

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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EIGHTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE

HOUSE

NO. 294

House of Representatives, March 7, 1923.

Referred to Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs and 500 copies ordered printed. Sent up for concurrence.

CLYDE R. CHAPMAN, Clerk.

Presented by Mr. Martin of Augusta.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD ONE THOUSAND NINE
HUNDRED AND TWENTY-THREE

RESOLVE, in Favor of an Appropriation of Twenty-five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000) for the Erection of a Granite Memorial Monument at Ancient Koussinoc, on the East Side of the Kennebec River, in the City of Augusta, Maine, in Memory of the Mayflower Pilgrims, the Original Owners of the Land on Which the State House and the City of Augusta Now Stand.

Resolved: That the sum of twenty-five thousand dollars
2 (\$25,000) be and hereby is appropriated to be expended in
3 the erection of a granite memorial monument, at ancient
4 Koussinoc, on the east side of the Kennebec River, in the

5 City of Augusta, Maine, in memory of the Mayflower Pil-
6 grims, the original owners of the land on which the State
7 House and the City of Augusta now stand, who first opened
8 the Kennebec valley to white colonists, and transmitted their
9 territorial rights to the present generation; those famous
10 men who maintained a successful trading post at Koussinoc
11 for a whole generation (sixteen hundred twenty-eight to
12 sixteen hundred sixty-two), which was the financial sup-
13 port and success of Plymouth Colony.

The granite memorial monument called for in this resolve,
2 and for which the appropriation is made, shall be erected
3 by the governor and council, and shall be completed and
4 dedicated before the last day of December, one thousand
5 nine hundred and twenty-four. The particular location of
6 the monument on the east side of the river; the kind of
7 granite to be used in its construction; the design and plans
8 of same; the inscriptions to be placed thereon; the laying
9 of the corner stone, and the dedication shall have the ap-
10 proval of a committee of three members of the Society of
11 Mayflower Descendants in the State of Maine, viz: Archie
12 Lee Talbot of Lewiston, Louisa Helen Coburn of Skowhe-
13 gan, and William Howard Gannett of Augusta, and their
14 actual expenses in attending to the matters named shall be
15 allowed and paid out of the appropriation made by this re-
16 solve. In case of the death or resignation of either, the
17 vacancy shall be filled by the board of assistants of said
18 society.

Provided, however, that no expenditure of the amount
2 appropriated by this resolve shall be made until a good and
3 sufficient deed of the land, and right of way thereto, ap-
4 proved by said committee, on which said memorial monu-
5 ment is to be erected, has been given by the City of Au-
6 gusta, for this purpose, or such deed and right of way
7 thereto, has been given by the owner or owners of such
8 land and right of way, to the satisfaction of said committee.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

Governor Bradford relates, that "After harvest this year (1625) they sende out a boats load of corne 40 or 50 leagues to ye eastward, up a river called Kenibeck; it being one of those 2 shalops which their carpenter had built them ye year before; for bigger vessell had they none. They had laid a litle deck over her midships to keepe ye corne drie, but ye men were faine to stand it out all weathers without shelter; and ye time of ye year begins to growe tempestious. But God preserved them, and gave them good success, for they brought home 700 lbs of beaver, besids some other furrs, having litle or nothing els but this corne, which themselves had raised out of ye earth. This viage was made by Mr. Winslow & some of ye old standards, for seamen they had none." Bradford's History of Plymouth Plantation, Reprinted by order of the General Court of Massachusetts, Page 246.

This is the earliest record of the Mayflower Pilgrims on the Kennebec, and who were the first white settlers in the Kennebec Valley. Bradford further relates, that "having procured a patente, (as is above said) for Kenebeck, they now erected a house up above in ye river in ye most convenientest place for trade, as they conceived, and furnished the same with commodities for ye end, both winter & somer, not only with corne, but also with such other commodities as ye fishermen had traded with them, as coats, shirts, ruggs & blankets, biskett, pease, prunes, &c. and what they could not have out of England, they bought of the fishing ships, and so carried on their bussines as well as they could." Bradford's History, Page 280.

