



Anchor and Pine Tree



Newsletter of the Order of the First Families of Maine April 2023

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President General's Message

Hallelujah! Finally, I don't have to talk about cancelling our meeting again this year. After three years of being stuck in little Zoom boxes, we're finally going to be in the same room together!

In my initial president's message I reported that my closest connection to Maine — other than the ancestor who qualified me for this organization — is my sister who lives in Boothbay Harbor. I am pleased to report that not only is she a member, and not only is she going to join us for our annual meeting, but she has agreed to be our speaker! Martha Peak Helman, who has lived and worked in New York, Chicago, and Boston, will introduce us to some of the things that makes Maine so special in her talk *Tales From Maine*.

Finally, I'd like to remind you that this special organization is run by volunteers. Sumner Hunnewell, immediate past president, updated the OFFME website (<http://NewEnglandSocieties.org/OFFME.htm>) which required hand-coding HTML code. If you, too, know HTML and have the knowledge to update and modernize our website we would love to hear from you. The time commitment should not be major and it would make a huge difference.

Meanwhile, I want to recognize Allen Gray for his many years of service in producing our newsletter, the *Anchor and Pine Tree*. Thank you, Allen! Special thanks also to William Fahey for stepping up and taking on production of the newsletter this year. We would not be able to carry on without the means to communicate with you, our members!

I wrote last year that spring is my favorite time of year, and I always look forward to the daffodils in full bloom. This is a time of renewal and family history, with February designated as Black History Month and March as Women's History Month. I hope all of you will renew your commitment to your genealogy and family research. I, myself, just returned from a one-week research trip to the Family History Library—now the Family Search Library — in Salt Lake City. It was wonderful to have dedicated time for research, something I can rarely manage at home with all the various demands upon my time—just like many of you!

Hoping to see you in Washington, D.C. soon,

Nicki Peak Birch, CG
President General

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THE ORDER OF THE FIRST FAMILIES OF MAINE, 1604-1652 ANNUAL MEETING (12 APRIL 2022)

MINUTES

The joint Zoom meeting of the Order of the First Families of Maine, 1604-1652 (OFFME) and the Order of the First Families of New Hampshire, 1622-1680 (OFFNH) was called to order by OFFNH Governor General Gregory Bodge on 12 April 2022, at 2:06 p.m. EDT.

The invocation was given by OFFME Chaplain General Daryl Masone.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by OFFNH Deputy Governor General Kathryn Thompson Carey.

The American's Creed was led by OFFME President General Nicki Peak Birch.

The OFFME Meeting:

OFFME President General Nicki Peak Birch welcomed members and guests and David Stringfellow, President of the Dutch Colonial Society. She noted that we had a quorum.

OFFME Chaplain General Daryl Masone conducted the memorial service. OFFME had one member listed in the Call to Remembrance.

OFFME President General Birch officially called the Sixteenth Annual Meeting of OFFME to order at 2:13 p.m. She introduced the OFFME officers and Honorary President General Larry Casey.

The 2021 minutes had been published in the newsletter in March. There were no corrections or changes and the minutes will be filed as published.

Officer Reports OFFME:

President General Birch:

She and Honorary President General Hunnewell participated in one of the *Sharing Our Societies* forums, organized by Janisue Rigel to provide information about old and new lineage societies.

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An Instagram account was accomplished during the past year and is maintained by John Maden. Members are encouraged to send stories to him for inclusion on the website.

Verne Allen Gray was thanked for his dedication to producing the *Anchor and Pine Tree* newsletter for OFFME since 2016.

It is expected that the New England Societies Annual Meeting, which was cancelled last year due to Covid Omicron infections, will be held this fall and President General Birch will attend.

First Vice President General Tim Mabee was thanked for producing our Directory. Secretary General Marsha Masone noted she had sent out the Call, the newsletter and other communications from President General Birch to all members.

Treasurer General Sandra Esty shared her Annual Report, Audit Review Letter, and the 2022-2023 proposed budget and explained the sources for the various figures. There was no discussion, but Sue Gray requested that next year the 2022-2023 actual expenses could be compared to the 2022-2023 budget. The budget was approved by OFFME members raising their hands.

Registrar General Summer Hunnewell's report had been filed. Ten applications and one supplemental were approved the past year. We currently have 267 members.

