

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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

Legislative Document

No. 1225

H. P. 803

House of Representatives, March 16, 1951.

Reported by Mr. Jamieson from the Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs and printed under Joint Rules No. 10.

HARVEY R. PEASE, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Winchenpaw of Friendship.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
FIFTY-ONE

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

Knox Memorial Association, Inc.; 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, 1952, and the sum of \$1,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1953, 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 efforts to erect a suitable monument to Knox, to be a replica of the original home 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. The late 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. The present "Montpelier", located at Thomaston, is a faithful replica of the original mansion, and contains many valuable pieces of original Knox furniture, manuscripts, etc. Other furniture and furnishings are of the Revolutionary and Early American periods.

The present building, erected in honor of Knox, was dedicated and open to the public July 25, 1931, and universal admiration is expressed for this beautiful reproduction of a colonial home. Many consider it 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. Its members are 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.

Maintenance costs of the memorial are kept as low as prudence will warrant, but the cost of operation substantially exceeds the income available to the Association. "Montpelier" is an attraction to visitors in the State, and is valuable for its inherent qualities.

The Association asks for the above appropriation to aid in the preservation of this historical shrine.