

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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EIGHTY - THIRD LEGISLATURE

House Document

No. 179

H. P. 674

House of Representatives, Feb. 17, 1927.

Referred to Committee on Library and 500 copies ordered printed. Sent up for concurrence.

CLYDE R. CHAPMAN, Clerk.

Presented by Mr. Wing of Auburn.

STATE OF MAINE

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

RESOLVE, for the Purchase of One Hundred and Twenty-five
Copies of the History of the Town of Dresden.

Resolved: That the state of Maine purchase from the
2 Katahdin Publishing Company or the person or corpora-
3 tion publishing the History of the Town of Dresden by the
4 late Charles E. Allen, one hundred and twenty-five copies
5 of the same when printed at a cost not to exceed the lowest
6 selling price of the work to dealers. Said volumes to be
7 exchanged or distributed at the discretion of the state libra-
8 rian and that there be and hereby is appropriated and or-
9 dered paid for this purpose the sum of one thousand dollars.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

In accordance with the provisions of the Chapter 113, Public Laws 1925, a resolve was passed authorizing the State to purchase 75 copies of the History of Dresden and appropriated for this purpose the sum of \$500. This appropriation lapsed on December 31, 1926.

The original resolve as presented to the Legislature called for an appropriation of \$1000 and authorized the purchase of 125 copies of the work. The work is to be published in two volumes of about five hundred pages each, printed on the finest of paper, attractively illustrated and bound in a substantial manner, and the lowest price for advance subscription was fixed at \$10 per set. The appropriation of \$500 was entirely inadequate to purchase a satisfactory number of copies of the History and owing to delay in the completion of the work and the subsequent lapse of the appropriation the present Legislature is asked to appropriate \$1000 for this purpose.

The proposed work is a history of the town of Dresden, Maine, which was originally known as Frankfort Plantation and later as Pownalborough, the old shire town of Lincoln County. Pownalborough itself comprised within its limits the present towns of Dresden, Alna, Wiscasset, and Swan Island (Perkins). The history was written by the late Charles E. Allen of Dresden some score of years ago. Mr. Allen was well known as an able and prolific writer of Maine history and many of his historical sketches may be found in the Collections of the Maine Historical Society, in published pamphlets and magazines. He was a leading member of the Maine Historical Society. After his death his widow handed the manuscript to the Honorable William D. Patterson of Wiscasset for safe keeping, and at the same time, July 5, 1913, deposited in the Wiscasset Savings Bank, the proceeds of the life insurance of Mr. Allen amounting to \$1079.68, constituting herself and Mr. Patterson joint trustees, with the agreement that eventually this money should assist in the publication of the work. This fund now amounts to approximately \$1500.00.

The work will consist of two volumes of about five hundred pages each, printed on special paper made for this edition by the S. D. Warren Company of Westbrook and bound in dark blue Zapon cloth with gold markings. It will be illustrated

with something like sixty fine plates and photostatic reproductions and the cost of printing five hundred sets cannot be less than \$3500.

The work will be one of unusual interest, for it covers the history of a region which has never before been written and which abounds in human interest and romance and often-times tragedy. The land titles may be traced back to the original grant of King James I, in 1606. Here was located old Fort Shirley and for many years Dresden, which constituted the West Parish of Pownalborough, was the county seat of Lincoln, which at that time comprised within its limits the vast territory lying between the New Meadows and Androscoggin rivers on the west to the St. Croix on the east.

The work will be revised and edited by Honorable William D. Patterson, Vice-President of the Maine Historical Society, who will also write a biography of Mr. Allen and who will add a chapter to the history bringing it up to the present time. He will be assisted in this work by Mr. B. E. Packard, Deputy Commissioner of Education, who will write the foreword.