The remaining officers' reports had been filed or had no reports.

There was no Unfinished Business.

New Business OFFME:

Secretary General Marsha Masone read the Executive Committee recommendation to donate \$1,150 to the Maine Historical Society. There was no discussion. The recommendation passed unanimously as members either raised their hands or said "aye."

President General Birch asked for volunteers to the Nominating Committee. Sumner Hunnewell will be the chairman. No one came forward. Two additional members will be added.

The OFFNH Meeting:

The OFFME meeting was adjourned at 2:32 p.m. and OFFNH Governor General Gregory Bodge began the OFFNH meeting.

OFFNH Governor Bodge gave his report and said there had been 8 new applications. Carole Belcher read the minutes of the previous meeting.

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Governor General Bodge orally presented the proposed budget as the Treasurer was not present. The budget was voted on and passed.

No members of the OFFNH Nominating Committee were present so OFFNH Deputy Governor General Kathryn Thompson Carey volunteered to present the recommended slate of new officers. No one knew the procedure for the Installation of Officers, so Governor General Bodge just urged everyone to be devoted to the society and welcomed them.

Former Governor General Bodge declared the meeting closed at 2:48 pm.

He then introduced the guest speaker Jamie Callendar, who gave a wonderful presentation on the NSSAR Patriot Registration System. This group is promoting “Bringing Our Patriots to Life” and explained how the group is trying to locate and mark the graves of every patriot from the Revolutionary War, even if they left no descendants.

Marsha L.H. Masone
Secretary General



Order of the First Families of Maine

Treasurer's Report

30 April 2021 to 31 March 2022

Check Book Balance as of 30 April 2021	\$27,578.00
Check Book Balance as of 31 March 2022	\$28,166.33

INCOME:		2021	2022
New Members	22	\$5,320.00	12 \$2,880.00
Supplementals	13	325.00	8 200.00
Medals		777.10	604.30
Certificates			2 40.00
Donations		25.00	
Bank Interest			2.52
Total Income:		<u>\$6,447.10</u>	<u>\$3,766.82</u>

EXPENSES:

City Pride	\$ 827.10	\$607.70
Misc. rev. 2x entry	240.00	
ME Hist Society	1,150.00	1,150.00
ME First Ship	750.00	
Dir. Mail Printers		1,154.72
Postage & Sec. State	159.79	161.07
Grinnell Website		20.00
Hunnewell Scan Serv.		50.00
Total Expense:	\$3,126.89	\$3,178.49
Net:	\$3,320.21	\$588.33

BALANCE:

Beginning	(\$22,931.20)	(\$25,578.00)
Ending	\$26,251.41	\$28,166.33
Net:	\$3,320.21	\$2,588.33

N.B. "New Members" includes application fees and Registrar's fees; "Medals" includes large and small insignia. "Postage" for 2022 includes Hunnewell PG (\$49.82) and Brooks Registrar (\$111.25). Secretary of State of Maine for 2021 amounted to \$35.00. IRS 990-N Form filed and accepted 3 April 2022 for FY ending 31 December 2021. Secretary of State of Maine filed and accepted 23 March 2022.



Order of the First Families of Maine

PROPOSED BUDGET FOR APRIL 2022-APRIL 2023

Balance	1 April 2022:		\$28,201.09
Estimated Income:			
	6 New Life Members	\$240.00 ea.	\$1,440.00
	2 Certificates		\$40.00
	2 Supplementals		\$50.00
	Insignias		\$500.00
	Bank Interest		\$2.00
	20 Army Navy Club-Lunch Meeting (2023)	\$50.00 ea	\$1,000
	Total estimated income		\$3,032.00
	Subtotal		\$31,233.09
Estimated Expenses:			
	Maine Hist Society		\$1,150.00
	Amy Navy Club-Luncheon (2023)		\$1,000.00
	City Pride Insignias		\$400.00
	Total Disbursements		\$2,550.00
Est. Ending Balance	(Checking)		\$28,603.09
Est. Net Income			\$482.00

OFFME Instagram Update and Request

As reader may know, during my administration we created an Instagram (IG) account for OFFME. Our “handle” is first_families_maine but “OFFME” will also find us. If you're familiar with IG, you might already follow IG users who make historically-oriented posts.