The rights, privileges and ownership of land on the Kennebec is stated by Governor Bradford as follows:

"The said Counsell (in England 1629) hath further given, granted, barganed, sold, infeoffed, alloted, assigned, and sett over, and by these presents, doe clearly and absolutely give, grante * * * and confirme unto ye said William Bradford, his heires, associates, and assignes all that tracte of land or part of New-England in America afforesaid which lyeth within or betweene and extendeth itselfe from ye utmost limits of Cobiscote, which adjoyneth to ye river of Kenebeck, towards the

westerne ocean, and a place called ye falls of Nequamkick in America, aforesaid, and ye space of 15 English myles on each side of ye said river, commonly called Kenebeck River, and all ye said river called Kenebeck that lyeth within the said limits & bounds, eastward, westward, northward, & southward, last above mentioned; and all lands, grounds, soyles, rivers, waters, fishing, &c. And by vertue of ye authority to us derived by his said late Matis Lres patents, to take, apprehend, seise, and make prise of all such persons, their ships and goods, as shall attempte to inhabite or trade with ye savage people of that countrie within ye severall precincts and limits of his & their severall plantations &c.” Bradford’s History, page 376.

The records of the French Jesuit Fathers at Quebec, that have been within a few years translated into English, give much information about the Mayflower Pilgrims and their friendship with the French and the Indians on the Kennebec. The old French writer speaks of the English who dwell at “Koussinoc” (Koo-she-noc), in the Indian language meaning “There are many of them there.”

The French Jesuit Father Gabriel Dreuillettes had been for several years with the Abenaki Indians and had assisted in erecting a Mission Chapel at Koussinoc, and was encouraged in the work by the Mayflower Pilgrims there. In 1650, he was an ambassador from the French on the Saint Lawrence River to the New England colonies, to secure if possible, an alliance with them against the hostile Iroquois.

The record of this embassy opens with a picturesque scene at Koussinoc. On St. Michael’s Eve, September 29th, 1650, the French envoy arrived from Quebec and had again the pleasure of meeting John Winslow, with whom he had been pleasantly associated during his former sojourn on the Kennebec. The next morning Father Druillettes, in his diplomatic character, made a visit of state to John Winslow, then in command of the Trading Post. The Father was accompanied by his interpreter, Noel Negabamet, secretary of the Sillery Mission at Quebec, and followed by a train of attendants of Abenaki braves, all decked in their finest plumage. After the opening ceremonies Noel presented Winslow with a valuable gift of beaver skins and made a formal address in behalf of M^{onsieur} the Governor of the River Saint Lawrence. In response Winslow not only accepted the gift in behalf of the New England government but consented to go personally with

Father Druillettes to Plymouth, and, as it is recorded, do with reference to the governor and the magistrates "all that can be expected of a good friend," which he did. In making his report to his superior, the ambassador writes:

The Agent named John Winslow, a merchant and a citizen of Plymouth Colony, who has a kindly disposition, as we shall relate hereafter, answered: I love and respect the patriarch, this is the name they use on this river, and on all the coast of Arcadia in speaking of me. I will lodge him at my house and will treat him as my own brother; for I know very well the good he does among you, and the life he there leads. This he said because he has a special zeal for the conversion of the Savages, as also his brother Edward Winslow agent for this New England before the parliament of old England. Jesuit Relations Vol. XXXVI, page 85.

This testimony of Father Gabriel Dreuillettes is ample proof of the friendship of the Mayflower Pilgrims at Koussinoc with the French and with the Indians. It also shows that John Winslow, the agent of Plymouth Colony, had a house at Koussinoc in which he lodged and entertained the French Father. The prominent men of Plymouth Colony came there many times every year, and there were houses there where they were entertained. Too long the Pilgrim Trading Post has been looked upon as a trading camp in the wilderness of Maine, for it was something more than that.

The Mayflower Pilgrims owned the land on which the State House and the City of Augusta now stand. Maine is the only state in the Union whose State House stands on land once owned by the Pilgrims of the Mayflower.

The Federal Government has erected a fine memorial monument at Plymouth, Massachusetts, in memory of the Mayflower Pilgrim settlement there, and the State of Massachusetts and the Federal Government made large appropriations for the Pilgrim Monument at Provincetown, Mass., and there stands today one of the finest monuments in America, two hundred and fifty feet high, made of Maine granite, in commemoration of the spot where the feet of the Mayflower Pilgrims first touched American soil. Here in Maine they dwelt maintaining headquarters for a whole generation (1628 to 1662), before the cruel Colonial wars, living in loving fellowship with all men. Here at Koussinoc, now the City of Augusta, Maine,

is the only place in the World's history where the white man and the red man, the Protestant and the Roman Catholic, dwelt together in love and peace in mutual helpfulness to each other. Is not such a place and event worthy of a memorial monument? Shoul the State of Maine longer forget her Mayflower Pilgrim heritage?