

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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EIGHTY - THIRD LEGISLATURE

Senate Document

No. 251

S. P. 501

In Senate, Mar. 15, 1927.

Presented by Senator Holmes of Androscoggin; read and adopted and 1000 copies of resolution and accompanying statement of facts ordered printed.

ROYDEN V. BROWN, Secretary.

Presented by Senator Holmes of Androscoggin.

STATE OF MAINE

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

JOINT RESOLUTION of the Legislature Commemorative
of William Ladd, 1927.

Whereas, William Ladd, known in this country and abroad as *The Apostle of Peace*, was to the cause of a law-governed world what Elijah Parrish Lovejoy of Maine was to the freedom of the press and to the abolition of human slavery, what John Neal of Maine was to the extension of the suffrage, what Dorothea Lynde Dix of Maine was to the advancement of prison reform, what Neal Dow of Maine was to the cause of temperance;

Whereas, William Ladd was born May 10, 1778;

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Whereas, William Ladd founded the American Peace Society, May 8, 1828;

Whereas, William Ladd did his major work for peace between nations while living for nearly thirty years in Minot in the State of Maine;

Whereas, The American Peace Society, which William Ladd founded, with its headquarters now in Washington, D. C., plans to celebrate in May, 1928, the one-hundredth-fiftieth anniversary of Mr. Ladd's birth and the one-hundredth anniversary of the Society's organization;

Be It Resolved by the people of the state of Maine by this
2 joint resolution of their house of representatives and senate,
3 that they heartily endorse the efforts of the American Peace
4 Society thus to recall and to honor the memory and services
5 of William Ladd;

That this legislature respectfully request the governor of
2 the state of Maine to express to the American Peace So-
3 ciety the appreciation of the people of Maine for its purpose
4 thus to honor its illustrious former citizen, and to do what
5 he may consider lawfully proper to aid such efforts;

That the governor of the state be requested to appoint a
2 committee from the most distinguished residents of the state,
3 to include the presidents of Bowdoin, Colby and Bates Col-
4 leges, the president of the University of Maine, the Com-
5 missioner of Education, and such others as he may deem
6 wise, to aid in such a commemoration;

That the American Peace Society be invited to hold these

2 centennial and sesquicentennial exercises in whole or in part
3 in the state of Maine;

And that this resolution be given the widest publicity to
2 the end that the interest and support of every loyal citizen
3 of Maine, especially of her boys and girls, may be enlisted
4 in this most worthy memorial celebration.

Copy of George C. Wing, Jr.'s Article on William Ladd
Reprinted from Sprague's Journal of Maine History
Volume 11—April, May, June—No. 2, 1923.

WILLIAM LADD

Sometime of Minot, Maine

THE APOSTLE OF PEACE

1778-1841

In these days of ardent hope for world peace, when the minds of thoughtful men and women are much concerned with a League of Nations, conferences between nations for the reduction of armaments and the payment of national debts, when the Hague Tribunal is an accomplished fact, it is pleasant and most satisfying to recall William Ladd and his life in the Town of Minot, Maine, and his efforts to prevent war and to obtain the consummation of peace.

William Ladd was born in Exeter, New Hampshire, May 10, 1778, the oldest son of Eliphalet Ladd and Abigail Hall Ladd. He fitted for college in the Academy at Exeter, entered Harvard in 1793, and there graduated in 1798. Eliphalet Ladd moved to Portsmouth about 1795, and in that city became an eminent and successful merchant. In 1797, William Ladd sailed as a common sailor in one of his father's vessels and visited London and other parts of Europe. At twenty years of age he was in command of a ship. He followed the sea until about 1800. His title Captain was thus earned and deserved. When he was twenty-one years old he married in England, Sophia Ann Augusta Stidolph of London. After leaving the sea Capt. Ladd lived for a few months in Savannah, Georgia, where he occupied himself as a merchant. From Savannah, he moved to Florida, where on a cotton plantation he undertook the abolition of negro slavery by the introduction of free labor in the persons of European emigrants. In this he was a failure and he lost most of his property. In 1806, the father, Eliphalet Ladd, died, and William returned to Portsmouth and to the sea, which he followed until the War of 1812 made such an occupation undesirable.

