

Maine Historical Society Quarterly

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THE SOCIETY

We need your help! Over the past decade the Society has incurred a cumulative deficit of approximately \$50,000, and another deficit of \$12,500 is anticipated for the current year. If the long-term vitality and solvency of the Society are to be preserved, efforts must obviously be made to bring income into balance with expenditures. The solution to this problem is indeed a difficult one for non-profit institutions such as the Maine Historical Society. Since every effort has been made to operate the Society with both prudence and economy, without curtailing the essential services so much appreciated by the people of Maine, we are now compelled to appeal to our friends to assist us in solving our financial difficulties.

To eliminate this year's anticipated operating deficit of \$12,500, Mr. and Mrs. J. Weston Walch of Portland have presented us with a generous and challenging proposition. They have offered to donate \$5,000 towards eliminating the current deficit provided the Maine Historical Society can raise the remaining \$7,500 in gifts from private sources. Since the offer will be withdrawn on December 15, 1977, we now call upon our friends to help make it possible for us to take advantage of this unique opportunity offered by Mr. and Mrs. Walch. All contributions to the Maine Historical Society are tax deductible, and will do much to assist us in promoting the historical and cultural heritage of Maine.

THE 155th ANNUAL MEETING

The 155th Annual Meeting of the Maine Historical Society, attended by 111 members and guests, was held in Farmington on June 18, 1977. The Farmington Historical Society and the University of Maine at Farmington acted as co-hosts.

The names of the newly-elected members of the Standing Committee were announced at the business meeting. Elected to serve three year terms on the Committee were: Benjamin Butler of Farmington; Joel W. Eastman of Portland; Mrs. Joan S. Hayden of Yarmouth; William C. Pierce of West Baldwin; Donald K. Saunders of Westbrook; Miss Alice R. Stewart of Orono; and Roger C. Taylor of Rockland. Officers for the current year are: Earle G. Shettleworth, President; H. Draper Hunt, III, Vice President; William B. Jordan, Jr., Secretary; and Donald L. Philbrick, Treasurer.

Roger C. Taylor, Chairman of the Publications Committee, presented the Society's eighth annual prize essay award to Mr. Alan S. Taylor of West Buxton, Maine. Mr. Taylor's essay, "The Smuggling Career of William King," appears in this issue of the *Quarterly*.

After a buffet luncheon, Mrs. Natalie Butler, Gwilym Roberts, Ben Stinchfield, and Donald W. McKeen provided an introduction to historical Farmington, followed by tours of the Nordica Homestead, the Union Baptist Meeting House, and the Little Red Schoolhouse Museum.

THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The first matter of information, although known to many of you, is the change in our staff. On May first, Director Morris submitted his resignation in order to accept a post at Mystic Seaport where he had served earlier in his career. Based on the sixty-day clause in our contract, Jerry will officially leave us at the end of this month. Typically and generously, he has offered to keep an eye on a few still unfinished matters which will carry well into the period in which he will be serving full time in his new tour of duty.

Mrs. Esta Astor, our well-loved reference librarian, also has submitted her resignation, effective May thirty-first, in order to enjoy her new home in Raymond and, hopefully, a period of relaxation.

The Standing Committee met these problems by the following actions:

Susan Jones is now on the staff as Reference Librarian.

Thomas Gaffney, our Curator of Manuscripts, has been designated as Acting Director as of June first, while retaining his former position. The month overlap, prior to termination of Mr. Morris's time, is to provide the Acting Director some real insight into his new assignment.

Due to the probable burden on Mr. Gaffney, it has been arranged that Rae Romano Brown will return to the staff as clerical assistant for manuscripts and for administration, partially lightening the load of Sigrid Austin, who has had too much clerical work. Mrs. Brown is to start on July first.

Today, the Standing Committee will experience the largest turnover in composition since the founding of the Society, I suspect. That is due to the requirement of the Bylaws for rotation in office as adopted a few years ago.

I am heartily in favor of this requirement, particularly in view of some of the current tribulations facing the Standing Committee. The retiring members of the Standing Committee have not solved some of the urgent problems. Our hope is that others will bring fresh views and methods to these matters.