We would like to use ours to reach “cousins” and have them join our ranks.

We’ve started posting to the account but we need more stories. Nothing elaborate, just something short about your favorite founding-era ancestors.

We will not limit these to just 1604-1652, but will extend posts to 1783.

Send stories that you think are worth sharing. These can be unadorned accounts or stories of intrigue, intrepidity, influence, injustice, or inspiration, etc. (You get the idea!) that preserve the memory of those first families and their descendants.

If you have paintings or photos to pair with the story, send those to us as well at mainefirstfamilies@gmail.com.

Include your IG screen name so that we can tag you in them, making it easy for you to re-gram and share with your family and friends. —NPB

Membership & Remembrance

We are pleased to welcome the following new members to membership in the OFFME:

Peter Ross Gorman, member 268, whose ancestor William Wentworth, Elder, conducted business at Wells in 1647.

William Edmund Fahey III, member 269, whose ancestor John Winter worked in Casco Bay since 1627 and presided over the Richmond Island fishing station between 1632 and 1648.

Douglas James Gilham, Jr., member 270, whose ancestor Henry Samson conducted business at Penobscot in 1631.

Todd Bartholomew Draper Frary, member 271, whose ancestor Brian Pendleton settled at Kittery by 1652.

Karen Marie Wills, member 272, whose ancestor Roger Garde owned land in York before 11 June 1637.

Melissa Lynn Barrett, member 273, whose ancestor John Wadleigh owned land at Saco by 7 September 1636.

Jeanne Buntaine Bedard, member 274, whose ancestor Philip Babb settled at Isles of Shoals on 20 November 1652.

There were no members who submitted supplemental applications in the past year.

*

We regret to inform you of the deaths of the following members:

Ellen Knowles Bisson, member 174, 31 Oct 2022.

Katherine Cullen King, member 133, 19 May 2022.

*

If you have relatives or friends with Maine ancestors, please invite them to join the OFFME.

Personal Invitation: NGS’s 2023 Family History Conference

You are invited!

As co-chair of the local host society, the Virginia Genealogical Society, Nicki Peak Birch invites you to attend the National Genealogical Society’s 2023 Family History Conference.

The conference will be held in Richmond, Virginia, from 30 May to 3 June.

The theme is “Deep Roots of a Nation,” since so many families began their American experience in Virginia.

This annual conference gives genealogists and family historians of all levels the insights needed to take their research and writing to new heights.

Get the latest information from the best speakers in the genealogy community.

Celebrate Virginia’s deep roots with a special Friday evening event sponsored by the Virginia Genealogical Society.

Learn about all the fabulous speakers who’ll be there (and register!) at:

<https://conference.ngsgenealogy.org/our-speakers/>

Ferdinando Gorges and His Impossible Dream of Maine

by John Butman

Sir Ferdinando Gorges's love for Maine was ignited one fine summer day in July 1605, when a small ship, the *Archangell*, put in at Dartmouth Harbor on England's southwest coast. The ship's captain, George Waymouth, then in his early 20s, had just returned from a voyage to the New World. During a courtesy call on Sir Ferdinando, who commanded the fort at the neighboring port of Plymouth, Waymouth regaled him with stories about the things he had seen along the coast of what is now Maine. Gorges, then about 37, had spent the better part of a decade on the alert for enemy attack by sea, but a peace treaty had been signed with Spain just a year earlier. Now Gorges—a military man, knighted on the battlefield, and owner of a small fleet of journeyman vessels—was bored and eager for new adventure.

Waymouth provided it. Scion of a seafaring and shipbuilding family, Waymouth, after an unsuccessful quest to find the fabled Northwest Passage to China in 1602, had become obsessed with the idea of creating a permanent settlement in America. This was a scheme the English had not seriously entertained since the vanishing of the colony on Roanoke Island, off the coast of what is now North Carolina, in 1590.

Sir Ferdinando, who until that day had shown no interest in the New World, must have been enticed by Waymouth's stories. The *Archangell* had set sail in March 1605, and in May made landfall at an island the voyage's chronicler recorded as Monihiggan. There they harvested berries, collected firewood, and caught fat, sweet-tasting cod. They explored a river (probably the St. George) which they praised as the richest and most beautiful in all the world—excepting, of course, their own River Thames.

