

Maine Historical Society Quarterly

Volume 16, Number four

Spring, 1977

Published quarterly at 485 Congress Street
Portland, Maine 04111

THE SOCIETY

To the Membership:

On behalf of the Standing Committee, I am sorry to report the resignation of our Director, Mr. Gerald E. Morris. A native of Colorado with a bachelor's degree from the University of Denver, and graduate degrees in history and library science from the University of Pennsylvania and Drexel Institute, Jerry came to the Society in 1969, after having served as Librarian of the distinguished G. W. Blunt White Library of the Mystic Seaport Museum, and as Head of Technical Services at Providence College.

The accomplishments of Jerry's eight year sojourn at the Maine Historical Society are truly impressive, needing no recitation to those familiar with the condition of this institution prior to his arrival. Still, it is not inappropriate "to spread upon the record" for those who follow after us the record of his contributions to the revitalization of this Society. Confronted on his arrival with the problems of inadequate staff, an enormous backlog of book cataloging, and the "benign neglect" of the Society's valuable manuscript collections, Jerry has made great strides in placing the Maine Historical Society on a professional footing, despite the severe financial limitations con-

fronting him every step of the way. Through imagination and persistence, a competent staff has been assembled, and the cataloging backlog largely cleared. With the hiring of a full-time curator of manuscripts and the construction of new stack area with proper temperature-humidity control, notable progress has been made towards the proper organization, cataloging, and preservation of the Society's manuscript collections.

Of equal importance with these much-needed internal improvements is the influence Jerry Morris has exerted in making this Society a focal point for those interested in Maine history. He has done this through an ambitious publications program which has done much to enhance our already recognized reputation for scholarly excellence in this area. Under his editorial guidance the Society's *Newsletter* has been transformed into a regularly published historical quarterly, offering us the opportunity to share with our far-flung membership some of the interesting and important research being done in Maine history. We must also acknowledge our indebtedness to Jerry for the vital role he personally played in the production of our four most recent major publications: *Maine Becomes a State*, by Ronald F. Banks; *Province and Court Records* (volume 6), edited by Neal W. Allen, Jr.; *The Kennebec Proprietors*, by Gordon E. Kershaw; and the *Maine Bicentennial Atlas*. These important publications, combined with nine historical bibliographies which he has edited, have greatly contributed to the stature and reputation of our Society.

Jerry Morris is a man whose intelligence and professionalism are always balanced by good humor, and that rare gift for reconciling conflicting interests. His departure from Maine will be keenly felt by the Standing Committee, staff, and membership of the Maine Historical Society. We will miss him, and wish him well in his new role as Associate Director of Library and Publications and

Librarian of G. W. Blunt White Library at Mystic Seaport Museum where he returns. Mystic's gain is truly Maine's loss.

Martial D. Maling
President
Maine Historical Society

PERSONNEL CHANGES

At a meeting of the Standing Committee of the Maine Historical Society, Thomas L. Gaffney was appointed to the position of Acting Director, effective June 1. Currently the Curator of Manuscripts, Mr. Gaffney will act in a dual capacity until such time as the Standing Committee sees fit to select a permanent director.

The resignation of Mrs. Esta J. Astor has been accepted with regret. Mrs. Astor has been Reference Librarian for the past seven years. Her warmth and graciousness will be sorely missed by all who have had the pleasure of working with her. Mrs. Astor, effective June 1, will be replaced by Mrs. Susan D. Jones, a native of Cincinnati, Ohio, with a B.A. in modern history from Bryn Mawr College. Mrs. Jones, a resident of Portland, has had extensive experience as a research assistant at the University of Michigan, and is the co-author of several publications.

NEW MEMBERS

FROM MAINE Augusta: Dr. Dean B. Bennett *Bar Mills:* Mrs. Elaine Crosby *Berwick:* Professor Laurance E. Webber *Boothbay Harbor:* Mr. Chip Griffin *Brunswick:* Mrs. F. Burton Whitman, Jr. *Ellsworth:* Mr. Carle G. Gray, Mr. Deale B. Salisbury, Mr. H. Theodore Smith *Falmouth:* Mr. & Mrs. Karl F. Switzer *Farmington:* Mr. Myron Star-

bird *Gorham*: Mrs. Christine Sawyer, Dr. Robert M. York
Maplewood: Mr. John Large *North Berwick*: Mr. Frank P.
Hall, Jr. *Portland*: Mrs. Barbara P. Congdon, Mr. Nathan
Copeland, Mr. & Mrs. John Gulliver, Mr. Leslie W.
Pearson, Mr. & Mrs. Stuart A. White *Princeton*: Mrs.
Sharon J. Holt *Scarborough*: Mr. Marvin Pickering *South
Portland*: Mr. Evan Richert, Mrs. Frances C. Sullivan *West
Buxton*: Ms. Rebecca R. Weeman *York Harbor*: Mr.
Laurence A. Ladd.

Other States MASSACHUSETTS Brookline: Mr. Robert C.
Anderson *NEW YORK Purchase*: Miss Miranda Hapgood.

LIFE MEMBERS

Mr. Charles R. Huntoon, Jr.
Portland, Maine

NOTES ON OTHER SOCIETIES AND INSTITUTIONS

Following the success of last year's "Maine in the Revolution," the Continuing Education Division of the University of Maine at Portland-Gorham will offer a special summer school course on "Maine Economic History," July 18 through August 5, on the Portland campus. The program will again be organized and directed by Joel W. Eastman, associate professor of history, and will feature a series of guest lecturers by specialists in Maine history. Topics to be covered include transportation, lumbering, fishing, agriculture, manufacturing, labor, and recreation. The course meets daily from 9:15 A.M. until 12:00 M. during the three-week session, and is being offered for both undergraduate and graduate credit. For further information contact the Continuing Education Division of the University of Maine at Portland-Gorham, 96 Falmouth Street, Portland, Maine 04103.