Title: The Maine book

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WILLIAM KING
FIRST GOVERNOR OF MAINE
From the original painting by Gilbert Stuart
THE MAINE BOOK

By
HENRY E. DUNNACK
Librarian of
Maine State Library

Augusta, Maine
1920
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HENRY E. DUNNACK
DEDICATED

TO

ADELLA SMITH DUNNACK

To twine her memory with something that may live
I write it here, and consecrate this page
To all her love has given or could give.
PREFACE

The geography and history of Maine are distinctive. The location and topography of Maine give her a place of great advantage. Her history, dating back to the early part of the seventeenth century, is full of stirring romance, matchless heroism and marvelous achievements.

Histories of the state have been written by Williamson, Sullivan, Sewall, Abbott, Burrage, Holmes and Hatch. Others have written of her great events and great men. School histories have been written by Varney, Stetson and MacDonald. Distinguished scholars like Baxter have selected and published the documentary history of the state. The State Library has 250 town histories. On account of the policy of the state in giving financial aid, every year sees one or more town histories added to the list. The newspapers of the state have always given space to historical matter and their files are an invaluable source of facts.

Sprague's Journal of Maine History, published and edited by Hon. J. Francis Sprague of Dover, is of great value on account of its special articles.

In 1907 the state appointed Dr. Henry S. Burrage State Historian. He has more than justified the wisdom of his office by giving to the state his "Maine at Valley Forge," "Beginnings of Colonial Maine," "Maine at Louisburg," "Maine in the Northeastern Boundary Controversy." These books are everywhere accepted as authority on the subjects treated. They are written with accuracy, a fine sense of proportion and high literary merit.

In preparing this book as a part of the centennial program of Maine the object has been to furnish the busy man and those who do not have original sources at hand, a reference book to important historical and industrial matter.

This book is in no sense a history of Maine, nor is it intended to be substituted for any period of Maine history. The author's purpose is to answer the questions that continually come to the State Library from every town in Maine and from every state in the country. Thousands of these questions are received every year from teachers, public officials, business, professional and college men. High School students, boys and girls of the grades are every year asking for information not easily accessible in the usual history or text book.

The subjects have been selected with these questions in mind. The
treatment on account of the number of subjects is necessarily brief and limited for the most part to a statement of facts rather than an interpretation of the facts.

There is included in this study the history of each state department connected with the industrial and social life of the state, also an outline of what the state government is doing for the improvement of the state.

It is time the people of Maine should know and appreciate the work of the state. They should realize that the state is more than a political unit, that in fact it is a great business organization devoted to developing her natural resources, building up her industries and promoting the moral, educational and social welfare of all the people.

A partial bibliography has been added so that the student may know where to find more detailed information on any subject presented. These books may be found in the State Library and may be borrowed by any person in the state. A card addressed State Library, Augusta, Maine, will bring you the book you need.

So many persons have assisted in gathering the information and granting permission to use materials, that it is impossible to list them all and to express the author's appreciation for their generous help. The library staff have co-operated in every way to make the book accurate and worth while to those interested in the State of Maine, in fact without their assistance it would have been impossible to prepare the book.

H. E. D.