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The Society

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Maine Historical Society Quarterly

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THE SOCIETY

Annual Meeting: For the first time in the history of the Society, the 1974 Annual Meeting will be held on the campus of Colby College, located just two miles outside Waterville, Maine. At their meeting in December, the Standing Committee accepted the gracious invitation of Colby College and set the date for Annual Meeting on Saturday, June twenty-second.

Plans for the meeting are in the hands of the Public Relations Committee around the general theme: *Maine Art and Architecture*; Earle G. Shettleworth, Jr., Chairman, with John W. Hakola and Elizabeth Ring. Final details, program, and luncheon arrangements will be provided each member in a separate mailing in May. We hope that you will make a point of marking your calendar at this time. If you have not already had the pleasure, annual meeting time will give you and your guests an opportunity to see Colby's new Museum and Art facility dedicated only last fall.

Nominations for Standing Committee Invited: The Committee to nominate candidates for vacancies on the Standing Committee occurring in June, 1974, will be appointed by President Silsby on March 15th. The Committee will consist of two members from the present

Standing Committee and three members drawn from the membership of the Society. This Committee will nominate seven candidates to serve on the Standing Committee for three year terms, and one candidate to serve for a one year term.

Members now serving whose terms are due to expire in June, 1974, are: Dr. Hilda M. Fife (Eliot, Maine), Arthur T. Forrestall (Portland), James S. Kriger (Portland), James S. Leamon (Poland), Martial D. Maling (Portland), James H. Mundy (Augusta), David A. Nichols (Lincolntonville), and Harry W. Rowe of Lewiston. Last September, Mr. Mundy accepted an invitation to fill a vacancy brought about by the resignation of Mrs. Edwin L. Giddings, whose term was due to expire in 1975. In accordance with the bylaws, the filling of such vacancies is valid "for a period which does not extend beyond the next annual meeting of the Society." Hence, the need to elect eight rather than the customary seven candidates this year. All of the above named people are eligible for reelection since none have served three consecutive terms, the maximum allowed under the bylaws.

All members of the Society are invited to communicate their suggestions for candidates at any time from now until May 24, 1974, when the Nominating Committee must make their final decisions in order to mail ballots to all members. Suggestions for candidates for the Standing Committee should be addressed to the *Nominating Committee* and sent to the Society's headquarters in Portland.

Nominations for candidates may also be achieved by a petition of twenty or more members of the Society. In order to be placed on the official ballot for next June, petitions must be in the hands of the Secretary, Harry W. Rowe, no later than May 24, 1974. These petitions

should be addressed to the Secretary, and mailed to the Society headquarters.

150th Anniversary Building Project: Since the last full report to the membership at Annual Meeting last year, plans have been fully articulated for the manuscript stack addition by the Portland firm of Wadsworth, Boston, Dimick, Mercer, & Weatherill, Architects. Construction bids have been received, and it now appears that the total cost for the project will be \$54,000. Upon the recommendation of the Building and Finance Committees, the Standing Committee authorized the Society's Treasurer to negotiate a bank loan in order to proceed with construction as soon as possible. It was felt that to hesitate for even a week longer for sufficient funds would only result in further erosion of the \$16,000 raised for the project, due to skyrocketing construction costs.

The *150th Anniversary Fund Committee* was pleased indeed to receive additional contributions from Mr. Martial D. Maling of Portland, Mrs. John R. Rand of Freeport, and Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Walch, since our last report. In light of the revised estimate quoted above, much more is needed, obviously; further contributions, all tax deductible, to the Building Fund will be most welcome at any time.

At the time the Nichols Hall annex was built, in the early 1950's, every effort was made to provide adequate climate control for the Society's valuable collections of books and manuscripts. Meanwhile, impressive advances in air conditioning technology rendered most earlier systems inadequate, if not completely obsolete. Therefore, in addition to enlarging the storage capacity in Nichols Hall for books and manuscripts, plans include updating the present air conditioning equipment. This decision was felt to be all the more imperative since a portion of

the new area will be used for the storage of the Society's collection of paintings and other climate sensitive articles. Fortunately, much of the earlier installation can be utilized in this revision.

