

Maine Historical Society Quarterly

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THE SOCIETY

As indicated in the Director's Report published in the last issue of the *Quarterly*, the historic Wadsworth-Longfellow House, the boyhood home of Maine's famous poet, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, was extensively damaged by the severe cold and freezing rains experienced last winter. In response to an appeal by the Society, the City of Portland, on August 1, 1977, generously appropriated \$18,000 from its Community Development Funds to assist the Society in the restoration of this fine Federal-style home.

The Society is now awaiting formal notification from the Maine Historic Preservation Commission that its application for federal assistance has been approved. Hopefully the project will soon be put out for bid, and the work started this spring. Although the municipal and federal grants will do much to alleviate the heavy financial burden this restoration project has placed on the Society, private contributions are still considered essential for the successful completion of this ambitious undertaking.

On Saturday, October 23, 1977, the Maine Historical Society was pleased to hold an open house for a meeting of the New England Archivists which was hosted by the University of Maine at Portland-Gorham. Approximately thirty-five professional archivists from all over New England took advantage of this opportunity to visit the Society and inspect our new manuscript facility.

The Longfellow Garden Club held a two-day flower show on the 9th and 10th of November. The floral displays, exhibited in the Wadsworth-Longfellow House, and the main reading room of the Maine Historical Society Library, attracted nearly 500 visitors.

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NOTES ON OTHER SOCIETIES AND INSTITUTIONS

Researchers in Maine biography, family history, and genealogy are invited to use the INDEX of the Maine Old Cemeteries Association, which covers more than 115,000 persons buried in over 2,100 cemeteries throughout Maine. This material is available, without appointment, on the first and third Thursday of each month by inquiring at the desk of the Maine State Library, Augusta, or by writing to Mr. Nathan Hale, at Newcastle, Maine 04553.