

MAINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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NEWS OF THE SOCIETY

The One Hundred and Fiftieth Anniversary Fund established to commemorate the survival of the Maine Historical Society by doubling the space for manuscripts in Nichols Hall, will carry on for the remainder of the calendar year. Such was the verdict of the Committee and the Society through its Standing Committee. Hope springs eternal - even in the collective breast of a Society, and after 150 years of often faint heart it could hardly do less than continue a project that will house more adequately the treasures entrusted to it by friends of the Society over the years.

To date, in the three months since the appeal was made, \$10,410.25 has been contributed by 380 members and friends of the Society, in amounts of from one to one thousand dollars. Inserted in this issue of the *Newsletter* is an alphabetical list of contributors. Subsequent issues will list those who have given since August first. We believe we can still make strides in promoting an endeavour that is epic in nature - epic in the continuity of time that it represents, and epic in the significance of what the Society has done in building for posterity a massive collection of primary source material for the study of Maine state, local, and family history.

For almost a hundred years the Society was without a home of its own. Not until Anne Longfellow Pierce willed the Society the Wadsworth-Longfellow House with land to build a Library adjacent to it was there a place to house its collections. Two fireproof vaults were incorporated in the building. Forty-seven years later with funds provided by Mr. Charles A. Nichols, a Portland attorney, Nichols Hall Annex was built, fireproof and conditioned against moisture,

and with the added advantage of height for a second floor balcony when the need arose for expansion of the Society's fast growing collection of rare books, manuscripts, and memorabilia. This need now exists. By December 31, when the year closes, it is the Committee's hope to double the gifts and the givers as they now stand. This will be more than two-thirds of what is needed for the estimated cost of \$35,000. We are gratified with the response to date; we hope to hear from many more.

Miss Elizabeth Ring, Chairman
150th Anniversary Fund Committee

The Prize Essay Contest. In 1970 in recognition of *Maine's* one hundred and fiftieth anniversary and the part the Society had in the preservation of its history, the Standing Committee inaugurated an annual prize essay contest. Since that time thirty-two essays in Maine history have been submitted. In subject matter the scope has been wide; in authorship the locale of the writers, their profession, training, and age has been varied. This year was no exception.

For his essay entitled, "Maine's Corporation Sole Controversy", Mr. Michael Guignard of Biddeford won first prize. A 1971 graduate of Bowdoin, the author is presently studying for his doctorate at Syracuse University; his area of special investigation embraces the Franco-Americans of Maine of which he is a living representative. It was merely a coincidence, but a happy one, that the essay was related to the general subject of the annual meeting. Mr. Guignard's essay will be printed in a subsequent *Newsletter*.

The second prize was awarded to Mr. Calvin W.

Gower, Professor of History, St. Cloud State College, Minnesota, for his paper entitled, "The CCC, the Forest Service, and Politics in Maine, 1933-1936". A native of Colorado the author received his bachelor's degree from Western State College in Gunnison, Colorado, his master's from the University of South Dakota, and his doctorate from the University of Kansas. Curiously enough for this study he centered on a little explored subject of Maine political history.

The third place went to the Rev. Kenneth LaFleur of the Universalist church in Norway, Maine for his essay, "Fourteenth Colony: a British Venture Down East in the American Revolution". While his training is in theology, master's work in American history was done at Brandeis University, and before that at the University of Maine in Orono where he was a major in history and a Phi Beta Kappa. He is a native of Maine.

Essays for several years have tended to overshoot the stated specified length - this year 5000 words. Because of this several otherwise excellent papers have been disqualified. Another year contestants are urged to count and state the word-length at the end of the essay. The papers are judged on originality, scholarship, and the use of primary sources. The judges this year were Robert G. Albion, formerly of Harvard University, James S. Leamon of Bates College, and Elizabeth Ring, chairman.

Organizational Meeting: At the Standing Committee's organizational meeting during annual meeting at Brunswick, the following officers were re-elected to serve one year terms: Roger B. Ray, President; Miss Elizabeth Ring, Vice President; Harry W. Rowe, Secretary; Arthur T. Forrestall, Treasurer; Martial D. Maling, Assistant Treasurer.

Those elected by the membership to three year terms on the Standing Committee were: Mrs. Edwin L. Giddings, Orono; Miss Edith L. Hary, Hallowell; H. Draper Hunt, III, South Portland; William B. Jordan, Jr., Portland; Mrs. William J. Murphy, South Portland; Miss Elizabeth Ring, Portland; James B. Vickery, III, Brewer.

The Standing Committee voted unanimously to accept the invitation of the University of Maine and the

Bangor Historical Society to hold annual meeting at Orono next year. The Public Relations Committee will establish the theme and make arrangements at Orono.

Mrs. William E. Clark The resignation from the Standing Committee of Mrs. William E. Clark was accepted with great sadness by members of the governing body. Mrs. Clark was elected to the Standing Committee in June, 1967. Her record of service to the Society has been outstanding, particularly while Chairman of the Membership Committee.

