

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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EIGHTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 810

S. P. 513

In Senate, March 5, 1931.

Reported by Senator Crockett of York from Committee on Library and laid on table to be printed under Joint Rules.

ROYDEN V. BROWN, Secretary.

STATE OF MAINE

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

RESOLVE, for the Purchase of One Hundred Copies of
"Pioneers on Maine Rivers."

Resolved: That the State purchase one hundred copies of the book entitled "Pioneers on Maine Rivers," written by Wilbur D. Spencer, at five dollars per copy, said books to be exchanged or distributed at the discretion of the State Librarian and that there be and hereby is appropriated for this purpose the sum of five hundred dollars.

PIONEERS ON MAINE RIVERS

By Wilbur D. Spencer

414 pp., 8vo, clo, Augusta, Maine, 1930

Price \$6.00

An original treatment of the earliest Colonial History of
MAINE, river by river, from West to East

In the opening section this book presents a chronological list of all vessels and commanders known to have visited the coast of Maine prior to 1630. Such preliminary data prepare the way for a clearer understanding of the settlements begun that year.

Then follows an explanation of the proposed arrangement of the three counties by the Council of Plymouth and an explanation of the failure of the plan in Maine.

The history of the occupation of the many rivers and

adjacent islands is based directly upon quotations from authentic published and manuscript records to be found in this country and abroad. The book also contains many references to Plymouth and Massachusetts Colonies, as well as to the French settlements to the Northward.

Many errors of historians have been corrected in this volume, including proofs that Richard Vines really wintered at Saco in 1618-9, that the Presumpscot, by court decision, was determined to be "Casco River" the year before Maverick located Levett's house before its mouth, that Abraham Shurt was not the town clerk at Pemaquid in 1688, and that there was a settlement begun by members of Salem Colony at Saint George in 1630, which was visited by Bull, the pirate, in 1632.

Interspersed throughout the book are many tracings of the most detailed maps now in existence, which were based upon nautical information of the times and furnish evidence of the great antiquity of some place names.

The lists of original settlers compiled from reliable sources in public and private quarters contain sketches of all of the pioneers that could be identified in careful research to 1651. Where obtainable, the birth date, time and place of immigration, occupation, date of death, and names of wife and children, of each settler, are given.

Another feature is the inclusion of local and historical impressions of the writer in verse, intended to call attention to certain phases of Maine colonization.

In the extensive Appendix will be found discussion of several doubtful statements relating to the early period under consideration and the first published copy of the Wannerton deed of 1641. The original deed was lost from the county records, by mutilation, many years ago. The population of Massachusetts in 1628 is indicated by reference to living authorities of that period, and the "thirty" patents, so-called, are listed chronologically.

There are many hundred references to the pages of obscure and published manuscripts and books, many of which are available for library reference.

The volume is printed on the finest quality of book paper and makes an attractive addition to any library. It has already been recognized as an appropriate donation to school libraries

by public spirited citizens. It is the story of the beginning of NEW ENGLAND.

“American genealogists will welcome this authentic and exhaustive contribution to their subjects, as it contains much new material regarding pioneers in the very earliest settlements in America.”—Ida Sedgwick Proper, author of *Monhegan, the Cradle of New England*.

THE LEWISTON JOURNAL says of it: “Mr. Spencer’s book is of great value; it introduces us to the dwellers by the shore in days when they were all that Maine comprised of the race of white men.”

Other publications by the same writer are:

BERWICK REVOLUTIONARY SOLDIERS, 18 pp., \$1.25

BERWICK BURIAL INSCRIPTIONS, 133 pp., \$3.50

MAINE SPENCERS, 247 pp., cloth, 1898, now listed \$17.50