Construction will begin sometime this spring, possibly as early as April. In order to achieve the necessary modifications, the entire Main Reading Room of the Library will be used for temporary storage of the contents of Nichols Hall, including collections and stack furniture. This will mean that the Library will be closed for a period of approximately three months. Although the full Library Staff will be working "behind the scenes" so to speak, the building will be closed down entirely for any public activity during the construction period. Such schedules are difficult to predict, dependent as they are upon the arrival of materials and work forces, however, we hope to be ready to reopen by mid-Summer.

Boston Tea Party: Over one hundred members and their guests gathered at the Wadsworth-Longfellow House on the afternoon of December sixteenth to commemorate the two hundredth anniversary of the Boston Tea Party. Just a hint of the oncoming Christmas season was suggested in the decorations created by Miss Hannah R. Adams, Chatelaine for the Longfellow House; since, because of the energy shortage, the House was not to be open for the week as previously planned.

Three patriotic societies were represented at the tea table: Mrs. Hubert H. Hauck, President of the Colonial Dames, Mrs. Edward J. Norris, Regent, Daughters of the American Revolution, and Mrs. Henry K. Adamson, Jr. of The Mayflower Society. In addition, Miss E. Marie Estes and Miss Elizabeth Ring helped preside at the table on behalf of the Maine Historical Society.

THE MAINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
TAKES PLEASURE IN ANNOUNCING
ITS FIFTH ANNUAL PRIZE ESSAY
CONTEST IN MAINE HISTORY

- PURPOSE** To encourage the study of Maine History and to promote the publication of serious research efforts in the field.
- CRITERIA** Originality, accuracy, and scholarship, which shows an obvious use of source materials.
- ELIGIBILITY** Open to members and non-members of the Society. Ineligible are members of the Staff and Standing Committee of the Society.
- MANUSCRIPTS** No more than 5000 words in length, typewritten, double-spaced. Not previously published. Please submit manuscripts to: Director, Maine Historical Society, 485 Congress Street, Portland, Maine 04111.

DEADLINE: June 1, 1974

- AWARD** One hundred dollars and publication in the Quarterly. Winner will be announced at the Annual Meeting of the Society on June 22, 1974.



As usual at such affairs, the reason that the House looked immaculate, and the reason that all refreshments flowed with such deceptive ease was due to the skillful planning and behind-the-scene efforts of the Wadsworth-Longfellow House Committee, Mrs. William J. Murphy, Chairman, Mrs. Malcolm H. Barto, Mrs. John McInness, III, Mrs. Karl R. Philbrick, and Mrs. John B. Sloggett, along with Miss Adams.

A dozen treasures from the autograph collections of Dr. John S. Fogg, letters of participants in the 1773 drama, were brought over from the vaults of the Society for the inspection of interested members.

In the photograph opposite this page Mr. Edmund E. Lynch, Jr., youngest member of the Maine Historical Society receives his cup of tea from Mrs. Hubert H. Hauck, President of Colonial Dames, having just been introduced by Miss Hannah R. Adams, Chatelaine of the House. This photograph is reproduced through the kind courtesy of the photographer, Alice Brown.

PUBLICATIONS

Scheduled for publication this spring is *The Blaine House: Home of Maine's Governors*, by H. Draper Hunt, professor of History at the University of Maine, Portland-Gorham, and author of *Hannibal Hamlin of Maine: Lincoln's First Vice-President*, published in 1969. Dr. Hunt holds a B.A. degree from Harvard, and the M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from Columbia University. He has been active as a member of the Society's Standing Committee for the past six years.

The Blaine House is the third book to come out under the dual imprint: *New Hampshire Publishing Company* — *Maine Historical Society*, and the first to contain wholly new material from beginning to end. Indeed, *The Blaine House* is more than a joint venture. Funds were made available to the author from the Governor's Office to cover some of the research expenses, and funds were appropriated by the State Legislature to aid in production costs.