In June, 1814, as he himself records in his *Annals of Bakers-town*, "William Ladd moved from Portsmouth to Minot" and the hill-top where he made his home and built his mansion house, dreamed of peace, conceived the idea of a Congress of Nations, as set forth in his *Essay on a Congress of Nations*, and justly earned the title with which his memory is yet honored, "The Apostle of Peace." The Cumberland County Registry of Deeds shows in 1813 that Capt. Ladd bought of James Jewett of New Durham, New Hampshire, "The New Farm" in the town of Minot. For this he paid \$7,750. In addition to "The New Farm" he bought other lands until he possessed more than 600 acres. To house his herds and crops he had six large barns. He employed many hands and his farming operations were most extensive and conducted on scientific lines. That his interest among his neighbors was not confined to selfish ends alone is evidenced by the fact that he was a stockholder in the first shoe manufacturing company organized in Minot, now Auburn, January 2, 1835. On July 4, 1814, he delivered at Minot, an oration, in the closing sentences of which occur these ringing words, "religion, virtue and knowledge shall rule and the Empire of Peace shall be established." In 1816, with Seth Chandler, he was sent as a representative to the General Court and September 16 of that year he attended the convention at Brunswick to form a constitution if there should be five-ninths of the voters of Maine in favor of a separation. In July 20, 1817, he joined the Second Congregational Church of Minot, and in 1837 he was licensed to preach the Gospel of Peace.

In 1819, when Capt. Ladd was forty-one years old, he saw the Reverend Jesse Appleton, President of Bowdoin College. Hemenway, his biographer, quotes William Ladd as saying: "I had the privilege of witnessing some of the last hours of the Rev. Jesse Appleton, D. D., President of Bowdoin College. In his joyful anticipations of the growing improvement of the world and the enumeration of the benevolent societies of the day, he gave a prominent place to Peace Societies; and this was almost the first time I ever heard of them. The idea then passed over my mind as the day-dream of benevolence; and so every one views the subject, who does not examine it. It is probable that the impressions made at this interview first turned my attention

to the subject, but it probably would soon have escaped from me, had not the Solemn Review, which came soon after into my possession, in a very singular way, riveted my attention in such a manner as to make it the principal object of my life to promote the cause of Peace on earth and good-will to man."

The origin of Peace Societies may be traced to the publication in 1809 of a tract entitled "The Mediator's Kingdom, not of this world, but Spiritual," by David Low Dodge, a citizen and merchant of New York City. These societies were an organized religious movement as a protest against war as inconsistent with the teachings of the New Testament. "In 1815, the following Peace Societies were created in the United States: The New York Peace Society, the first of its kind, organized as has been seen by Mr. David Low Dodge in August; the Ohio Peace Society, founded on December 2nd; the Massachusetts Society founded December 26th, by the Reverend Noah Webster, D. D., author of the tract entitled 'A Solemn Review of the Custom of War,' which appears to have converted Mr. Ladd to the ways of peace."

William Ladd began his first series of Essays on Peace and War, thirty-two in number, in the Christian Mirror at Portland, Maine, July, 1823. In 1825, these essays were collected and published in a volume. In 1825, he wrote a review of Commodore Porter's "Journal of a Voyage in the Pacific Ocean in the United States Frigate, Essex," in which he criticized the "War Trade" as well as the "Slave Trade." This same year in these articles in the Christian Mirror he disapproved the erection of the Bunker Hill Monument on the ground that future generations will look upon the column as a "monument of the barbarism and anti-Christian spirit of our age."

In 1827, appeared another volume of essays begun in 1825, thirty-seven in all. July 4, 1825, he addressed the Peace Society of Oxford County at Sumner. In December, 1825, he addressed the Massachusetts Peace Society and February, 1824, he spoke before the Peace Society of Maine. Both of these addresses were reprinted in London. July 4, 1826, he delivered an oration at Exeter, New Hampshire, in which his favorite note of peace predominated. The American Peace Society was formed in 1828. William Ladd was its first presi-

dent. Its first meeting was held in New York City, May 8, 1828, and in that month and year Mr. Ladd issued the first number of a "Harbinger of Peace." This paper was issued monthly and had a circulation of about 1500 numbers. The "Calumet" took the place of the "Harbinger of Peace" in 1831, and continued four years. The latter publication appeared every two months. The writing and editorial work of these papers was done by William Ladd on the Minot hill-top where he made his home and had his study. In 1830, he wrote a tract published by the Minot Peace Society, "Reflections on War," and between 1829 and 1832 he wrote the following books on peace for the improvement of young people: "The Sword or Christmas Presents," "Howard and Napoleon Contrasted," "The French Soldier," "History of Alexander the Great." In 1831, Mr. Ladd published a dissertation on a Congress of Nations in the Harbinger of Peace. This also appeared in pamphlet. This was according to Hemenway, his biographer, the first work on a Congress of Nations ever printed in America. In 1834 appeared his "Solemn Appeal to Christians in Favor of Peace," and in 1835 he issued his work on "The Duty of Woman to Promote the Cause of Peace." In 1836-7 he published in the Christian Mirror twenty-two essays entitled "Obstacles and Objections to the Cause of Peace." The essays afterward appeared in book form. In 1837 the Constitution of the American Peace Society was revised and the stand taken that all war is contrary to Gospel. This was in accordance with William Ladd's idea and in the controversy which arose over the amendment he was opposed by President Allen of Bowdoin College. In 1837 appeared nine articles in the Christian Mirror addressed to ministers in which he sought to awaken and instruct them in their duty as to the Cause of Peace. In November, 1837, occurred the death of Elijah Lovejoy at Alton, Illinois, while defending his printing press against a mob. Ladd took the ground that Lovejoy was not a martyr, that he did anything but right in resorting to violence, that his conscience would not permit him to say Lovejoy died like a Christian and justified his stand by ample quotations from the teachings and words of the Saviour. In 1839 occurred the so-called Aroostook War. Ladd called attention to the fact that the situation showed the

want of a competent tribunal to settle the disputes between Nations.