These matters which I will call to your attention appear to have a common denominator. That is cold cash. The Treasurer's Report and the proposed budget for the coming year provide some details. I am told that at least 70 percent of budgets of similar organizations are allocated normally to salaries. This refers to current salaries and fringe benefits, the latter of which we sadly lack. In 1970, it appears from the auditor's report that we paid close to 60 percent of expenditures in this category. From the past year's report, as of March 31, 1977, the percentage appears to have fallen to some 54 percent. Great credit is to be accorded to our departing Director for maintaining such a cheerful, dedicated staff of employees, including himself, on which this burden fell, while we paid rising costs for utilities, supplies, and postage, to keep our doors open to our members as well as to the public.

The loss of Jerry Morris can be traced to this financial bind. He is extremely knowledgeable and has worked tirelessly for the Society. I cannot speak too highly of his abilities. Through his efforts, we embarked upon a publication program which has brought our name well forward in that field. Publications is a preferred field for Mr. Morris who, I understand, was uninterested in moving back to Mystic Seaport unless he was allocated an important post in its publication program. To my great regret, the Maine Historical Society is unable to match the salary and benefits offered by Mystic and thereby to have retained Jerry's services for the State of Maine and to continue growth in our publications program.

Under the guidance of our Director, more accurately, following his leadership, the Standing Committee has approved and instituted some very substantial improvements in the services rendered by the Society, in addition to the care and cataloging of our ever-increasing — both in bulk and in value — collections. Throughout the state, Mr. Morris has travelled and worked because we are the Maine Historical Society. For much of this travel and expense, the Society has never been charged; the Director contributed from his salary. However, all these improvements are reflected in the annual expenditures.

I researched our auditor's financial reports since 1970 in an attempt to see the picture. I confined the search to unrestricted funds, since only against those should our deficits for the past four years be charged. In 1970, unrestricted income was only some 56 percent of the 1977 income. That seems to show 10 percent annual increase for which the Standing Committee can claim only partial credit. You know that the rate for dues increased as well as the number of members. In 1970, dues brought in about 12 percent of our total income, while in 1977 they produced approximately 18 percent. In seeking state aid, the legislative committee is always curious to know how much we do to help ourselves. For both 1970 and 1977, our invested unrestricted funds provided 36 percent of income. Gifts and bequests from individuals and grants from the state and a few towns in the Greater Portland area make up the difference. These gifts, bequests and grants are all rather "iffy". Towns waxed and waned during the eight years. Maine increased its grant substantially, but that is now a problem with the bind in which the state is contending. However, we on the Standing Committee have believed that our state should increase its current 22 percent support of the Society. Since substantial state support is so problematical, we must be prepared to seek aid elsewhere. There have been

conflicting views about seeking federal aid. No active effort has yet been made for obtaining substantial federal grants, whether outright or matching; you may prefer that we hold off on such a course, with its possible conditions and provisos.

The encouraging situation is reflected in my earlier statement that invested unrestricted income has maintained its percentage of total income on which our budgets are based. We have received total bequests to the General Fund of \$58,865 against which the distressful deficits so far can be charged. In addition, \$5,700 in Life Memberships over the eight year period and an anonymous gift of \$2,500 last year added to the General Fund. Of course, it is outrageous to eat up so much of these donations. We have kept our head above water, but are becoming water-logged as you must agree.

Further, in the past eight years, we have received two bequests creating named funds whose income is unrestricted in use. These total \$194,215.00. No Standing Committee should invade principal of such funds. It is for us all to ensure that the General Fund can absorb all invasions. I urge you to come forward with mental, physical and financial aid: suggestions, volunteer help at the Library, solicitations for financial contributions from individuals and corporations.

There have been other matters which engaged the attention of the Standing Committee. Last fall, we received an offer to sell to us the Muscongon or Waldo Patent—a grant of lands by the Great Council for New England in 1630. The Standing Committee became enthusiastic, and several members immediately pledged towards the purchase. No use of Society funds was contemplated as we felt assured of sufficient individual contributions.

When Thomas Gaffney saw the document, he doubted its alleged age due to the handwriting. With some further

research by him and Mr. Morris, it was determined that this document was a copy, made nearly a century later, for use of the then landowners. The document was returned to its present owner, as not being of the caliber desired by our Society.

In the winter, we spent considerable time on the question of permitting our Director to be appointed as State Historical Records Coordinator. This job would be funded with federal money and entailed determining what institutions and what documents within our state justified receiving support and preservation. The Standing Committee agreed to let Mr. Morris take on the coordinator's job to which he was only qualified so long as he was also our Director. I, for one, was relieved when Governor Longley declined to become involved with the National Historical Publications and Records Commission which would have overseen the state coordinator's activities. The governor made no appointment. Although nothing came of this, the backing of the Maine State Bicentennial Commission and the approval of the federal commission indicated that Maine Historical Society had a fully qualified Director.

