

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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N I N E T Y - F I R S T L E G I S L A T U R E

Legislative Document

No. 413

H. P. 770

House of Representatives, February 10, 1943.

Referred to Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

HARVEY R. PEASE, Clerk.

Presented by Mr. Sleeper of Rockland.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
FORTY-THREE

RESOLVE, in Favor of Knox Memorial Association, Inc. for Support and Maintenance of "Montpelier."

Knox Memorial Association; appropriation for. Resolved: That there be, and hereby is, appropriated in favor of Knox Memorial Association, Inc., the sum of \$1,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1944, and the sum of \$1,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1945, to aid in the support and maintenance of "Montpelier," replica of the home of Major General Henry Knox, located at Thomaston, Maine.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

Major General Henry Knox, Revolutionary Patriot, was the close friend of Washington, and was the first Secretary of War of the United States. After retirement from public affairs, Knox built a stately mansion on the Georges River at Thomaston, Maine, which he occupied as his home from 1795 to 1806, the year of his death. This mansion was known as Montpelier.

In 1871 the Knox Mansion was destroyed to make way for the railroad, attempts to save the house having failed. In 1914 the General Knox Chapter, D. A. R., of Thomaston began its effort to erect a suitable monument to Knox, to be a replica of the original Montpelier in which to house and preserve Knox relics. In 1924 the Knox Memorial Association was founded and sponsored by the Sons and Daughters of the American Revolution, with membership open to all. Mr. Cyrus H. K. Curtis became interested in the activities of the Association and contributed the amount necessary to build the new "Montpelier" and to furnish it in part.

"Montpelier" is located at Thomaston, Maine, and, erected in honor of Knox, is a faithful replica of the original mansion. Professor Henry Thatcher Fowler, great-great-grandson of General Knox, donated many valuable pieces of original Knox furniture, manuscripts, etc. Other original Knox pieces have been purchased, given, and loaned to the Association for exhibition in "Montpelier". Other furniture and furnishings are of the Revolutionary and Early American periods.

The present building was dedicated and opened to the public July 25, 1931, and universal admiration is expressed for this beautiful reproduction of a colonial home. Many people consider "Montpelier" second only to Mt. Vernon, home of Washington.

"Montpelier" is owned by the Knox Memorial Association, Inc., a corporation without capital stock formed under the laws of the State of Maine, and having as its members persons interested in the patriotic, historical, and educational aspects of the Memorial. All officers of this association serve without pay and there is no person who has a pecuniary interest in "Montpelier" or the affairs of the association.

In the past, revenue of the association consisted of visitors fees and this source of revenue is now not available and will not be available for the "duration" because of the restrictions of travel and conditions caused by

the present emergency. Maintenance costs of the memorial are kept as low as prudence will warrant and net operating cost and deficit will exceed that of former years.

Believing "Montpelier" to be an attraction to visitors in the state and valuable to the state for its inherent qualities, the Association asks for the above appropriation to aid in the preservation of this historical shrine.