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News of the Society

Maine Historical Society

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MAINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Volume nine, Number two

November, 1969

Published quarterly at 485 Congress Street
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NEWS OF THE SOCIETY

Special Meeting: On September 19, 1969, forty members of the Society gathered in the Lecture Hall of the Library to act upon the Bylaws revision as ordered by the membership at Annual Meeting. At the request of the President, Herbert T. Silsby, III, Chairman of the Committee on Administrative Organization presided.

Messrs William B. Jordan, Jr., Martial D. Maling, Donald L. Philbrick, Roger B. Ray, Herbert T. Silsby, III, and Samuel S. Silsby, Jr., members of the Committee, obviously did their job well. Discussion from the floor resulted in striking only one minor clause, after which the new Bylaws were adopted unanimously.

The 1969 Bylaws constitute the most thorough revision adopted by the Maine Historical Society in its long history. Complete authority and responsibility for conducting the affairs of the Society remain with the Standing Committee as in the past. However, revised election procedures, including the election of officers by the Standing Committee, along with provisions for terms in office, introduce what amounts to a rotating board concept which is indeed a departure from a 147 year tradition.

In only eight years, the Society has more than doubled in size from 600 members in 1961 to 1,300 at the present time. By providing proxy ballots for members who cannot attend Annual Meetings, the new Bylaws would seem to reflect a healthy recognition of this growth and wide geographical distribution.

Wadsworth-Longfellow House: On October eighteenth shutters were closed at the Wadsworth-Longfellow House ending another busy season. Although group visits were fewer this year, Mrs. Edith Greene, Mrs. Marion Jackson, and Mrs.

Margaret Gray received 10,753 guests during the five month period.

Both Staff and House Committee took particular pride in a feature article by Eleanor Early appearing in the Sunday *New York Times* for September seventh. In describing the Wadsworth-Longfellow House, Miss Early wrote, "The house was splendid in its day and is even lovelier now, for the women of the Maine Historical Society keep it shining as few old houses have ever shone."

The Heritage of Early American Houses by John Drury, a handsomely illustrated coffee table book, published this fall by Coward-McCann features 65 historic houses. The very first house treated is the Wadsworth-Longfellow, which is the only house included from the State of Maine.

NEW MEMBERS

From MAINE Brunswick: James E. Bland and Miss Alberta R. Dionne *Cape Elizabeth:* James E. Brunelle, Mrs. William Michener and George W. Weeks *Falmouth:* Mrs. George R. Lovett, Mrs. Graham T. Pierce and Mrs. Roger V. Snow, Jr. *Hiram:* Walter G. Twitchell and Mrs. Walter G. Twitchell *Lewiston:* Miss Adrienne I. Cote *Norway:* David H. Dexter *Orono:* Lawrence C. Allin *Portland:* Mrs. Richard Clark and Mrs. Edwin P. Currier *Saco:* Miss Sarah B. Graves *Scarborough:* Mrs. Warren H. Delaware, Mrs. Margery M. Fancy and Rosario M. Rossetti *Sebago Lake:* Mrs. Neal R. Marean *South Paris:* Miss Claire E. Poulin *South Portland:* Mrs. Clarence E. Dearborn and Mrs. Muriel E. Kimball *Westbrook:* Bruce D. Bowers

Other States CALIFORNIA Belmont: Mrs. Fritz Ehrenfest *CONNECTICUT Old Greenwich:* Benjamin P. Richardson, Jr. *MASSACHUSETTS Athol:* Benjamin Tighe *Wakefield:* William J. Frappier *NEW MEXICO Fairacres:* Mrs. Fred B. Tolman *NEW YORK Lake George:* Miss Elisabeth T. McDonald *Scarsdale:* Hugh E. Berry *OREGON Portland:* Miss Doris S. Hopkins *PENNSYLVANIA Ardsley:* Miss Mary A. Burns *Pittsburgh:* Walter W. Skillings *RHODE ISLAND Tiverton:* Mrs. Louise W. Manchester

Appointments: In accordance with the revised Bylaws, President Albion has appointed Martial D. Maling and Mrs. William J. Murphy to the Executive Committee.

*The Standing Committee
of
Maine Historical Society*

Cordially invite
All Members
to attend a reception
in honor of

Dr. H. Draper Hunt, III
upon publication of his book

HANNIBAL HAMLIN OF MAINE

to be held in the
Wadsworth-Longfellow House
Portland

Friday, the seventeenth of January

four to six o'clock

*R.S.V.P.
Mrs. William J. Murphy
33 Deake Street
South Portland 04106*

Informal

NEWS OF OTHER SOCIETIES

The Maine League of Historical Societies and Museums' eighth Annual Meeting held at Castine in September was well attended. Officers elected for 1969-70 were: Mrs. Peter A. Isaacson of Lewiston, *President*; Charles E. Burden of Bath, *Vice President*; Mrs. Donald D. Kimball of Kennebunk, *Secretary*; and W. Sherman Greene, Jr. of Sunset, *Treasurer*.

Theme of the meeting was "Plans for the Sesquicentennial Observance." The Maine League's own contribution toward the observance will be publication of *Maine: A Guide 'Down East'*, an updated version of the 1937 Maine Federal Writers book of the same title. The updating has been contributed by various Maine historians, and the entire project has been sponsored by the Maine Sesquicentennial Commission.

Orders for copies may be placed in advance of the March release date by enclosing \$6.50 per copy plus 33 cents sales tax to:

Maine: A Guide 'Down East'
Courier-Gazette, Inc.
One Park Drive
Rockland, Maine 04841.

The State of Maine was well represented at the Conference of New England Historical Societies held at the *Peterborough* and *Jaffrey Historical Societies* in New Hampshire on the weekend of November first.

Certificates of Commendation were presented by the American Association of State and Local History to two Maine organizations: the *Bridgton Historical Society*, particularly for their bicentennial history, and the *Society for the Preservation of Historic Landmarks* of York County.

The Woman's Community Club of Union, Maine plan to reprint John L. Sibley's valuable *History of Union* if they are able to sell 500 advance copies at \$10.50 (post publication price will be \$12.50 plus tax). Members of Maine Historical Society interested in backing this worthwhile project should make checks payable to: "Woman's Community Club of Union" and forward to Mrs. Joseph Marcus, Union, Maine 04862. Money for advance copies will be refunded if publication does not occur.