Martial D. Maling

THE TREASURER'S REPORT

The annual audited financial report for the year ended March 31, 1977, shows an operating deficit of \$9,695, which includes a \$6,313 loss in Longfellow House operations. In addition, \$9,317 was transferred to special purpose accounts, making a total excess of expenses and transfers of \$19,012.

Assets consisted of:

Cash	17,891
Savings Accounts	41,531
Investments	590,083
Due from Operating Funds	41,490
Land, Buildings & Equipment	1
Deferred Debits—Bldg. Addition	30,703
	\$721,699

Current Liabilities were:

Accounts Payable	\$ 6,478
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Four thousand seven hundred dollars was paid on the Nichols Hall borrowing, so this debt is now reduced from the original \$40,000 to \$26,288. Some savings were effected in salaries but unusual Longfellow House repairs, and large increases in utilities and printing and postage accounts pushed the expense side of the operating statement some \$13,000 over the previous year.

That income was up \$4,900 can be credited to an increase in interest and dividends, and a small increase in dues income. State and local grants were down by nearly \$4,000 as the two largest municipalities cancelled their grants and the state held back 4 percent.

There is no reason to expect that the inflationary trend will ease sufficiently, and the Finance Committee, still reluctant to further cut services, can see the probability of a \$12,500 deficit in 1977-78. If this trend is to be reversed, the Society must increase its operating income, probably through increased fees, a broader base of municipal grants, and encouragement of greater private contributions. Do we have the will to meet this problem positively, while continuing to provide those services for which the Society was founded? I hope so.

Arthur T. Forrestall

MAINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENSE
for the years ended March 31, 1977, 1976, and 1975

	1977	1976	1975
Income:			
Interest and dividends	\$ 38,230	\$ 35,997	\$ 36,663
Dues	18,990	17,100	13,999
Gifts	6,689	5,593	2,564
Grants	24,090	27,900	27,600
Longfellow House (including interest)	8,928	9,808	6,856
Other	511	405	337
	97,438	96,803	88,019
Expenses:			
Salaries	52,648	54,847	55,132
Pensions and annuities	5,680	5,850	5,760
Insurance	2,881	3,029	2,946
Utilities	5,375	3,983	2,974
Repairs	234	1,990	596
Supplies	2,341	2,622	3,091
Payroll taxes	4,453	3,844	3,486
Telephone	1,421	1,369	1,300
Newsletter and printing	10,286	7,157	6,663
Postage and mailing service	4,809	2,256	1,924
Professional services	2,509	2,443	3,440
Custodian fee	2,584	2,394	2,174
Equipment rental	—	—	1,012
Interest	2,296	2,652	—
Travel	203	597	915
Miscellaneous	1,183	300	532
Equipment purchased	2,275	1,678	—
Longfellow House:			
Salaries	7,693	5,276	4,462
Repairs	3,345	584	746
Other	3,946	4,070	2,682
	116,162	106,941	99,835
Transfers to principal	288	265	265
Excess (deficiency) of income over expenses and transfers	\$(19,012)	\$(10,403)	\$(12,081)

THE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

By an odd coincidence, the end of the Bicentennial year will bring leadership changes at the Maine Historical Society almost as pervasive as in the federal government. Ending not only their terms of office, but their terms on the governing board as well are the President, Martial D. Maling, Harry W. Rowe, Secretary for nine years, and Arthur T. Forrestall, Treasurer for seven years; and Gerald E. Morris, Director of the Society for eight years, will be departing. In addition, the mechanics set up back in 1969 for automatic rotation of the board begins this year. By Annual Meeting two years from now, the majority of the Standing Committee will consist of new members. Given this dramatic turnover, the Society will have an unprecedented opportunity to reassess and revitalize its programs and activities.

