

# 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.

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PART SECOND.

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Augusta:

FULLER & FULLER, PRINTERS TO THE STATE.

1856.

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# THIRTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE.

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SENATE.

No. 35.

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## STATE OF MAINE.

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IN SENATE, March 27, 1856.

THE Joint Standing Committee on the Library, to which was referred the memorial of the Maine Historical Society, have considered the subject submitted to them, and are agreed in the opinion that the object of the memorialists is a worthy one, and well entitled to the consideration and aid of the State.

To most minds, the remote history of localities with which they are familiar, has peculiar charms; and it is undoubtedly true that *all* our citizens are deeply interested in whatever elucidates our local history, touching the first settlement of the State.

The date and location of the several settlements, the origin of its settlers, their pursuits and improvements, hardships and reverses, officers and government, progress and general policy, are interesting and profitable subjects of study, not only to the antiquarian and curious student, but to the great mass of our people.

Pemaquid, one of the localities mentioned in the memorial, was among the first places permanently occupied in Maine. Although the Pemaquid patent bears date February 20, 1631, and was the last grant of lands made by the Plymouth Council within the present State of Maine, yet its earliest settlements,

according to Williamson, seem to have been made upon the western banks of Pemaquid river, in 1623 or '24. At this point, and on the Sheepscot river, at what were called the "Sheepscot Farms," flourishing settlements were commenced at this early period and continued until the Indian wars of 1675 and 1689, when they were destroyed by the Indians. That the settlement at the latter place was of considerable extent, is evidenced by the remains of numerous cellars, showing the course and length of the streets, as they appeared upon its re-settlement many years after the destruction of the original village. Indicating the early date of the settlement, is the fact, that there is now in one of these cellars, partially filled up, the stump of a pine tree nearly two feet in diameter, which was cut about the year 1817.

Remains of the ancient garrison of the place are now in existence, and some sixty years ago, the foundations of a building of considerable size were discovered, consisting of solid masonry of stone and lime.

Sawed oak plank were also found many years ago, about two feet beneath the surface of the ground, near which place it is supposed there was a ship yard, where ship building was carried on at that early period.

In the royal grant of all the Dutch territories upon the river Hudson, made to James, the Duke of York and Albany, in 1664, and to which was given the name of "New York," was also included certain territory in Maine, between the St. Croix and Pemaquid. The Duke's claim to this territory continued until about 1690, and was known by different names, as "The Duke of York's property," and "The territory of Sagadahock," but was called by his agents "New Castle." A portion of this territory upon the coast was organized into a county by the name of Cornwall, or Cornwallis, which embraced several incorporated townships, with certain municipal privileges, including the right to send one member to the New York General Assembly. The connection of the title and government of this territory with that of New York, probably accounts for the deposit of the

interesting records relating to the same, in the Secretary of States' office at Albany, and which have, until quite recently, been entirely overlooked.

These records, in the language of the gentleman through whose researches they have been discovered, and who communicated their existence to the Historical Society of Maine, relate to, and elucidate, the following subjects:

1. "Extract from Royal Grant to Duke of York, conveying a portion of the coast of Maine, 1664."

2. "Council minutes—news of Indian depredations near Pemaquid, and Resolution to send a sloop to bring off Inhabitants, September, 1676."

3. "Council minutes—Resolution to take formal possession of Pemaquid county, June, 1677."

4. "Council minutes—Commissioners sent to settle the Duke's interest—Civil and Military officers appointed—settlements encouraged, and lands offered, 1680."

5. "Articles of agreement between proprietors and first settlers of Sheepscot River, 1682."

6. "Information against John Kelson, of Boston, for extolling the power of the French in Acadia, boasting the prowess of the Kennebec Indians, &c."

7. "Commission of Thomas Sharpe, Commander at Pemaquid, Nov., 1683."

8. "Commission of Alexander Woodrose, Collector at Pemaquid."

9. "Commission of Justices of the Peace at Pemaquid, and of Commissions for settling and granting Lands, &c., 1683."

10. "The humble Petition of the poor inhabitants at Pemaquid."

11. "Four affidavits concerning hostile plans of Indians."

12. "Order in Council concerning Block House in Pemaquid, and collection of quit rents—civil officers appointed in Cornwall Co."

13. "Patent of Land on Arrowsick Island, 1686."

14. "John West appointed to convey land to settlers, June, 1686."

15. "Capt. John Palmer sent as Agent with full powers to Pemaquid, 1686."

16. "Peace commission for Pemaquid with entailed powers and instructions for holding Courts—Oaths of Justices, 1686."

17. "Instructions for Collector at Pemaquid, and Receiver, Cornwall County, 1686."

The memorialists ask an appropriation from the State for the purpose of procuring and publishing these ancient Records, and papers connected therewith, that our history may be "set right" in its origin, and placed within the reach of every citizen.

To this end, the Committee unanimously recommend the passage of a Resolve herewith submitted.

E. O. BEAN, *Chairman.*

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## STATE OF MAINE.

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RESOLVE in favor of the Maine Historical Society.

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*Resolved,* That there be appropriated and paid out  
2 of the treasury, to the treasurer of the Maine Histor-  
3 ical Society, from any moneys not otherwise appro-  
4 priated, the sum of three hundred dollars, to be  
5 expended by said society in collecting and obtaining  
6 copies of records relating to the early history of  
7 Pemaquid and Sheepscot, now deposited in the  
8 archives of the State of New York.





STATE OF MAINE.

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IN SENATE, March 27, 1856.

ORDERED, That 700 copies of the accompanying Report be printed for the use of the Legislature.

WM. G. CLARK, *Secretary.*