

Maine Historical Society Quarterly

Volume 13, Number two

Fall, 1973

Published quarterly at 485 Congress Street
Portland, Maine 04111

THE SOCIETY

Committee Appointments: The following Committees were appointed by President Silsby and confirmed by the Standing Committee in September of this year: *Finance* David A. Nichols, Chairman, with Martial D. Maling, Arthur T. Forrestall and Roger B. Ray. *Legislative* James S. Kriger, Chairman, with David A. Nichols and Curtis M. Payson. *Membership* Roger B. Ray, Chairman, with Joel W. Eastman and Hilda M. Fife. *Personnel* Mrs. William J. Murphy, Chairman, with Gary M. Nichols and Donald L. Philbrick. *Public Relations* John W. Hakola, Earle G. Shettleworth, Jr., and Elizabeth Ring. *Publications* John W. Hakola, Chairman, with Roger Grindle, James S. Leamon, Roger C. Taylor, Edith L. Hary, Robert G. Albion, Joel W. Eastman, and Charles E. Clark. *Wadsworth-Longfellow House* Mrs. William J. Murphy, Chairman, with Mrs. Malcolm H. Barto, Mrs. John McInnes, III, Mrs. Karl R. Philbrick, Mrs. John B. Sloggett, and Earle G. Shettleworth, Jr. *Executive Committee* Herbert T. Silsby, II, President, Roger B. Ray, Past President, Martial D. Maling, Vice President, Arthur T. Forrestall, Treasurer, Harry W. Rowe, Secretary, with Robert B. Williamson and Hilda M. Fife.

Ad Hoc Committees: *Collections* James B. Vickery, III, Chairman, with Elizabeth Ring, Hilda M. Fife, H.

Draper Hunt, III, and William B. Jordan, Jr. *Building* Roger B. Ray, Chairman, with James S. Kriger, Martial D. Maling, and Earle G. Shettleworth, Jr. *Planning* Herbert T. Silsby, II, Chairman, with Roger B. Ray, John W. Hakola, David A. Nichols, James S. Kriger, James B. Vickery III, and Mrs. William J. Murphy.

Dues Increase: At their regular meeting in September, the Standing Committee voted to raise dues for Active Membership from \$8.00 to \$10.00 per year upon the recommendation of the Finance Committee. At the same time, the long standing policy of sending the *Quarterly* and special publications free to interested libraries and historical societies was abandoned. Subscription information was sent to over 200 institutions. The new Dues Rate for Active Members will become effective on January 1, 1974. All other classes of membership remain the same. Naturally the Standing Committee regrets these revisions upward, generated in part by the inflationary spiral and in part by increased services.

We would like to plead with members on-the-move to include the Society when sending out change of address notices. The membership is getting larger each day, and for each copy of the *Quarterly* returned the Society must pay the postman 10¢ and another 20¢ in order to remail to the current address. This in contrast to a cent and a half using our bulk mailing permit. The most serious loss, however, is in precious secretarial time, handling over one hundred special cases.

Some of our membership migrates to southern climes each winter. We are sorry to be unable to handle their requests for *temporary* changes of address; however, officials at the Post Office assure us that local postmen are able to forward any class of mail for specified periods.

Wadsworth-Longfellow House: The Wadsworth-Longfellow House was forced to close one month early this summer, a victim of Urban Renewal. On the day after Labor Day, the portion of Congress Street directly in front of the House and Society building was divested of both paving and sidewalk. Presumably, traffic will be back to normal in November.

The Wadsworth-Longfellow House will open again this year during the week just prior to Christmas (December 17th-21st) in the afternoons only. The first floor will be decorated in true Victorian style, and the little gift shop at the rear of the House will be open with many unusual gifts for Christmas. Dozens of books on Maine's history, Longfellow's poetry, designed for both children and adults, will be on display as well as lovely corn husk dolls, pewter, jewelry, and other unique items in ceramics and slate. Each item sold contributes directly to the maintenance of the House.

NEW MEMBERS

FROM MAINE Augusta: Miss Ruth C. Briggs *Brunswick:* Mr. & Mrs. Richard L. Hatch *Cape Elizabeth:* Mrs. Elizabeth W. Berg *Cushing:* Miss Estella Draper *Falmouth:* Raymond S. Owen *Gray:* Rear Admiral Willard M. Sweetser, U.S. Navy Retired *Hallowell:* Catherine F. Allen *Kezar Falls:* John M. Day *Livermore Falls:* Mrs. Alfred Gammon *Portland:* Mr. & Mrs. Caspar F. Cowan, Herman Ganzevoort, Mrs. Cynthia L. Johnson, James Levis, Jr., Miss Josephine O'Hare *Raymond:* Clement S. Pratt *South Portland:* Mrs. Sylvia C. Dow.

Other States CALIFORNIA Los Angeles: Mr. J. M. Schutz *CONNECTICUT Middletown:* Wilbert Snow *MARYLAND Glen Echo:* Mrs. Thomas F. Hahn *MAS-SACHUSETTS Lexington:* Leonard J. Travis, Jr. *Watertown:* Russell A. Dorr, Jr. *NEW HAMPSHIRE Nashua:* Merle Wentworth Fickett, Jr. *WASHINGTON, D.C.:* Miss Martha A. Milliken, Nicholas Donnell Ward.