Even though we have invaded principal by about \$50,000 since the beginning of this decade, our endowment has managed to grow by \$137,000 during the same period. This is due to the generosity of the members and friends of the Society, and the long-range, persistent efforts of key members of the Standing Committee. In addition, our annual appropriation from the State of Maine, since 1974, has been \$24,000, whereas a decade ago (1954-1964) it was but \$2,500. So the Society is not faced with the enormous, panic situation plaguing many private, non-profit institutions. Nevertheless, with a budget trimmed to the bone (one of our board members described the budget as penurious), we are still depleting our reserves at an unacceptable rate. When the Director took over administration of this Society in 1969, he suggested that an annual budget of \$100,000 would be required to achieve minimal operations for the Society. Eight years has confirmed the accuracy of this initial assessment (one must also add in an inflation factor). For

minimal vitality, the Society simply must achieve an income of \$100,000, and at least 25 new members each month. This seems less of an overwhelming challenge now than it did eight years ago.

The Bicentennial Hangover is what *Time Magazine* called it in its June 13, 1977 issue. Colonial Williamsburg suffered a \$703,000 deficit last year, its first ever, by over-estimating the swell in attendance the Bicentennial would bring. Visitation during the fall and winter was so poor that they laid off 3 percent of the staff. Closer to home, Old Sturbridge Village ran in the red by \$350,000 and Plimouth Plantation ended the year with an \$83,000 deficit (compared with a \$61,000 profit in 1975). Mystic Seaport imposed a staff cutback of 5 percent to avoid a \$75,000 deficit.

It was a weird Bicentennial celebration all around, including our own. After a series of ghastly bombings in the New England area, the Society was notified to be on the alert over the Fourth of July weekend by the Portland Police, who, in turn, had been notified by the FBI. Apparently the mild, but visible security precautions surrounding the Society's Open House (plus the complete blackout on public announcement) on the Fourth of July did not unduly upset the membership. Somewhere between 200 and 250 attended.

After the local bombers were put behind bars, the tense atmosphere cooled considerably by the time of the series of Bicentennial lectures sponsored by the Maine Academic Historians, the Maine State Bicentennial Commission, and the Society. Bernard Bailyn of Harvard fulfilled his reputation as a sparkling, stimulating speaker. By planning three years in advance, however, we encountered some unusual conflicts. Bailyn's first lecture at Portland was played against the final game of the World Series. His second lecture at Augusta occurred at the date and hour

of the presidential debates; and he arrived for his final lecture at Orono amidst the enthusiastic disruption of Homecoming weekend. As a result, attendance was disappointing: 250 at Portland, 65 at Augusta, and 100 at Orono. However, audiences were lively and participated with excellent questions and discussions. The Bailyn lectures were funded totally by the Maine Bicentennial Commission, Dr. Ronald F. Banks, Chairman, Donna T. Mundy, Director.

Publications: The Society's principal publication for 1976, *The Maine Bicentennial Atlas: An Historical Survey*, was also fully funded by the Maine Bicentennial Commission. Without their enthusiastic and generous support, nothing would have left the drawing board. In addition, the Maine State Bicentennial Commission voted in July of 1976 that all proceeds from the *Atlas* would return to the Society rather than the Commission for the purpose of future revisions, and, if returns were sufficient, to fund similar publications of state-wide significance and utility. In effect, the Commission has generously provided the Society with a revolving fund for future publications.

Three years in production, the idea for the *Atlas* germinated in the Society's Bicentennial Committee, Joel W. Eastman, Chairman. Responsibility then passed to an Executive Committee for an Historical Atlas, John W. Hakola, Chairman. Then, with the Society's Director acting as overall editor, and Richard D. Kelly, Jr., as associate editor, the following members contributed countless hours of research at no cost whatsoever to the project: Ronald F. Banks, Bruce J. Bourque, Edwin A. Churchill, Richard F. Dole, Roger L. Grindle, Elizabeth Ring, Eldred Rolfe, William F. Royall, Earle G. Shettleworth, Jr., Herbert T. Silsby, II, David C. Smith, and Alice R. Stewart. The full story of the *Atlas's* genesis is told in the "Introduction and Acknowledgements" of that publication.

The *Atlas* came back from the bindery on November 17, 1976, just seventeen days beyond its projected publication date; and Governor Longley was presented the first copy on December first.

Also published by the Society was *Maine Composers and Their Music* by Dr. Frances T. Wiggin. Dr. Wiggin was honored by an author's reception at the Wadsworth-Longfellow House on November 7, 1976. Dr. John E. Frost's *Maine Genealogy*, number eight in the Society's Bibliographical Guide Series came off the press in February of this year. Of unusual breadth and scope, this guide provides a significant contribution to the study of Maine genealogy. In time for the Bicentennial year, part of last summer's double issue of the *Quarterly* was devoted to a *Reader's Guide to Maine in the Revolution*. Compiled by Edwin A. Churchill and James S. Leamon, it is a 46 page preliminary to a full-scale bibliography to be published in the Bibliographical Guide Series, but is sufficiently comprehensive to be sold as a separate publication (as a matter of fact it had to be reprinted recently).

