

MAINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Volume nine, Number one

August, 1969

Published quarterly at 485 Congress Street
Portland, Maine 04111

NEWS OF THE SOCIETY

Annual Meeting: An extraordinary contest for the Presidency of the Society and for several vacancies on the Standing Committee resulted in a considerable amount of confusion among the membership and one of the largest turnouts on record for an Annual Meeting. Well over 200 members and friends filled both Lecture Hall and Reading Room to capacity. Thanks to Station WCSH, who supplied a sound system for the occasion, almost everybody was at least able to hear the proceedings, if not view them.

The Society was shown to be in a sound financial position for the year ending March, 1969; indeed, a modest surplus was reported. Membership showed a slight gain over last year with a total of 1,273 members as of June, 1969. 3,284 Library users registered during the course of the year, and 791 books were loaned to members; impressive figures for a research library. In a joint venture with several cooperating libraries, the manuscript collection concerning the Kennebec purchase, generally called the "Barclay Papers," was microfilmed, though the project was not complete. On a grant from the Maine State Commission on the Arts and the Humanities, a traveling exhibit entitled, "Images on Stone," consisting of photographs of forty gravestones, located primarily in the Portland area was nearing completion.

Two items of especial interest to the membership were announced. By vote of the Standing Committee, members of the Society may now visit the Wadsworth-Longfellow House during regular hours without payment of the fee on presentation of a membership card. This privilege was not, of course, extended to other members of the family or to their guests.

Since there would be insufficient discussion time available during the business meeting and since several members

felt that there had not been adequate time to acquaint themselves with the proposed bylaws revision, the Standing Committee voted and the membership ordered that a special meeting be held on Friday, September 19, 1969 for consideration of the proposed bylaws. By a two to one vote, the hour for the meeting was set at 7:30 p.m.

With 204 ballots cast, the roster of Officers and Standing Committee members for the years 1969-1970 were elected as they appear listed on the inside front cover of this issue of the Newsletter.

The following Committees were appointed by the President to serve for the year:

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: Robert G. Albion, Chairman, Roger B. Ray, Miss Elizabeth Ring, Harry W. Rowe, Samuel S. Silsby, Jr. *ADMINISTRATIVE ORGANIZATION:* Herbert T. Silsby, III, Chairman, William B. Jordan, Jr., Martial D. Maling, Donald L. Philbrick, Roger B. Ray, Samuel S. Silsby, Jr. *FINANCE:* Martial D. Maling, Chairman, Donald L. Philbrick, Roger B. Ray. *LEGISLATIVE LIAISON:* Loyall F. Sewall, Chairman, Roger B. Ray, Martial D. Maling. *LIBRARY:* Miss Edith L. Hary, Chairman, H. Draper Hunt, III, Miss Elizabeth Ring, Samuel S. Silsby, Jr., Robert L. Volz. *MEMBERSHIP:* Mrs. William E. Clark, Chairman, Mrs. D. Kilton Andrew, Mrs. Edwin L. Giddings, Roger B. Ray, Loyall F. Sewall. *PERSONNEL:* Samuel S. Silsby, Jr., Chairman, Robert G. Albion, Arthur T. Forrestall, Martial D. Maling, Linwood F. Ross. *PUBLICATIONS:* James C. MacCampbell, Chairman, Thomas M. Griffiths, Roger B. Ray, Roger C. Taylor, James B. Vickery, III, L. Kinvin Wroth. *SPECIAL EVENTS:* Arthur T. Forrestall, Chairman, Mrs. William E. Clark, Mrs. William J. Murphy, Earle G. Shettlesworth, Jr., Robert L. Volz. *WADSWORTH-LONGFELLOW HOUSE:* Mrs. William J. Murphy, Chairman, Mrs. Malcolm H. Barto, Mrs. Turner Jones, Christopher P. Monkhouse, Roger B. Ray, Mrs. John B. Sloggett.

Dr. William A. Baker's excellent lecture, "The Boston Boats: From Sail to Steam," is being printed in its entirety in this, and a subsequent issue of the Newsletter.

