

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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EIGHTY - THIRD LEGISLATURE

House Document

No. 628

H. P. 250

House of Representatives, Apr. 8, 1927.

Reported by Mr. Bisbee from Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs and laid on table to be printed under joint rules.

CLYDE R. CHAPMAN, Clerk.

STATE OF MAINE

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

RESOLVE, in Favor of Procuring Testimonials for the Purpose of Marking the Unmarked Graves of the Soldiers of the Revolutionary War.

Resolved: Section 1. That the sum of six hundred dollars be and hereby is appropriated for the purpose of procuring testimonials to be used in marking the unmarked graves of the soldiers of the Revolutionary war.

Sect. 2. That said sum be paid into the treasury of the Sons of the American Revolution, with which they are hereby authorized to procure and distribute such number of markers as may, from time to time, be required for the purposes herein specified.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

Thousands of men represented the soil of Maine in all the battles of the Revolutionary war, and more than eleven hundred suffered with Washington the sorrows of Valley Forge, a significant number when compared with the fact that there were only three million people in all the colonies, and with the further fact of the sparsity of the settlements in the wilderness of Maine at that time.

Almost every available man must have responded to the call of patriotism. Without this contingent of hardy Maine men at Valley Forge, the result of the struggle for independence might have been quite different. After the war these men returned to every section of Maine, opening up homesteads and contributing some of the ablest men of the times to the service of the state and the nation.

The greater percentage of these men are buried in the little and out-of-the-way graveyards. Until a comparatively few years, it is regretful to acknowledge, most of these graves had been forgotten and neglected. The Sons and Daughters of the American Revolution were organized about thirty-five years ago. Up to that time no one seems to have become interested in the graves and history of the men whose names and deeds had been so thoughtlessly overlooked for a century. After that time the Daughters of the American Revolution instituted a systematic plan of ascertaining the name and grave of every patriot buried in the cemeteries of Maine, of cleaning up his grave and placing over it a marker, immutable to decay, to memorialize and perpetuate his name.

The Sons have assisted in this work to the extent of furnishing the markers as far as their finances would permit. In view, however, of the small number of the Sons, about three hundred, and the small fee they have to charge, in order to admit the worthy, though not wealthy, to membership, they have had to call on the state for a small appropriation in order to assure the continuance of this meritorious work, the Daughters are so generously and efficiently carrying on.

Historically, this accomplishment is contributing to the state and to the people a wealth of information, and morally awakening an inspiration to a higher sense of loyalty.