With the tourist trade specifically in mind, *Scenes and Poems from the Wadsworth-Longfellow House* was published this spring, making available to visitors an album of pictures of the House's interior along with copies of the nine poems known to be composed by Longfellow at 487 Congress Street.

With the number of monographs in the works this year, the Director turned the editing chores of the *Quarterly* over to the Curator of Manuscripts, Tom Gaffney, commencing with Volume 16, number one. At the same time, Joel W. Eastman, professor of history at the University of Maine, Portland, was appointed Book Review Editor by the Publications Committee.

Manuscripts: In preparing for the State Appropriations Committee hearing on February 8, 1977, fresh

measurements were made of the manuscript collections. Now that the collections are neatly boxed and housed in our new stacks, this was the first time precise measurement had been possible. The results were startling. Whereas we used to speak of about a million documents; remeasurement revealed a collection of nearly two million documents. We now hold 1,095 linear feet, which equals 1,752,000 documents, plus 105 map drawers of manuscripts (maps, architectural drawings, engine plans, etc.) numbering 15,000 pieces conservatively. This means a growth of approximately 600,000 items in the past six years. Also in the past six years, 18,200 catalog cards and 83 complete inventories have been created. 90 percent of the collection has been rehoused in acid-free document cases and folders and placed in ideal archival conditions (60 degrees temperature at 50 percent humidity). This is a fine record of accomplishment. It is important to realize that the acid-free rehousing materials and expense of cataloging was made possible by state grant, while enlargement of the stacks, climate control, and the security system was provided by Society funding.

The fifth biennial course in the administration and preservation of historical documents, in cooperation with Professor Leamon and Bates College, commenced on April 25th this year and ended June 3rd. Under Tom Gaffney's direction, Nancy Carlisle of Ridgewood, New Jersey, and Susan Crouser of Pittsfield, Massachusetts, Bates students, participated in this important educational program.

Wadsworth-Longfellow House: The Chairman of the House Committee, Mrs. William J. Murphy, and the Director felt that the group of guides at the House last summer were the best we have had so far. Particularly outstanding was their ability to gain instant rapport with all age groups. Julie Irving, house supervisor from the Society, managed to keep her staff both alert and happy.

There were guests from ten foreign countries and from all states in the Union except Wyoming last summer. Attendance was down a bit from last year, but, as noted under the "Bicentennial" section of this report, this seemed to be the norm. Apparently all of the talk about hoards of visitors during the Bicentennial boomeranged.

The garden received unusually thorough and vigorous attention from the Longfellow Garden Club ladies and looked splendid for the entire summer.

This past winter played havoc with the exterior of the Wadsworth-Longfellow House. Although we were well aware that pointing would have to be done in the very near future and many window sashes in the front of the House would need to be restored or replaced — the winter dealt a savage and highly visible blow to both bricks and mortar. As a result, a *complete* survey of the physical needs of the House was contracted and carried out by David M. Hart, Director of Consulting Services, Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities, Boston. Mr. Hart's report, converting needs into dollars and cents, provided the basis for a matching grant application made in May by the Society to the Maine Historic Preservation Commission. Results of this application should be known late this year for action in 1978. This will mean one more financial challenge to the Society.

Acquisitions: Three large and important collections of books and pamphlets were received during the year. From Misses Mildred G. and Madeleine Burrage of Wiscasset, 85 valuable books on the Civil War were received, collected by their father, noted historian Henry S. Burrage (one-time President of this Society).

In March, Mr. Thomas C. and Robert B. Hosler of Elmhurst, Illinois, presented the library of their late uncle, Arthur T. Harlow of South Portland. This excellent collection of 223 books greatly enriched our holdings in

the areas of maritime, railroad, and New England local history. Mr. Jim Buchanan of Stow, Ohio, formerly of Portland, presented 82 books on American Indians, and is continuing his donations in this field, which has recently become one of the principal specialties of this library, through the efforts of Roger B. Ray.