Even more fascinating than the tales of this American paradise were the five Abenakis—Sassacomoit, Tahánedo, Skicowáros, Amóret, and Mannedo—whom Waymouth had captured and brought home with him, likely the first North American Indians to set foot on

English soil. Three of them came to live with Sir Ferdinando, his wife Ann, and their sons, John and Robert, age ten and twelve.

That winter of 1606, Gorges focused on America and the Indians. He learned their language, taught them English, and listened as they described the people, geography, and commodities of their homeland. He found himself deeply impressed and later mused that the Indians were far more civil than his “rude” fellow Englishmen.

A grand idea began to form in his mind. The second son of a gentleman of modest fortunes, he had never attained the wealth and position of others in his set. Nor could he claim any surpassing achievement, certainly nothing to rival that of his predecessor at Plymouth Fort, Sir Francis Drake, who had circumnavigated the globe by the age of 40. Gorges began to imagine his future as the founder of an English realm in America, an Eden sprawling with Tudor-style castles, a colony blessed by King James I, with Gorges himself perched on a royal governor's throne.

To further his scheme, he formed an alliance with a prominent member of the English gentry, Sir John Popham, who was Lord Chief Justice, essentially England's top judge. Popham, who had taken in the other two Abenakis, also was intrigued with the idea of an American settlement. Viewing America as a place where England's unemployed, disenfranchised, and disagreeable could get a new start, he petitioned the King for the rights to develop the American coast on England's behalf. Those rights were duly granted to a new organization that Popham and his associates formed, called the Virginia Company.

Popham and Gorges swiftly set about raising funds, securing ships, laying in supplies, and recruiting men to ship out and live in America—but neither chose to go themselves. Sir John was in his mid-70s and ill. Sir Ferdinando suffered terribly from seasickness. They chose Sir John's nephew, George Popham, to serve as president of the colony. He would be assisted by Raleigh Gilbert,

son of an earlier adventurer, Sir Humphrey Gilbert, a half-brother of Walter Raleigh.

The Popham-Gorges ships, the *Gift of God* and *Mary and John*, departed Plymouth, England, at the end of May 1607 and dropped anchor off the coast of Maine in August. The crew chose a settlement location at the tip of Sabino Point, on the Sagadahoc River (now the Kennebec), protected from the sea and with easy river access. They wasted no time getting to work, following plans that called for a fort, chapel, buttery, bake house, guardhouse, and several private lodgings.

The intention was for the settlement to become a revenue-producing, self-sustaining venture through fur trading with the Indians and the harvest of commodities, particularly timber and sassafras—then considered a potent cure for everything from stomach ache to infertility. But there was no sassafras that far north. And, although they had brought Skicawáros with them and he sought to reconnect with Tahánedo, who had been returned to America by an earlier voyage, the Indians did not prove eager to establish trade relations with the English—at least in part because of the well-remembered Waymouth kidnapping. The winter was terribly cold. Supplies ran short. George Popham died, leaving the headstrong Raleigh Gilbert, then about 26, in charge.

The final straw came in the spring of 1608, when news arrived that Gilbert's older brother, John, had died. Raleigh Gilbert, next in line for inheritance, decided to return to England to look after the family estate and the entire crew sailed home with him. The Popham Colony, as it became known, had one signal accomplishment—construction of a sprightly pinnace named *Virginia* that they sailed back to England.

The failure of the colony came as a terrible blow to Sir Ferdinando—a “wonderful discouragement” as he called it. Adding to his dismay, another Virginia Company group had been successful, establishing a colony at Jamestown in 1607 that survived.

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For seven years, Gorges resisted the temptation to try another American venture. But in 1614, John Smith, who had just returned from an unsuccessful whaling venture to New England, convinced Gorges to support a new settlement scheme. Smith's plans went awry, but Sir Ferdinando's passion had been rekindled. In 1622, he sought and received a grant for a huge parcel of land in New England, which he dubbed the Province of Maine. From that day forward, to the end of his life, Gorges spent much of his time and most of his money (largely supplied by his wives, of which there were four) trying to develop an English colony in Maine.

