307	2,881	3,029
Utilities	5,707	5,375	3,983
Pensions	1,320	1,320	1,290
Repairs and maintenance	736	234	1,990
Supplies	1,873	2,341	2,622
Payroll taxes	4,817	4,453	3,844
Telephone	1,228	1,421	1,369
Newsletter and printing	8,990	10,286	7,157
Postage and mailing service	2,638	4,809	2,256
Professional services	2,544	2,509	2,443
Custodian fee	1,161	2,584	2,394
Interest	2,141	2,296	2,652
Travel	194	203	597
Equipment purchased	1,568	2,275	1,678
Miscellaneous	1,582	2,489	1,780
	106,839	113,108	103,861
Carried forward	17,768	(5,335)	523

	<i>1978</i>	<i>1977</i>	<i>1976</i>
Brought forward	\$ 17,768	\$ (5,335)	\$ 523
Other disbursements and transfers:			
Life beneficiaries — Morton Fund	3,960	4,360	4,560
Expenditure of restricted current funds	1,720	1,811	1,513
Transfer of book sales to Moulton fund	3,497	5,006	4,588
Transfer of book sales to Bicentennial Fund	3,019		
Appropriation of special appeals gifts for building fund debt retirement	5,000		
Income added to principal of Conant Fund	309	288	265
	17,505	13,677	10,926
Excess of income over expenses and transfers (deficit)	\$ 263	\$(19,012)	\$(10,403)

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

## THE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Despite the important challenges of the past year, the Maine Historical Society remains remarkably vital, and continues to render a wide range of important services to the people of Maine. During the past year, the combined facilities of the Library and the Wadsworth-Longfellow House were utilized by more than 13,000 people, exclusive of the additional hundreds who were provided with reference assistance by mail and telephone.

The record of accomplishments, briefly outlined below, could not have been achieved without the loyal and generous support of the members and friends of the Society.

*Publications:* The publications program remains vigorous. In the fall, Roger Ray's revised bibliography, *The Indians of Maine and the Atlantic Provinces* was published as part of the Maine History Bibliographical Guide Series. This update of the 1972 edition greatly expands the number of references to primary and secondary source material pertaining to northeastern Indians, and extends its coverage to include the Atlantic Provinces of Canada.

On December 24, 1977, the Society published *Maine, Charles II and Massachusetts: Governmental Relationships in Early Northern New England*. This 278 page monograph, carefully examining the forging of governmental relationships designed to cope with the problems of American colonization, is the first to appear in the Maine Historical Society Research Series. The Research Series, produced and distributed by University Microfilms of Ann Arbor, Michigan, provides the Society with a relatively inexpensive means of expanding its offerings of important works in Maine history.

Less scholarly is our new coloring book, *Scenes from Longfellow's Poems*, which has only recently appeared. The artwork, done by Mrs. Sandra J. Whitmore, consists of forty delightful drawings based upon the poems of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. Hopefully, the book will prove to be a popular item with the thousands of tourists who visit the Wadsworth-Longfellow House each year.

“Colonel John Black of Ellsworth (1781-1856),” by Rebecca Robbins, an article appearing in the winter issue of the *Quarterly*, has been reprinted under separate cover, and will be available for the tourist trade at the Black Mansion in Ellsworth.

*Wadsworth-Longfellow House*: Special thanks are due to Mrs. William J. Murphy who has served as chairwoman of the House Committee for the past fourteen years. The many improvements made in the House operation during that period have come about largely through Marje's untiring industry and devotion, and have reflected great credit upon the Society. Although Marje will be leaving the Standing Committee this year, we are confident that she will do her utmost to make her successor's transition an easy one.

As indicated last year, the Wadsworth-Longfellow House is in serious need of restoration. Acting on the basis of a survey done by Mr. David M. Hart, Director of Consulting Services of the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities, the Society applied to the Maine Historic Preservation Commission and to the City of Portland for financial assistance. On December 12, 1977, the Commission approved our application for a grant of \$15,000. This allowed us to enter a contract with the City of Portland for the receipt of an additional \$18,000 in Community Development Funds. Although the restoration has not yet begun, architectural services have been retained, and the specifications are in the process of

being finalized. Unless there are unforeseen difficulties, the work should get underway in the very near future.

Since the House operation has contributed significantly to the Society's recent budget deficits, the House Committee has decided to raise admissions beginning with the current season. The rate structure is as follows: adults, \$1.50; senior citizens, \$1.00; students (ages 13 to 20), \$1.00; and children (under 12), 50¢. Members of the Society continue to be admitted at no cost.