In the manuscripts division five boxes of papers were received from the Maine Audubon Society, the records of the Portland Society of Natural History from 1850-1946. The collection contains, in addition to membership lists, treasurer's reports, etc., correspondence from such notables as Elizabeth Akers Allen, Sylvester B. Beckett, Admiral George Henry Preble, and biographical data on James Phinney Baxter, Percival Proctor Baxter, John Neal, Charles C. Harmon, Augustus F. Moulton, and many others. Also with the Audubon gift came an important manuscript map of the Pejepscot Purchase, dated 1731, measuring 59 by 150 centimeters.

From Charles F. Adams of Auburn, Maine, a long-time friend and contributor to this Library, was received, in September of last year, five manuscript volumes of William Garcelon, of Freeport and Lewiston, covering the period 1800-1854, and three important manuscript volumes of Alonzo Garcelon of Lewiston, covering the years 1813-1906.

As usual, the job of Director has been made pleasant and relatively easy this year owing to a cheerful, loyal staff; an indulgent governing board; and an embarrassing number of individuals and working committees willing to drive many miles to give so freely of their time. To all, I extend my sincere thanks for a splendid year.

Gerald E. Morris

NEW MEMBERS

FROM MAINE Augusta: Mr. Frank A. Beard *Bath:* Mrs. Hope S. Hersom *Cape Elizabeth:* Mr. Charles B. Drake *Cumberland Foreside:* Ms. Mary B. Henriques *Damariscotta:* Mr. & Mrs. E. W. Freeman *East Holden:* Mr. Robert F. Fortier *Gorham:* Mrs. David Jenkins *Hiram:* Mr. Hubert W. Clemons *Limerick:* Mrs. Cora M. Cushing *Nobleboro:* Miss Ruth E. Dow *Oakland:* Mrs. A. Christine Hillman *Old Orchard Beach:* Mrs. Linda J. Tilton *Portland:* Mr. Andrew C. Bell, Mr. John David Erickson, Mr. Lorne R. Goodell, Mrs. Julie A. Horr, Mr. John E. Wilder, Ms. Susan Lee Yovic *Rockland:* Miss Madeline G. Philbrick *Southport:* Mr. & Mrs. J. Philip Walker *South Portland:* Rev. & Mrs. G. Gardner Monks *Thomaston:* Mrs. Tacy French *Waldoboro:* Mrs. Esther S. Gross *Yarmouth:* Mr. & Mrs. T Jere Townsend *York:* Mr. & Mrs. George Woodman.

Other States CALIFORNIA San Diego: Mr. Edward G. Welch *FLORIDA Clearwater:* Col. Leonard H. Smith, Jr. *MARYLAND Annapolis:* Mrs. L. Corrin Strong *MASSACHUSETTS Amesbury:* Ms. Barbara M. Taylor *NEW HAMPSHIRE Dover:* Mr. Robert E. Marston *NEW YORK Poughkeepsie:* Mr. Forrest L. Cousens *PENNSYLVANIA Lancaster:* Mrs. Edith P Skinner.

LIFE MEMBER

Mr. Russell E. Bryant
Cape Porpoise, Maine

NOTES ON OTHER SOCIETIES AND INSTITUTIONS

The Maine League of Historical Societies and Museums will hold its annual meeting at the Rockport Opera House

on September 17. The Camden-Rockport Historical Society will host the occasion. Registration and refreshments will be at 9:00 AM followed by the greetings which will be offered by Mrs. Ambrose C. Cramer and Mrs. Sewall Brown of the Camden-Rockport Historical Society and the Rockport Garden Club, respectively. The second annual Book Fair will also be presented. Mr. James H. Mundy, Assistant to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, will be the luncheon speaker, and will discuss the use of local sources in illuminating American history.

The annual meeting of the Maine Academic Historians will be held on Saturday, October 22, 1977, at the Augusta Civic Center in the wing utilized by the University of Maine at Augusta. Registration and coffee will be at 9:30 AM and the morning session begins at 10:00 AM. Edwin A. Churchill of the Maine State Museum will present a paper entitled "The Founding of Colonial Maine, 1600-1640: A Revisionist Interpretation," and Charles E. Clark of the University of New Hampshire will comment. A brief business session will follow lunch at the nearby Howard Johnson's restaurant.

Alan S. Taylor is a resident of West Buxton, Maine, and a recent graduate of Colby College with a B. A. in history. This essay is largely drawn from Mr. Taylor's Senior Scholar's thesis, "Maine and the Hartford Convention: The Impact of the War of 1812 on Maine and Massachusetts Politics."