He might have succeeded, but for one fundamental miscalculation: He believed that the English social and political model could be successfully transplanted into America. Gorges imagined a cluster of interconnected colonies, each with a near-feudal owner, under an appointed governor, all loyal to the English king. But, as time went on, and settlement proliferated in Massachusetts and Virginia, the model that achieved success in America proved to be quite different—based on representative government and individual rights. Sir Ferdinando died in 1647, never having laid eyes on America or realizing even a part of his dream of a royal realm in the New World. The province of Maine passed to Ferdinando's grandson, also Ferdinando, who, in 1677, sold the rights to the Massachusetts Bay Colony for £1,250.

Sir Ferdinando Gorges has been called “the father of English colonization in North America,” but is perhaps better described as a Don Quixote, a quester who chased a romantic dream of English royalism in a garden of Eden where democracy eventually flowered instead.

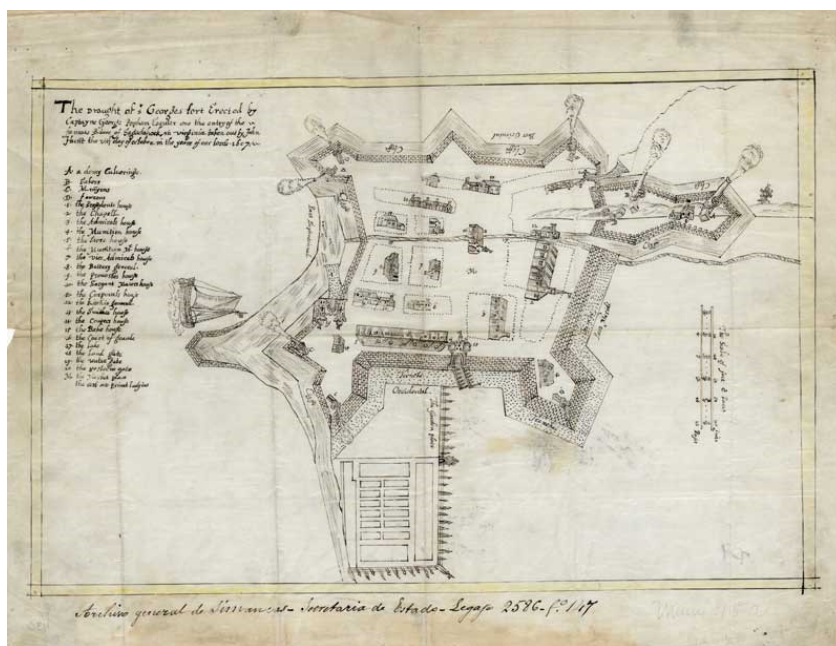
Today, Sir Ferdinando is memorialized in Fort Gorges, the grey stone pile standing knee-deep in Portland Harbor. It was built to protect the peninsula during the Civil War, but saw no action. Now it stands as a curious landmark—isolated, proud, and largely forgotten, just like its namesake.

*

This article was written by John Butman (1951-2020). Butman was a popular writer and public speaker. He simultaneously penned books on business strategy as well as satires on the hackneyed business advice genre. He wrote one novel. The majority of his writing concentrated on business topics crafted with insights from the historical and social sciences. Butman was a great patron of the arts and a supporter of liberal education. He divided his time between the Boston area, Portland, and Bailey Island, Maine.

Members of the OFFME will be interested in his book (co-author with Simon Targett) New World, Inc.: The Making of America by England's Merchant Adventurers (Little, Brown, 2018).

This essay is reprinted with the kind permission of Maine Boats, Homes, & Harbors—a bimonthly magazine dedicated to Maine coastal and maritime life, traditions, and history. Sample issues can be observed at the MBHH website (maineboats.com).



A map of the intended, but never fully realized, Popham Colony. Nineteenth-century copy of the original, which is preserved in Simancas, Spain.

Image from the collection of Maine Historical Society, courtesy of VintageMaineImages.com item #7542

Poetry

THEIR BONES REMAIN

By
Harry Elmore Hurd

Search not our graveyards for the bones
Of dead New England: Search the stones
Of gray walls stretching to the sea:
They are the granite vertebrae
Of primate strength whose rock resists
Decay—from these the annalists
May reconstruct the buried past
Whose Yankee stature was more vast

Than scoffing little men suspect
Who lightly flaunt their disrespect
For backs that bent against the years.
The spinal bones of pioneers—
Devoid of flesh—divide these lands.
Walk gently here: Lay reverent hands
Upon these bleaching boundary stones
For they are built of giants bones.

