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MAINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Volume eleven, Number one

Summer, 1971

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NEWS OF THE SOCIETY

Library Hours Extended: At the repeated request of members and researchers, particularly from northern and eastern portions of the State, *Library hours on Saturdays will be changed to 12:00 noon to 5:00 p.m. commencing October first.* Weekday hours will remain 10:00-5:00, Monday through Friday.

Prize Essay Contest: Winners of Maine Historical's second annual Prize Essay Contest, announced at the Annual Meeting on June fourteenth were: First Prize Professor Richard G. Durnin, City College of the City University of New York for his essay entitled *For Piety, Virtue and Useful Knowledge: Maine's 18th Century Academies*; Second Prize Donald Westfall of Bowdoin College, *The College Question, or the Rise of the Jacksonian Democrats*; Third Prize Rev. Sheldon Christian of Brunswick, *Identifying the Originals of Longfellow's The Wreck of the Hesperus*. Dr. Durnin's essay will appear in the Fall issue of the *Newsletter*.

The Margaret H. Jewell Estate: Under the will of Miss Margaret H. Jewell, the Maine Historical Society has received the sum of \$35,000, a bequest shared by twenty other beneficiaries, eight of which are institutions representing the donor's lifelong interest in local history and antiquities.

Miss Jewell was one of three daughters of Harvey Jewell, a prominent lawyer of Boston. Until she moved permanently to Cape Elizabeth, her official residence, she lived with her family at Boston, spending summers in Scarborough and Cape Elizabeth. In 1926 she moved from her summer home at Cape Elizabeth to 96 Park Street to occupy for the rest of her life one of the Greek Revival houses known more familiarly as Park Row, having purchased also a fine old residence on Pleasant Street now occupied by the firm of Stevens Architects. Here she surrounded herself with books,

pictures, and artifacts collected over many years and sometimes in strange places as she and her chauffeur traveled over the countryside. A fine old Franklin stove in one room of her house is said to have been assembled from pieces found in the Portland city dump.

The generosity which marked the disposal of her estate was characteristic of Miss Jewell during her lifetime. With more income than she could use, it was her custom to inquire at the Library if we had need of anything of a practical nature which would add to the comfort and convenience of the staff and the readers. Gifts of money for that particular need would be forthcoming. More valuable were gifts of historical value, of letters and diaries which she had acquired through her great interest in antiquities. Forty such acquisitions are recorded in the Society. Among them is a fairly large collection of Portland glass, and of particular value to the historian, the Journals of General Samuel Leighton of Alfred and Eliot in seven volumes (1818-1848) some of which were edited by her for *Old Time New England*, a publication to which she contributed a number of articles. Her interest in local history was centered in York County and towns along the Saco river where early in her life she and her mother visited with the family of Ellis B. Usher of Hollis, a wealthy lumberman operating in western Maine and the Pine Belt of the Midwest. Usher was a contemporary of another York county Maine man, Cyrus Woodman, equally well known for his business interests and with the same flare for local history. That the manuscript resources of the Society are so rich in this area are due to the descendants of these men and Miss Jewell.

In 1922 Miss Jewell was made an honorary member of the Maine Historical Society. She died in Portland on January 18, 1970 at the age of 103.

Elizabeth Ring

Archival Program: The course in *Archival Research* sponsored jointly by Bates College and the Maine Historical Society completed its second year of operation on June 4th. During their Spring Term, Miss Hannah Adams of Keene, New Hampshire, and Miss Deborah Lindquist of South Portland, both Juniors at Bates, worked in all phases of the manuscript operation under the supervision of the Curator of Manuscripts.

The program has been so completely successful at Maine Historical that plans are now underway to involve a Museum Archives in Massachusetts in a similar operation next year.

NEW MEMBERS

From MAINE *Auburn*: Edwin W. Adams, Mrs. Frederick H. Awalt, Mrs. Irving Isaacson, Mrs. Karen E. Lauzon, Leon M. Norris, Mrs. Leon M. Norris, Mrs. Catherine B. Whitten
Bangor: Richard Cohen *Bath*: Harold E. Brown *Bingham*: Mrs. J. Harold Smith *Brunswick*: Mrs. Ronald A. Carroll, James L. Twombly *Cape Elizabeth*: Charles P. Barnes, II, Mrs. D. Scott Taggart *Damariscotta*: Mrs. D. Richard Sturges *Gardiner*: Mrs. Lewis J. Sheaffer *Hampden*: Miss Miriam A. Hall *Kennebunkport*: James MacN. Thompson *Kittery Point*: Arnold A. Putnam *Lewiston*: Jere Clifford, William L. Haskell, Mrs. William L. Haskell, Anna M. Hurley *Lisbon*: Sherwin E. Bowie *Old Orchard Beach*: Mrs. Gail Merrill *Poland Spring*: Theodore E. Johnson *Portland*: Mrs. Edward Atwood, Charles R. Priest *Sanford*: Michael P. Gagne *South Bristol*: John I. Sewall *South Portland*: Miss Deborah Lindquist, Clarence E. Turner, Jr. *Springvale*: Miss Jacqueline Shaw *Waterville*: Robert H. Kany *Yarmouth*: John S. Ames, Mrs. Flora B. Harriman

Other States *CALIFORNIA* *Santa Maria*: Mrs. Harley E. Guest *COLORADO* *Boulder*: George Foot *DELAWARE* *Wilmington*: Arthur K. Orne *MASSACHUSETTS* *Reading*: Miss Sylvia I. Wright *Sherborn*: Mrs. Alvin C. Tyson *Swampscott*: Miss Katherine W. Trickey *Wellesley*: Henry B. Brainerd *NEW HAMPSHIRE* *Westmoreland*: Miss Hannah Adams *NEW JERSEY* *New Brunswick*: Richard G. Durnin

CORPORATE MEMBERS: Edward C. Jordan Company, Inc.

Annual Meeting: Approximately 150 members and guests enjoyed the superb hospitality of Bates College for Annual Meeting on June fourteenth. All officers were re-elected for another term, and James S. Kriger of South Portland and David A. Nichols from Lincolnville were newly elected to the Standing Committee.

A rather lively discussion period followed the Annual Meeting Address presented by Professor Charles E. Clark.

The full text of his remarks are to be found on the following pages of this *Newsletter*.