Members of the Society are sure to find this book a delight. Mrs. Kenneth M. Curtis, wife of the present Governor, provided the impetus for a Blaine House history; and in carrying out his assignment, Draper Hunt has managed to recapture vividly the pulse of life in the house once occupied by the energetic James G. Blaine, and, since 1919, by the Governors of the State of Maine. The volume is well illustrated throughout, and displays that careful attention to design we have come to expect from the talents assembled at the New Hampshire Publishing Company.

Before the Spring issue of the *Quarterly* is mailed, members of the Society will receive their copy of *Maine*

During the Colonial Period: A Bibliographical Guide, by Charles E. Clark, professor of History at the University of New Hampshire and author of *The Eastern Frontier: The Settlement of Northern New England, 1660-1763*, published in 1970. *Maine During the Colonial Period* is the fourth in the Society's series aimed at providing up-to-date orientation for researchers in Maine history. All compilers for the series have been urged to personalize their experience with their subject specialties and present readers with a bibliographical distillation. Dr. Clark has succeeded in producing the nearest thing to a "narrative" bibliography we have yet seen in this series. As a result, we feel sure that members will thoroughly enjoy reading it in addition to using it for its obvious reference value, which is considerable.

Correction: On December 10, 1973, the following communication was received from Donald L. Philbrick, past President of the Society, and presently a member of the Standing Committee:

"In the notes provided by Mrs. Jane Smith Moody concerning St. John Smith, her ancestor, in the current *Quarterly* [Volume 13, no. 2, page 76] there is a misstatement that should be corrected. She said that the St. John Smith residence at Spring and Oak Streets was owned and used by the Portland Fraternity Club. In this she confuses two different organizations. The Fraternity Club has never had a headquarters of its own. The Portland Fraternity organized December 27, 1870 to provide free evening schools and library reading rooms for the public, purchased the St. John Smith property in December 1894 and used it until the Fraternity House on Center Street was completed in May, 1908. The Portland Fraternity was still in existence until last year when it merged into Community Counseling Center.

The confusion is justified. The Fraternity Club takes its name from the Portland Fraternity in whose rooms the first meeting took place."

NEW MEMBERS

FROM MAINE Augusta: Dr. A. H. Garcelon, Mr. Austin H. Wilkins *Boothbay Harbor*: Mr. Asa D. Tupper *Brewer*: Mr. Edward W. Potter *Cape Elizabeth*: Mr. Mark H. Sangster *Cumberland Foreside*: Mrs. Gilbert Lea, Mrs. Edward Gignoux *Gray*: Mr. Walter A. O'Brien, Jr. *Greenville Junction*: Mr. Nathan D. Hamilton *Kents Hill*: Mr. Theodore L. Westlake *North Berwick*: Mr. Gene Smith *North Gorham*: Mr. Phillips Malory *Portland*: Mr. Frank G. Akers, Mr. Edward N. Hyson, Dr. Bruce D. Nelson *Round Pond*: Mrs. Helen Camp *Sanford*: Mr. Laurence C. Allen *Standish*: Mrs. Georgia T. Stacy *Westbrook*: Mr. William E. Jacobs.

Other States CALIFORNIA *La Jolla*: Mrs. Hugh G. Boutell NEW JERSEY *Newark*: Mr. Richard W. Hoover, Jr. NEW YORK *Albany*: Mr. Erastus Corning 2nd *New York*: Mr. Earle S. Thompson WISCONSIN *Wood*: Mr. John T. Moran.

LIFE MEMBER

Mrs. Betty Q. Brandt
North Hollywood, California

CORPORATE MEMBERS

Acme Engineering Company,
Portland, Maine
Bancroft & Martin, Inc.,
South Portland, Maine

Burnham & Morrill Company,
Portland, Maine

Canal National Bank,
Portland, Maine

Casco Bank & Trust Company,
Portland, Maine

Casco Printing Company,
Portland, Maine

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Maine Savings Bank,
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