*

Harry Elmore Hurd (1889-1958) wrote
hundreds of poems and essays largely

about life in New England. “Their Bones Remain” reminds us that tombstones and standard records are but a shadow story compared to the lasting impression that the early pioneers of New England made upon the land and institutions of our Country.

Becoming familiar with (and even memorizing) such poems helps us to fulfill that first purpose of our Order: “To honor those hardy and enterprising early ancestors ...”

Opportunities

Our friends at **The New England Historic Genealogical Society** (Boston, Massachusetts) will be offering two online courses which may be of interest to our members wishing to build up or refine their genealogical skills. Both are completely online this summer and will offer all reading materials, exercises, and both live and recorded lectures. Recorded lectures remain accessible to registered students:

-June 8th to 10th: A three-day online course is being offered entitled **Spring Stay-at-Home**. The course focuses on introducing the most essential genealogical resources and strategies. Real-time demonstrations as well as one-on-one consultation complement the lectures. Cost: \$375.

-August 3rd to 5th: Faculty from the NEHGS will help aspiring genealogist to

reach the next level of research and family history in their **Genealogical Skills Bootcamp**. Included amongst the twelve lecture topics are online research skills, record analysis, confronting genealogical “brick walls,” and more. Cost: \$375.

The NEHGS offers programs through its online medium, American Ancestors to members and non-members. For information see the American Ancestors website (americanancestors.org).

*

Maine’s First Ship—the reconstructed 1607 pinnacle *Virginia*—continues to look for volunteers of all ages: carpenters, docents, and educational writers, as well as individuals with abilities in sewing, knitting, graphic design, social me-

dia, and even fundraising. Some projects do not require summer residence in Maine. Members of the OFFME are reminded that Maine’s First Ship has been a recipient of our financial support since 2015. Interested parties should contact the volunteer director directly (mfs@mfship.org). The *Virginia* summers in Bath, Maine about 10 miles north of the 1607 Popham colony.

*

Members of the OFFME may wish to acquaint themselves with the mission and activities of **The Maine Archaeological Society**. Founded in 1956 TMAAS promotes archaeological awareness of Maine’s earliest centuries. More information about membership and offerings can be found on the Society website at mainearchsociety.org.

Editor’s Note

Dear Fellow members of the OFFME,

I am delighted to have been offered the opportunity by President General Birch to edit the *Anchor and Pine Tree*. I send all fellow members my springtime greetings!

