

INDIANS

RESEARCH

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The following copy was received from [unclear] for the [unclear]

The Department of Health and Welfare in March, 1933, was given general supervision over the Passamaquoddy and Penobscot Indian Tribes of the State. Save for a few scattered reports from the Indian Agents, and copies of the treaties, the department has no written knowledge of the relations of the State with the Tribes. On Jan. 2, 1934, a research worker, paid out of funds provided by the C. W. S. (Civil Works Service), later the C. W. A. (Civil Works Administration) and still later the F. E. R. A. (Federal Emergency Relief Administration), began work on the Indian project. As much of the work centered in the State Library, a desk was kindly turned over to the worker there.

Miss Margaret Snow, of Rockland, Maine, with the valued assistance of the State Library staff, has done the work on the Indian Project to date.

The following, is a copy of a description of the project, written by Miss Snow for Mrs. Locke, Maine Director for Women's Relief under the Federal Civil Works Program, to be sent to Washington with similiar descriptions of other Maine projects.

Feb. 20, 1934

Since 1820, the State of Maine has acted as guardian for the Passamaquoddy and Penobscot Tribes of Indians, totaling today around one thousand souls. These two Indian Tribes are all that remain within the confines of the State of Maine of that former extensive and powerful confederacy, known to the historian of colonial days, and to local students of Indian lore, as the Eastern Indians. Much of exceeding interest waits to be assembled and written concerning the Eastern Indians, but it is with the distinct tribes, the Passamaquoddy and the Penobscot, since 1820, that the present project undertaken by the Department of Health and Welfare deals.

During the 114 years of her jurisdiction over these two tribes, the State has built up in the performance of her obligations acquired in the separation of Maine from Massachusetts in 1820, certain policies, practices, and customs. Yet, the evidence of these policies, of these practices, and of these customs through the years, lie buried in a mass of legislative, executive, and judicial state documentary records, both published, and in manuscript form. To unearth, to compile, and finally, to reduce this knowledge to a concise, workable medium for both historical fact, present development, and future possibility with regard to Indian Affairs, is the aim, or hope of the present project.

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The trail leads sometimes leisurely, sometimes hurriedly through many departments, and divisions of government; the Treasury, the State, the land office, the Forestry, Education, and now to the Department of Social Welfare, which was given general supervision over the Passamaquoddy and Penobscot Tribes by Act of Legislature, March 28, 1933. Then, there are the legislative records, judicial decision, reports and communications of the several agents from the field, and the records of the Sisters of Mercy, who for long years have ministered to the cultural and Spiritual needs of the tribes. While above all, and approving all, are the records of the Governor and his Council. The search, interesting in itself, takes on an added fascination when one realizes that it is linked with the very heart-blood of a people, with their future, and even perhaps, their very existence as such, itself.

The project to end July 1st., will be still in the first phase of the undertaking, that of unearthing the material. There are fair indications that the survey of the Council records, some 166 manuscript volumes, approximating 40,000 pages, can be completed by this time. Much scattered gathering had also been done on accessible printed documents found in the State Library. At the end of this period, July 1st., there will still remain of the unearthing phase; the finishing of various documentary sources in the library, and annotating of 90 years of Council reports, 60 years of which are filed in boxes in the top of a large two story vault. These reports
containing

containing the original petitions, communications and remonstrances from the Indians, and from their agents, contain most important and indispensable information. The remaining phases of the project, that of compiling and reducing the bulk of material to a usable medium, appear from this point in the first phase, to be a task of considerable labor, increased proportionately, if finished by one unfamiliar with the detail and understanding gained in gathering the material. The project may be likened to that of building a vessel: the materials need to be located and assembled from many varied, and unrelated sources; the sorting, fitting, and co-ordinating; and then the final building of the ship itself.

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report on the "Indian Project".

The research work, in compiling a history of the Maine Indians, for the Department of Health and Welfare, under whose direction, the two Indian Tribes in Maine now find themselves, continues slowly.

