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MAINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Volume eleven, Number three

Winter, 1972

Published quarterly at 485 Congress Street
Portland, Maine 04111

NEWS OF THE SOCIETY

In 1962, Walter Muir Whitehill, in his *Independent Historical Societies*, wrote: "The Maine Historical Society maintains its old learned traditions within the limits of its resources. It has cultivated no arts of public address nor painted its face in an attempt to draw attention to itself."

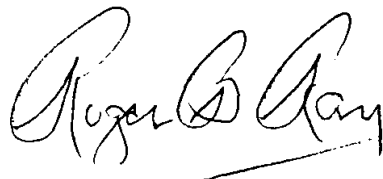
At our 150th Anniversary the temptation remains strong to become benign and quietly respectable, to stop trying so hard to preserve and make available our horde of primary documents and manuscripts and to expend less energy to maintain essential services to the people of Maine. Fortunately there appears no disposition to do this and this may be our greatest blessing.

We are accepted as a reliable research center for Maine history. We are known to have uncompromised high standards for our publications. These standards were spelled out by Judge Ashur Ware in his introduction to the very first volume of *Collections* published by this Society in 1831. Mr. Leamon's article in this issue of our *Newsletter* upholds these standards and is further a contribution to creative writing in Maine history.

If we are to fulfil the intended purposes of this Society, our Library must be kept open for all who are interested in the history of our State. For the period September through November, 630 people came here to read. 565 of these people came from 67 Maine communities. As heartening as this is we must further our efforts to reach people throughout the State, and this we attempt through our *Newsletter*, special publications, and our annual Prize Essay Contest. We are dependent also on our members to call the attention of others to the resources of this Library. But our resources would be of small use without a staff of seven remarkable people. We are thankful for them. They are our other blessing.

Our official celebration in April should be

exceptionally rewarding and fun to attend. For our members, an exhibit of our most important artifacts will be on view in the Library, and the Wadsworth-Longfellow House will be open for tea. In addition to official ceremonies at First Parish Church in April, the 150th will be observed by the publication of a fresh history of the Society. The theme of our June Annual Meeting will be: The Franco-Americans of Maine. It is becoming increasingly apparent that we shall not understand the history of our State until we know much more of the contributions made by these people and by many other cultural groups in Maine.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Roger B. Gay". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

President

Nominations Committee: The Committee to nominate candidates for vacancies on the Standing Committee occurring in June, 1972, has been appointed by the President. Committee members are: Arthur Monke of Brunswick, Herbert T. Silsby, II of Ellsworth, Dr. Alice R. Stewart of Orono, Roger C. Storms of Lee, and Roger C. Taylor of Rockport. The Committee will nominate seven candidates to serve on the Standing Committee for three year terms. Members of the Society are invited to communicate their suggestions for candidates to the Nominating Committee at this time. Nominations may also be achieved by a petition of twenty or more members. Petitions must be submitted to the Secretary of the Society no later than May 27, 1972.

Members now serving on the Standing Committee whose terms are due to expire in June, 1972 are: Mrs. Edwin L. Giddings of Orono, Miss Edith L. Hary of Hallowell, H. Draper Hunt, III of South Portland, William B. Jordan, Jr. of Portland, Mrs. William J. Murphy of South Portland, Miss Elizabeth Ring of Portland, and James B. Vickery, III of Brewer. All of the above names are eligible for reelection since none have served three consecutive terms, the maximum allowed under the 1969 By-laws.

NEW MEMBERS

From MAINE Augusta: Harry E. Percival, Jr. Bangor: Constantine Albans, Donald P. Higgins Bath: Roger D. Skillings Biddeford: Albert Potvin Brooklin: James R. Wiggins Brunswick: Laurence W. Pennell Camden: Arthur E. Strout Cape Elizabeth: Mrs. John B. Barney, Mrs. John MacLeod Chebeague Island: Miss Elisabeth Weiss Cornish: Miss Constance Bell Cushing: Mrs. William Marble Denmark: Douglas Campbell East Waterboro: James E. Carll Eliot: Hawk E. Lynch Gardiner: Douglas C. Libby Kennebunk: Mrs. Merily E. DuPree Limerick: John F. Newell, Jr. Monroe: Miss Sarah Rock Naples: Mrs. Virginia Chute Oxford: George B. Robinson Peaks Island: Mrs. Ernest Town Portland: Donald E. Belgrave, Miss Nancy E. Brann, Joel W. Eastman, Donald J. King, Miss Katherine MacWilliams, Miss Mildred A. Perkins, Michael A. Preston, David Tordoff, Juris Ubans Rockland: John J. McAuliffe, II, Mrs. John J. McAuliffe, II South Portland: Christopher W. Babbidge, Marc N. Capozza, Cecil A. Dyer, Miss Donna Flynn, Richard F. Garland, Arthur R. Huff Union: A. Carman Clark Washburn: Ray H. Carter Westbrook: Miss Elizabeth W. Bicknell, Charles A. Gooding.