In 1840 appeared the prize essays on a Congress of Nations, together with a sixth essay. The American Peace Society offered a prize of \$1000 for the best essay on a Congress of Nations. The committee, Joseph Story, William Wirt and John C. Calhoun could not agree as to the best effort. Another committee, John Quincy Adams, James Kent and Daniel Webster were selected and they could not agree. The Peace Society then concluded to accept the proposal of the first committee to publish five of the best essays. To these five, Mr. Ladd, at the request of the Peace Society, wrote and added a sixth essay, which was printed and bound with the five prize essays. This volume was distributed among distinguished persons in Europe and America. It is this essay which is William Ladd's greatest claim for enduring fame. It was written at his home in Minot. In it he gave a new idea to the law of international relations which found expression in the great Peace Congress at Erusels, Paris, London, and the Hague. In his Advertisement to his Essay on a Congress of Nations, William Ladd says: "In reading over these Essays, I noted down every thought worth preserving; and I present them here in a body, with such reflections, additions and historical facts as occurred to me during my labor; so that my claim to originality, in this production, rests much on the thought of separating the subject into two distinct parts, viz; 1st. A congress of ambassadors from all those Christian and civilized nations who should choose to send them, for the purpose of settling principles of international law by compact and agreement, of the nature of a mutual treaty, and also of devising and promoting plans for the preservation of peace, meliorating the condition of man. 2nd. A court of nations, composed of the most able civilians in the world, to arbitrate or judge such cases as should be brought before it, by the mutual consent of two or more contending nations; thus dividing entirely the diplomatic from the judicial functions, which require such different, not to say opposite, characters in the exercise of their functions. I consider the Congress as the Legislature, and the Court as the judiciary, in the government of nations, leaving the functions of the executive with public

opinion, 'the queen of the world.' This division I have never seen in any essay, or plan for a congress or diet of independent nations, either ancient or modern; and I believe it will obviate all the objections which have been heretofore made to such a plan."

In 1840 and 1841, Capt. Ladd lectured on his favorite topic in Albany and Troy, New York, Worcester, Massachusetts, Auburn, New York, Rochester and other places in western Massachusetts and New York. It is recorded that in some instances he was unable to stand, but addressed his audiences on his knees. In April, 1841, he left New York for his home in Minot. He reached Portsmouth the 9th of that month. As he retired his wife said, "Now let us kneel down and thank God that you are safe returned." They knelt and prayed. On lying down he felt the approach of death, but before help could be called he passed beyond. He lies buried in Portsmouth, and on his tomb appears:

WILLIAM LADD

Born May 10, 1778

Died April 9, 1841

Blessed are the Peace Makers for they
shall be called the Children of God.

Erected by the American Peace Society.

Such were the activities of William Ladd, the Apostle of Peace, and during the years which he gave so much to the cause of peace, he also found time to carry on his large farm at Minot. He improved the general conduct of agriculture in the neighborhood, he planted orchards, he moved among his neighbors, respected and much liked. He contributed to every good cause. He became an advocate of temperance. He lectured to his fellow-townsmen on that subject. What he preached he practised. No account of William Ladd would be complete without mention of the rugged man who was his pastor and friend, Elijah Jones, who became pastor of the church at Minot in 1823, and there continued for more than fifty years. To this man must be attributed the Christian, if that term may be used, touch of all of William Ladd's writings, for it must have been noted from the foregoing that William Ladd's conception of Peace was of a religious origin. This is most clearly

seen in his treatment of the Lovejoy episode. The idea of a Christian Peace permeates his great essay on a Congress of Nations.

The homestead of William Ladd at Center Minot is now in the hands of strangers. The elegance of his mansion house is no more. The white church in which he worshiped yet graces the Minot hill-top, and nearby in the churchyard sleeps Elijah Jones. But the idea that William Ladd gave to the world in his great essay yet lives and grows greater and more sublime as men of our day seek a World Peace under its benign and simple doctrine and as it becomes more and more evident that the better ordering of the world lies in a Congress of Nations and a World Court. Among Maine men who have a claim to fame, none have a greater and sounder cause for respectful memory than William Ladd of Minot, "The Apostle of Peace."

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