St. John Smith (1799-1878)



Susan Hopkins Smith (1810-1889)

New Acquisitions: Two important portraits were received this summer, gifts of Mrs. Nancy S. Saltonstall of Ithaca, New York, and Dr. Henry St. John Smith of South Lancaster, Massachusetts. Information about these fine portraits reproduced on the pages of this *Quarterly* was kindly supplied by Mrs. Jane Smith Moody:

Susan Hopkins Smith daughter of James Dean Hopkins, Portland Lawyer, and Dorcas Tucker Hopkins, was born in Portland January 13, 1810. She grew up on the corner of Danforth and Brackett Streets in a house then known as "Hopkins' Folly" because of its long distance from the settled parts of the city. The house, sadly covered in 20th century siding, stands today.

Mr. and Mrs. Smith were married in 1845 and were the parents of three children, many of whose descendants still live in Portland. Mrs. Smith enjoyed traveling and accompanied her husband on his business trips to the South, Canada and New York. This portrait was painted in New York by William Merritt Chase in 1880 when she was seventy years old. Mrs. Smith died in March, 1889, and is buried in the Smith Tomb at Evergreen Cemetery.

St. John Smith was born in January, 1799, the second of the seven children of Ezra and Marcia Burleigh Smith, then of Topsham, Maine. As a youth, St. John worked on his father's farm in Hanover (near Rumford Point, Maine) and learned to drive logs on the Androscoggin, Ellis, Concord, and Swift Rivers.

In 1825 he came to Portland, and along with John Bundy Brown, worked in Alpheus Shaw's grocery

store. Having learned the merchants trade, the two went into business together forming Smith & Brown Company — a partnership that lasted over ten years. Mr. Smith's first wife, Mary Holmes, whom he married in 1831, died in 1832. Thirteen years later he married Susan Hopkins and they lived all of their lives on the corner of Spring and Oak Streets in a house which eventually became the Portland Fraternity Club, and has long since been demolished.

Mr. Smith also formed partnerships with Theophilus C. Hersey (Smith & Hersey Co.) and with G. H. Fletcher (Smith & Fletcher Co.). In addition to his trade and shipping interests, Mr. Smith was a incorporator and president of the Atlantic & St. Lawrence Railway, a director and president of the Casco Bank, and projector and first president of the First National Bank.

Mr. Smith made considerable investments in buildings and real estate and, according to John Neal, Portland raconteur, was one of the heaviest losers in the fire of 1866.

Mr. Smith's notebooks reveal that he had his portrait painted by both Moses White of Boston, and John Greenleaf Cloudman of Portland. For stylistic reasons, this particular portrait appears to be the work of Mr. White; but further study will be needed for definite attribution.

NOTES ON OTHER SOCIETIES AND INSTITUTIONS

The New England-Atlantic Provinces-Quebec Center: One of the many fine resource centers in the State of Maine about which too few people know is the New England-Atlantic Provinces-Quebec Center at the University of Maine, Orono. Housed in the Fogler Library, the Center was established in 1968 for the general purpose of promoting interest in Canada and in things Canadian. From the first, the major input and thrust appears to have been from the faculty of the Department of History at Orono. The Center promotes a wide variety of activities including: Vigorous acquisition of resource materials in cooperation with the various academic departments and the Fogler Library; sponsoring an exchange program for junior year students with the University of New Brunswick; promoting the teaching of Canada in the school system at the primary and secondary school levels; sponsoring symposia and seminars on area studies.

The Center's publications are frequently useful to the student of Maine history. The very attractive *NEAPQ NEWS*, a regional Newsletter, is published six times each year under the editorship of Edward O. Schriver, and is available by writing to the Editor, *NEAPQ NEWS*, 76 Library, University of Maine at Orono, Orono, Maine 04473. Three publications were published at the Center in 1971 of considerable interest to many of our readers. The second edition of *The Atlantic Provinces of Canada; Union Lists of Materials in the Larger Libraries in Maine* by Alice R. Stewart is an extremely helpful listing of all types of materials: periodicals, newspapers, books and pamphlets, and theses. Although directed primarily towards teaching about Canada in secondary education,

nevertheless *Teaching Canada; a Bibliography* compiled under the direction of Professors Alice R. Stewart and William J. McAndrew (the Center's Director) will prove useful to any but the most advanced researcher in the field. A very preliminary survey by Irene M. Simano, *The Franco-Americans of New England: A Union List of Materials in Selected Maine Libraries*, locates some of the more obvious materials in Maine libraries.

While on the subject of New England, the Atlantic Provinces, and Quebec, notice should certainly be given here of a new, valuable journal on the area, *Acadiensis: Journal of the History of the Atlantic Region*, which began in the Autumn of 1971, and is published twice a year by the Department of History of the University of New Brunswick at Fredericton. Phoenix from the ashes, it takes its title from a journal covering the same region, published early in this century. The very first issue contains a revealing description of the Provincial Archives of New Brunswick by Hugh Taylor, and a fascinating review of recent historical literature on the area by Orono's Dr. Alice R. Stewart, who is also on the journal's advisory board.

The Maine League of Historical Societies and Museums held their annual business meeting at *Willowbrook at Newfield* in Newfield, Maine, on October sixth this year. Morgan Phillips and Stanley Smith, both with the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities, addressed the League. The following officers were elected for 1973-74: Mrs. Dorris A. Isaacson, President; Harry W. Rowe, Vice President; Samuel S. Silsby, Jr., Secretary; and Otto W. Siebert, Treasurer. Mrs. Isaacson is also editor of the League's quarterly *Maine History News*, which is in its seventh year of publication.

The Maine Academic Historians whose *Proceedings* members of MHS received last month, met at Augusta on October thirteenth for their second annual session. Allan R. Whitmore, University of Maine Portland-Gorham, gave the principal paper on William H. Chaney of Ellsworth. President of the Maine Historical Society, Herbert T. Silsby, II, commented on Dr. Whitmore's paper. The paper and proceedings will be published by the Society in a special issue of the *Quarterly* in 1974.