New Members: MAINE: Auburn, Mrs. Howard H. Child; Augusta, George O'Connor, Miss Josephine C. Poor, Miss Evelyn J. Scribner, John B. Wlodkowski; Bangor, Edwin A. Churchill; Bath, Alfred T. Holt, Thatcher B. Pinkham; Boothbay Harbor, Leighton R. Cressey; Brunswick, Mrs. Charles E. Kierstead, Samuel A. Ladd, Jr.; Cape Elizabeth, Franklin F. Ferguson; Cumberland Foreside, A. Stephen Riley, Mrs. George D. Woodward; Douglas Hill, Mrs. Donald M. Frost; Eagle Lake, James L. Dumond; Falmouth, William E. Clark, Finland Dumond; Freeport, Miss Dorothy E. Marston; Fryeburg, Philip W. Richards; Gorham, James H. L. Ott, Jr.; Gray, Mrs. James M. McConnell; Hallowell, Mrs. Mary S. Davidson; Madison, Mrs. George S. Robinson; North Haven, John F. Dyer; Old Orchard Beach, Miss Stella M. LePelletier; Portland, Mrs. Laurence R. Davis, Leonard S. Dembowski, James W. Devine, Jr., Mrs. Arthur T. Forrestall, Mrs. Arthur Gronberg, Mrs. William S. Kenyon, Miss Hazel C. Lord, Mrs. Francis M. O'Brien, Jonathan K. Rice, Mrs. Priscilla I. Smith, Mrs. Earle G. Shettlesworth, Mrs. Gordon Sprague; Rockland, Roger C. Taylor; South Portland, Mrs. Robert G. Albion, Miss Barbara P. Davis; Tenants Harbor, Miss Nancy S. Link; Union, Miss Isabel C. Abbott, Curtis M. Payson; Wiscasset, Mrs. Bessie L. Stephenson; Yarmouth, Alfred E. Runge, Jr.

OTHER STATES CALIFORNIA: Arcadia, Mrs. Leola G. Bushman; Downey, Mrs. Theodore B. Getzler; MASSACHUSETTS: Cambridge, Jerome E. Anderson; Chestnut Hill, Miss Wendy P. White; Swampscott, Mrs. Lawrence A. Sager; NEW HAMPSHIRE: Keene, Philip C. Dyer; North Conway, Mrs. Ann Fritz; NEW YORK: Schenectady, Ralph W. Robbins; PENNSYLVANIA: Paoli, George L. Haskins; RHODE ISLAND: Warwick, Mrs. Robert M. Sherman. CANADA QUEBEC PROVINCE: Beaconsfield, Albert A. Boles.

Mrs. Grace Morse Frank, friend and supporter of many civic and cultural groups in the city of Portland, and Life Member of Maine Historical Society, died in June of this year. As of August, twenty-one donors have made contributions to the Society in her memory.

Indians of Maine Inventory: With this issue of the Newsletter members will receive a copy of the preliminary inventory of materials in the Society Library on the history of Maine Indians, compiled by Roger B. Ray.

Issuing the Inventory as a separate rather than as a supplement to the Newsletter will allow independent revision in addition to greater freedom in distribution to schools, researchers, and interested individuals. Additional copies are available to non-members from the Society for \$1.58.

NEWS OF OTHER SOCIETIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

The annual Meeting of the Maine League of Historical Societies and Museums will be held September 9th at the Maine Maritime Academy in Castine.

Registration is at 10:00 a.m. followed by a full day of activities. Mr. Ray Sivisend, Director of Historic Sites, State Historical Society of Wisconsin, will speak on "Planning by Local Historical Societies for a Statewide Sesquicentennial Celebration," at 10:45. There will be a cruise on the *State of Maine* at 2:00, and Mr. Francis W. Hatch, billed as "raconteur, historian, and musician," is scheduled at 3:00. Adjournment is at 4:00 in order to allow time to visit the Wilson Museum.

Reservation fee of \$4.00, payable to "Maine League of Hist. Soc. and Mus." should be sent to: Mrs. Donald D. Kimball, Box 177, Kennebunk, Maine 04043.