For the past seven weeks, the Council Reports, from 1820 to 1850, containing the petitions, communications and remonstrances of the Indians, and important and indispensable information from their Agents, have been studied, and the material classified. Notes have been taken on valuable information found therein, and these notes added to those already collected from time to time, while unearthing material.

This project is still in the first phase - that of unearthing the material. There remain 40 years of Council Reports to be annotated. It is impossible to compile this work, without having the knowledge at hand, and at the present time the Council Reports are in manuscript form, filed at the top of a two story vault.

Due to the Legislature being in session, the worker on this project, Miss Dorothy Snow, has been unable to work at the State House. All of the material needed, except the Council Reports already annotated, is to be found at the State House, in volumes and files, which cannot be removed from the building. This has slowed up the work considerably, and makes it difficult to obtain the desired results.

Scattered information has been gathered, from various sources in the library. There is still material in the State Department, treasury, Land office, Forestry Department, Educational Department, to be compiled. All of this must be reduced to a workable medium, involving considerable time and labor. The facts should be compiled systematically, year by year, department by department. It is essential that the Council Reports from 1850 on, be typewritten, so that the material in them, will

be at hand.

The compiling and condensing of this knowledge is both interesting and enlightening. There is a great deal yet to be done, before the completion of the project.

Should the project be continued, I would suggest that some arrangement be made, whereby the worker would be in closer touch with the material to be used.

Dorothy Snow.

January 17th, 1935

INDIAN MATERIAL in the Bureau of Health and Welfare, compiled by Margaret and Dorothy Snow in 1934 and 1935 from sources in the Maine State Library with funds provided by (1) the Civil Works Administration and (2) the Federal Emergency Relief Administration. The work was begun by Miss Margaret Snow in January 1934. Her part of the compiling took about nine months. It was she who went through the records of the Governor's Council with great thoroughness and investigated various departments in the State House for original source material on the Penobscot and Passamaquoddy Indians. From this material gathered by Miss Margaret Snow, the enclosed copy was made by Miss Dorothy Snow several months later. Miss Dorothy Snow worked seven weeks on the project.

It is evident on examination of this manuscript that a great deal of the material used and compiled by Miss Snow in the early stages of the work was discarded. The intent of the project was to discover exactly what the state's policy in Indian affairs had been when by Act of the Legislature, March 28, 1933, the conduct of Indian affairs was turned over to the Bureau of Health and Welfare. Much of the information gathered by Miss Margaret Snow could not be of very great value to the Bureau who employed her. It was, however, of great value to the Indian historian and should have been preserved. The accidental death in 1942 of the two young women who worked on the project leaves doubt as to what actually became the typed material from which the followed report was made.

The most valuable research done by Miss Margaret Snow was on the manuscript records of the Governor's Council to about 1852. In condensing the report this was integrated for the most part, and while the citation is made, e.g. Council Records, the exact reference, drawer and year, is not given. The organization of the material in the manuscript is by subject, such subjects as would be useful to the Department of Health and Welfare. All the material culled from the Council Records on poaching, lumbering, prices and cost of lumbering on Indian lands, and so forth, was not included finally by the compilers.

Particularly helpful to the Reference Librarian will be found the following subjects:

- (1) An explanation of the Agency system from Acts and Resolves, Revised Statutes and Council Reports.
- (2) Census by tribes, 1834-1895, and many individual lists of members of both tribes.
- (3) Committees on the Indian, called Indian Affairs, in Council, and of the House and Senate, 1830-1900.

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- (4) Tribal Goverors, 1816-1896, and Constables
- (5) Indian Treaties copied Verbatim from the records with citations.
- (6) Education, showing the friction in both tribes occasioned by the establishment of English schools. Letters of Rev. Elijah Kellogg, 1823-1828, are copied in full, the originals (not stated) are in the manuscript files of the records of the Governor's Council.

These are only a few of the subjects compiled, but they appear to be the most valuable. The lists particularly are not in print and were compiled by going systematically through various state publications.

The material was turned over to the Maine State Library by the Bureau of Health and Welfare in June 1942.

Elizabeth Ring,
Augusta, Maine
June 25, 1942