Dr. John W. Hakola On July 21, 1972, Dr. John W. Hakola, Professor of History at the University of Maine, Orono was elected to fill the vacancy on the Standing Committee left by Mrs. Clark's resignation. Dr. Hakola has been active during the past two years on the Collections Committee.

Committee Appointments: The following appointments for the year 1972-73 were made by President Ray and confirmed by the Standing Committee on July 21, 1972:

EXECUTIVE Roger B. Ray, *Chairman*, Arthur T. Forrestall, Martial D. Maling, Donald L. Philbrick, Miss Elizabeth Ring, Harry W. Rowe, Herbert T. Silsby, II.

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PUBLIC RELATIONS Herbert T. Silsby, II, *Chairman*, Mrs. Edwin L. Giddings, John W. Hakola, Mrs. William J. Murphy, Dr. Alice R. Stewart.

PUBLICATIONS James S. Leamon, *Chairman*, Robert G. Albion, Charles E. Clark, Joel W. Eastman, Roger L. Grindle, John W. Hakola, Roger C. Taylor, James B. Vickery, III.

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AD HOC COMMITTEES :

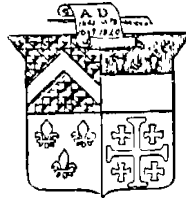
COLLECTIONS H. Draper Hunt, III, *Chairman*, Robert G. Albion, John W. Hakola, Edith L. Hary, James S. Leamon, Karl R. Philbrick, Earle G. Shettlesworth, Jr.

150TH ANNIVERSARY FUND COMMITTEE Miss Elizabeth Ring, *Chairman*, Franklin B. Allen, Mrs. William E. Clark, Richard F. Dole, Miss E. Marie Estes, H. Draper Hunt, III, Martial D. Maling, Philip I. Milliken, Mrs. William J. Murphy, Francis M. O'Brien, Karl R. Philbrick, Earle G. Shettlesworth, Jr., Mrs. Brooks Whitehouse.

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*The Maine Historical Society
takes pleasure in announcing
its Fourth 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 or non-members of the Society. Amateurs having a strong interest in Maine history as well as professional historians and students in higher education are invited to enter. Ineligible are members of the Staff and Standing Committee of the Society.

MANUSCRIPTS No more than 5000 words in length, typewritten, double-spaced. Please submit manuscripts to: Director, Maine Historical Society, 485 Congress Street, Portland, Maine 04111.

Deadline: May 1, 1973

AWARDS Announcement of the awards will be made at the Annual Meeting of the Society in June, 1973. *First Prize:* \$100 and publication in the Newsletter. *Two Honorable Mention Awards* will consist of one year's complimentary membership in the Society.

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(To August 1, 1972)

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NEWS OF OTHER SOCIETIES AND INSTITUTIONS

Maine Academic Historians: There will be a meeting of Maine Academic Historians in Augusta on Saturday, October seventh, commencing at 10:00 o'clock in the Conference Room of the Maine State Museum. During the morning session, a paper entitled, "The Irish in Lewiston," will be presented by Margaret J. Buker of Auburn and commented upon by James H. Mundy of Augusta, who is at work on a similar study for Bangor.

After luncheon and an informal business meeting, the group will reconvene to discuss plans and programs in Maine history currently available on various college campuses throughout the State. Included will be an informal survey of studies in progress by professors and students on Maine topics.

Further information may be obtained from Dr. John W. Hakola, University of Maine at Orono, Dr. James S. Leamon, Bates College, or Mr. Joel Eastman, University of Maine at Portland-Gorham.

Maine League of Historical Societies and Museums: The Annual Meeting of the Maine League of Historical Societies and Museums will be held at Bates College on Saturday, September 16th. Registration from 9 to

10:00 a.m. Theme: *New Directions for Local Historical Societies*. The program will include a presentation of new availabilities in services to local historical societies by the League's new Project Director, Mr. Marius B. Peladeau. The featured speaker will be Dr. Edward D. Ives, Professor of Folklore at the University of Maine at Orono, who will talk on the subject *Oral History as a Tool for the Local Historian*.

The Maine Old Cemetery Association: MOCA is at work on two separate projects which will open up a vast amount of genealogical data of help to those who engage in family history. Mrs. Charles Jackson, Route 1, North Vassalboro, 04962, is gathering material for a master list of copies of inscriptions which have been made and are available for consultation. Mr. Nathan Hale, Newcastle, 04533, is transcribing inscriptions arranging them on forms for an alphabetical index of individuals for whom there are gravestones anywhere in Maine. Eventually this material will be put on computer cards and made available for use in the State Archives. In relation to this last project, Mr. Hale wishes it to be known that he will be in the Library of Maine Historical Society the last Monday of each month from ten to four o'clock to meet with individuals who are interested in working at home on what he calls, "the geological survey map project". This will pinpoint all cemeteries, private and public, in the state. Such persons should contact him and state the locality which interests him. This is work that can be done at home and members of the Society can be brought into it, even those who live out of state, by contacting Mr. Hale.