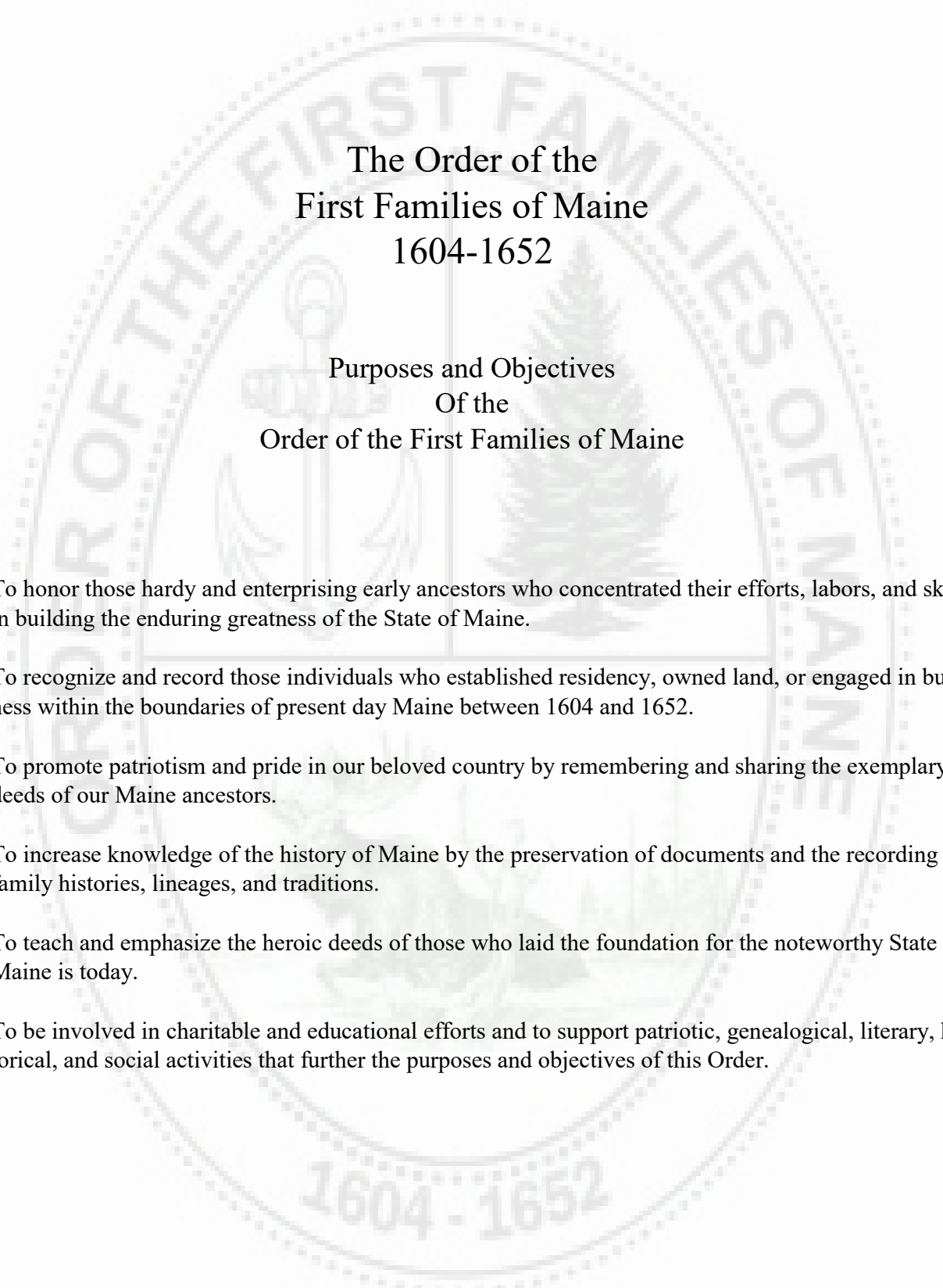
As you can see from the New Members section of this issue, I have only recently joined. Although I have experience in publishing, this is the first time I have edited a newsletter of this nature.

I am grateful to the expertise and patience of Mr. Verne Allen Gray, who created these handsome templates and established a high standard for the *Anchor and Pine Tree*. Although, I am still finding my sea legs, I hope to honor Mr. Gray and the previous editors for laying such a solid foundation.

Like yours, my family has been in Maine since the early Seventeenth Century. I am blessed to have spent long portions of my youth in Pine Point, very

close to where some of my most remote ancestors trod (Black Point, Cape Elizabeth, and Richmond Island). I am currently editing from Penobscot, Maine, in a home built c. 1800 by a distant cousin and within a short drive from Castine, where several of my ancestors besieged British forces in the summer of 1779.

I hope to discover essays, reviews, and poetry (old and new) that may be of interest to our members. Prospective writers are encouraged to contact me.



The Order of the First Families of Maine 1604-1652

Purposes and Objectives Of the Order of the First Families of Maine

- ◆ To honor those hardy and enterprising early ancestors who concentrated their efforts, labors, and skills in building the enduring greatness of the State of Maine.
- ◆ To recognize and record those individuals who established residency, owned land, or engaged in business within the boundaries of present day Maine between 1604 and 1652.
- ◆ To promote patriotism and pride in our beloved country by remembering and sharing the exemplary deeds of our Maine ancestors.
- ◆ To increase knowledge of the history of Maine by the preservation of documents and the recording of family histories, lineages, and traditions.
- ◆ To teach and emphasize the heroic deeds of those who laid the foundation for the noteworthy State that Maine is today.
- ◆ To be involved in charitable and educational efforts and to support patriotic, genealogical, literary, historical, and social activities that further the purposes and objectives of this Order.

Anchor & Pine Tree

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