*Acquisitions:* The generosity of the members and friends of Society continues to enrich our already valuable collections of books, manuscripts, and artifacts. Although the number of acquisitions decline somewhat, the overall quality is impressive. In addition to the gifts previously cited in the *Quarterly*, those listed below constitute a fair representation of the important items received during the past year.

Mr. Marvin Sadik, Director of the National Portrait Gallery in Washington, D.C., has donated a small collection (77 items) of Levi C. Wade papers which relate to the purchase of the Knox & Lincoln Railroad by a Boston syndicate. The collection, covering the period 1889-1890, includes some correspondence of Arthur Sewall of Bath, the vice presidential running mate of William Jennings Bryan in 1896.

Another transportation collection was obtained by purchasing Mr. Charles D. Heseltine's important collection of over 500 photographic negatives of Maine's street railroads. Mr. Heseltine enhanced the research value of this collection by donating a copy of his massive compilation of data on street railroad companies in Maine.

Last August, Mrs. Bertha Hamlin MacDuffie of Newbury, Massachusetts, presented an autograph letter (dated May 10, 1836) of Hannibal Hamlin, Lincoln's first vice president, concerning the timber investments. In

March, Mrs. Alice Kiernan of Port Charlotte, Florida, donated the official certificate (dated December 14, 1792) announcing the marriage intentions of Cyrus Hamlin and Anna Livermore, the parents of Hannibal Hamlin.

Mr. John Frost of New York City has given an autograph letter (dated May 25, 1734) of Thomas Westbrook to William Pepperrell which mentions the rumors of war and the shipment of masts.

The membership applications of the Maine Society of the Order of Founders and Patriots of America will be of particular interest to the genealogists. These applications, given to the Society in September, contain much useful genealogical information on the applicant's colonial and revolutionary lines of descent.

In November, Ms. Pamela K. Harer of San Bernardino, California, presented a manuscript containing Judge David Sewall's charge to the grand jury in the case relating to the indictment of Thomas Bird in 1789 on charges of piracy. Bird, the first to be tried under the piracy laws of the United States, was later hanged.

Mr. and Mrs. Philip Isaacson of Lewiston have donated an unusual 19th century cartoon. Entitled, "Portland Watch. or Cracking Notes," the cartoon is believed to have been done by Joseph T. Harris while in Portland in 1834. Harris dedicated the cartoon to Alexander H. Jencks, Henry T. Harris, Jott and Seth Paine, and Frederick Mellen.

Miss Eugene TenBrink of Marlinton, West Virginia, has presented Rev. Nehemiah Hunt's record book of marriages and baptisms performed between 1815 and 1850. These records include people from Avon, Chesterville, Farmington, Phillips, Strong, Temple, and Wilton, Maine. They were published in *The New England Historical and Genealogical Register*, vol. 109 (1955), pp. 182-84.



Two important sets of diaries have also been received. In March, Miss Evelyn Littlefield of St. Petersburg, Florida, presented five diaries (plus typescript copies of same) of Mrs. Persis (Sibley) Andrews Black (1813-1891) of Freedom, Dixfield, and Paris, Maine. Covering the period 1841-1853, these diaries are of extraordinary literary quality, and contain many insights into the customs and society of the time. They are given in memory of Miss Miriam Eunice Andrews. The second collection of diaries is the gift of Mrs. Frederick Thompson of Portland. Written by Rev. Caleb Bradley (1722-1861), a Congregational minister from Westbrook, and consisting of 17 volumes (plus typescript copies), the diaries cover the period 1829-1857. Mrs. Thompson's gift complements the 21 volume collection of Bradley diaries already in our collection.

From the estate of the late Mr. and Mrs. Louis Korn, long-time benefactors of the Society, we have received a grandfather clock and three Oriental rugs. The clock, built by Silas Hoadley (1786-1870) of Plymouth, Connecticut, is adorned by a handsomely carved wooden eagle. Mr. Hoadley, a famous clockmaker, was an associate of Seth Thomas until 1810, and manufactured clocks in his own right between 1810 and 1849.

In December, Mr. O. William Robertson of Portland, donated a late 19th century collection of over 500 glass plate negatives and lantern slides of Portland and environs. This unusually fine collection is almost entirely identified.

