

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Wm. F. Hill
DOCUMENTS

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THE LEGISLATURE

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE,

DURING ITS SESSION

A. D. 1856.

PART SECOND.

Augusta:

FULLER & FULLER, PRINTERS TO THE STATE.

1856.

THIRTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE.

SENATE.

No. 12.

MEMORIAL

OF THE

MAINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

*To the Honorable Senate
and House of Representatives of Maine:*

THE Maine Historical Society has recently been informed by an officer in the state department of New York, at Albany, that valuable papers and records relating to the early history of a portion of Maine have been discovered in that department.

These relate to an obscure portion of our history, viz: that which belonged to the interesting settlements at Sheepscot and Pemaquid, the details of which had hitherto escaped the researches of our antiquarians.

Pemaquid was the first point permanently occupied in Maine; and the largest and most thriving settlements were established there, and on the Sheepscot river, which existed in our State prior to the first Indian war of 1675; and again, between that period and the complete desolation of our territory, in the second Indian war of 1689.

That portion of the State lying beyond the jurisdiction or control of Massachusetts, no important records relating to it

were preserved in the archives of that colony during that period. But having been granted to the Duke of York, in 1664, together with the colony of New York, its affairs were administered principally in that central government. Its records and documents were preserved there, and are now most happily, for the elucidation of our history, brought to light.

They consist of council minutes of various transactions relative to the affairs of this remote colony, Indian depredations, measures taken to rescue the inhabitants, to re-settle the country, the appointment of officers and their commissions and instructions, the construction of forts, the incorporation of townships with municipal privileges, and the right to send a representative to the New York General Assembly. There are other valuable documents contained in that office, which we need not particularly describe, after the brief enumeration which we have above given.

It must be obvious to all who take any interest in our history, or who have attempted to explore its sources, that these papers should be placed within reach of our people. A faithful history of our State cannot be written without them. Many of our sister states have sent, at large expense, to those foreign countries, which have contributed mainly to their foundation, for early records, throwing light upon their origin and progress. We have an opportunity now offered, of procuring valuable materials for the illustration of our history, at a very moderate expense; and which, this Society does not doubt, will be embraced by the enlightened government of Maine to promptly procure.

The Historical Society therefore asks your honorable bodies to grant to them the sum of three hundred dollars for the purpose of procuring copies for publication, of the records and documents designated in this memorial.

R. H. GARDINER, *President.*

WM. WILLIS, *Recording Secretary.*

At a meeting of the Maine Historical Society, held at Augusta February 20th, 1856, it was

Voted, that the foregoing memorial be signed by the President and Secretary, be presented to the Legislature, and the objects of it be particularly urged upon their attention.

ATTEST: WM. WILLIS, *Recording Secretary*.

STATE OF MAINE.

IN SENATE, February 21, 1856.

ORDERED, That 350 copies of this Memorial be printed for the use of the Legislature.

WM. G. CLARK, *Secretary.*