Other States CALIFORNIA Ojai: Mrs. Russell E. Harrison Torrance: Mrs. William R. Syfers ILLINOIS Springfield: Robert T. Carr MARYLAND Baltimore: John S. Thomsen MASSACHUSETTS Cambridge: Samuel E. Morison MISSOURI Columbia: Miss Lucia Tucci.

LIFE MEMBERS

Miss Sheila E. Burke
Mattawamkeag, Maine

L. Robert Porteous
Portland, Maine

Mrs. Clinton F. Rines
Gorham, Maine

Mr. and Mrs. J. Weston Walch
Portland, Maine

NEWS OF OTHER SOCIETIES
AND INSTITUTIONS

Maine History News: Within a fortnight, all members of the Maine Historical Society will receive a "sample" copy of *Maine History News*, official quarterly of the Maine League of Historical Societies and Museums. *Sample* copies were provided by the Maine League and are being sent at their request in order to acquaint those of you not already familiar with the publication.

The Maine League celebrated its tenth year of operation last year. Beginning with thirty member-institutions in 1961, the League now numbers some 120 local historical societies and museums. Maine Historical Society was an early sponsor and charter member.

Maine History News provides an informal, informative bulletin board for activities of the League and member societies. Recently, it has become the best place to keep abreast of historic preservation efforts throughout the State. Full subscription information is provided on the outside back cover.

Maine Genealogical Inquirer: We are frequently asked to include genealogical queries in the *Newsletter*. Much as we would like to be of help, we are unable to accept such requests for lack of space.

In the meantime, an enterprising couple from Oakland, Maine, Mr. and Mrs. Michael J. Denis have taken the situation in hand by publishing a bi-monthly periodical called *The Maine Genealogical Inquirer*. This modest, extremely useful mimeographed publication acts as a clearing house for Maine genealogical notes and queries. It also reports genealogies in preparation, accepts advertisements for genealogies in print, and does a fine job covering the field for the State of Maine. Information about subscription rates should be sent to Box 253, Oakland, Maine 04963.

Maine State Archives: Recent transfers to the Maine State Archives include records of the Executive Council, 1820-1959; Legislative Acts and Resolves, 1820-1967; Journals of the House and Senate, 1820-1969; Abstracts of Election Returns, 1820-1959; Census Schedules for Agriculture, Industry and Social Statistics, 1850-1880; Land Office Records consisting primarily of survey maps and field notes for Maine public lands; and Adjutant General's Department enlistment and discharge papers, bounty applications and receipts, regimental rolls (muster, descriptive, payroll, monthly returns) and correspondence, 1814-1900.

Information on public records available for research and regulations governing their use can be obtained from:
Reference Archivist, Maine State Archives, State Capitol,
Augusta, Maine 04330.

Chancery Library. Diocese of Portland: The Library of the Chancery, Diocese of Portland received the Father Des Jardins collection of books on French Canada. The collection contains the following genealogies not found in the Maine Historical Society Library:

- Beaumont, Charles. *Genealogie des Familles de la Cote de Beupre.* Ottawa, 1912.
- Beaumont, Charles. *Genealogy of the Families of La Beauce, P.Q. Part IX.* n.p., n.d. (From the Archives of St. Joseph de la Beauce)
- Charland, P.V. *La Famille Canac-Marquis et Familles Alliees; Dictionnaire Genealogique.* Quebec, 1918.
- Corillard Despies, Azaire. *La Premiere Famille Francaise au Canada ses Alles et ses Descendants.* Montreal, 1906.
- Dionne, N. E. *Origine des Familles Canadiennes-Francaises. Emigrees de France, d'Espagne, de Suisse, etc. pour venir se fixer au Canada depuis la Fondation de Quebec jusqu'a ces Dernier Temps et Signification de Leurs Noms.* Quebec, 1914.
- Forgues, M. Michel. *Genealogie des Familles de L'ile d'Orleans.* n.p., n.d. (From the archives of the parish of St. Laurent-Ile d'Orleans)
- Gaudet, Placide. *Genealogie des Familles Acadiennes avec Documents.* n.p., n.d.
- Godbout, P.A. *Origine des Familles Canadiennes-Francaises. Extrait de l'Etat civil Francais. Premiere Serie.* Lille, France, 1925.
- Gosselin, D. *Dictionnaire Genealogique des Familles de Charlesbourg.* Quebec, 1906.
- Lavoie, J.A. *La Famille Lavoie au Canada, de 1650 a 1921.* Quebec, 1922.
- Michaud, Adolphe. *Genealogies des Familles de la Riviere Ouelle.* Quebec, 1908.
- Tanguay, Cyprien. *Dictionnaire Genealogique de Familles Canadiennes.* Quebec, 1871-1890. 7 vols.

The Library is open to readers by appointment Mondays through Fridays and is located at 510 Ocean Avenue, Portland. The Library welcomes readers but is unable to reply to mail or phone requests for genealogical information.