Thomas L. Gaffney

## NEW MEMBERS

*FROM MAINE Anson:* Mrs. Edwina V. Gray *Augusta:* Mr. & Mrs. George L. Smith *Belfast:* Mr. Raymond L. Torrey *Brewer:* Mrs. Deborah I. Rand *Cape Elizabeth:* Mrs. Mary Lou Elwell, Mr. Ernest A. Hill *Damariscotta:* Mr. Ludlow Elliman *East Baldwin:* Mr. & Mrs. Stephen P. Butler *Falmouth:* Mr. John Mulkern, Mrs. Aimee M. Outhouse *Five Islands:* Mrs. Patricia V. Morgan *Gardiner:* Mrs. Ralph M. Clark *Gorham:* Mrs. Gordon Trynor *Hallowell:* Mr. Harry C. Bell *Harrison:* Mr. Jerry Genesio *Hiram:* Mr. Francis W. Lyons *Houlton:* Mr. Garth M. Gooding *Machias:* Mr. Lyman L. Holmes *North Windham:* Sister Mary de la Salle *O'Donnell Portland:* Mr. & Mrs. George B. Morrill, Dr. & Mrs. David S. Wyman *Richmond:* Mr. Robert L. Bradley *Rockland:* Mrs. Barbara L. Perkins, Mr. Clifford Richards, Jr. *Rumford Center:* Mr. & Mrs. William N. Weston *Scarborough:* Mr. C. James Allen *South Portland:* Mrs. Jeannine Roberts *Southwest Harbor:* Mr. William N. Ferm *Westbrook:* Ms. Jean Jordan *Windham:* Miss Rose McDermott *Wiscasset:* Mr. Michael P. Chaney *Yarmouth:* Mr. & Mrs. John A. Finch.

*Other States ARIZONA Green Valley:* Mrs. Verna Everton *CALIFORNIA Claremont:* Mr. Michael P. Palmer *Los Angeles:* Mr. Peter D. Greene, Mr. Kenneth M. Morrison *CONNECTICUT Cheshire:* Mrs. Nancy F. Cunningham *Groton:* Mrs. Ronald G. Munro *FLORIDA St. Petersburg Beach:* Mr. Kenneth E. Creed, Jr. *GEORGIA Marietta:* Mr. Nelson B. Eldred III *HAWAII Honolulu:* Mrs. Donald Doty *LOUISIANA Metairie:* Mr. Ronald B. Parker *MARYLAND Annapolis:* Capt. Joseph L. Miller, Jr., USN *MASSACHUSETTS Mansfield:* Mrs. Helena G. White *North Quincy:* Mr. Herbert N. Colcord *Reading:* Mr. Frederick R. Boyle, Mrs. Winnifred Greenleaf *Stow:* Mr. & Mrs. John J. Grady, Jr. *Winchester:* Mr. Jack Farrell *MISSOURI Gainesville:* Mrs. Hilda E. Lincoln *NEW HAMPSHIRE New London:* Mrs. A. J. Pattison *NEW JERSEY Morris Plains:* Mr. Joseph B. McCaffrey *OREGON Coos Bay:* Mrs. Ernest J. Standeven *Salem:* Mr. Howard P. Lowell *White City:* Miss Elsie M. Best *PENNSYLVANIA Zelienople:* Mr. James F. Jamison *TEXAS San Antonio:* Mrs. Joseph J. Marty *VERMONT Newfane:* Mr. Earl S. Gardner.

*LIFE MEMBERS*

Mrs. Elizabeth Pierce Stout  
*Huntington, New York*

Mrs. Linda B. Jones  
*Windsor, Maine*

MAINE ACADEMIC HISTORIANS\*  
Proceedings, 1977

The papers contained in this issue of the *Maine Historical Society Quarterly* were presented at a meeting of the Maine Academic Historians held at the Augusta Civic Center on October 22, 1977.

The principal presentation, "The Founding of Maine, 1600-1640: A Revisionist Interpretation," by Edwin A. Churchill, represents a brief preview of the research being done in the origins of colonial Maine by the author for his doctoral dissertation, "Challenge of the Frontier: The History of Falmouth, Maine, 1624-1675." The essay is a brief condensation of far more extensive expositions and analyses being developed in the dissertation, and addresses questions not previously considered elsewhere.

Balance and perspective are added to Mr. Churchill's work by the commentary of Charles E. Clark, author of *The Eastern Frontier: The Settlement of Northern New England, 1610-1763*, published by Alfred A. Knopf in 1970.

\*Name changed to Organization of Maine Historians in 1978