

Champlain Society
Report of the
Secretary For the Year 1882-1883

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Date: 1882-1883

Description: Champlain Society Report of the Secretary

C.S.

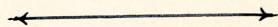
CHAMPLAIN SOCIETY.

REPORT.

OF THE

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THE YEAR
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Champlain Society

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To the President of the Champlain Society
Sir:—

I have the honor of presenting
herewith to you my report as
Secretary of the Champlain Society
for the year 1882-83.

At a meeting held on April 20th 1882
at 34 Grays Hall, Cambridge it was
voted that this Society be placed on a
permanent basis by the election of a
President, Vice President, and Secretary;
and that these three officers should
constitute an executive committee
with full powers to govern the Society,
and to manage all its affairs. At
the same time it was voted that there
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of the Society has been ascertained in every case before the name of any candidate for membership, or any new plan has been acted on.

It may be well before reporting the work of the year to give a few statistics of the number of members, the meetings, and the attendance. By reference to the records we find that in 1882-83 the number of members was 23, as against 20 in 1881-82, and 13 in 1880-81. In spite of this increase in membership, however, there was a decrease in the number of members forming the Summer Expedition, as there were only ten members and one guest present in 1882 against 16 in 1881 and 13 in 1880. This may be accounted for in various way some of which will be noticed later. — During the year we have had eight meetings and a supper, at which the attendance has averaged about ~~nine~~ members. The number actually

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present at each meeting is as follows:
 April 20th 82 15 members; May 4th (the Supper) 14
 members; May 19th 9 members; May 26th 9
 members; June 14th 12 members, 5 candidates
 for membership; June 19th 5 members, 2
 candidates; Nov. 8th 9 members; Dec. 14th
 9 members; March 1st 7 members. Average
 attendance of members 9

While the work of the past year has
 been far from satisfactory in every respect,
 yet on the whole it gives us no reason
 to feel at all discouraged. Our work
 must necessarily become harder every
 year, and the results of it fewer. Of
 course this does not apply to departments
 of natural history where the ground
 is as yet fresh and untried, nor
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not feel at all discouraged because their lists become shorter and shorter every year, and their general lists increase more and more slowly.

As has already been mentioned the meeting on April 20th 1882 began a new era in the existence of our Society. Not only was the C.S. established on a permanent basis, but officers were elected to transact all business and to promote the interests of the Society. The officers elected on this occasion were: President, Charles Eliot; Vice President, Henry Champion Jones; Secretary, Edward L. Rand. Captain Eliot resigned the office of Captain that he had filled so long and well; but was instantly honored with the title of Captain Emeritus. At this meeting the Report of the Botanical Department for 1881 was read.

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invitation of Captain Eliot, at his house, No. 17 Quincy St. The following members were present, Davis, G.B. Dunbar, W.H. Dunbar, C. Eliot, S.A. Eliot, Foster, Hubbard, Jones, Lane, E.L. Rand, H.L. Rand, Spelman, Townsend, and J.L. Wakefield. The supper was a very great success, both from a social and from a literary point of view, and inaugurated a custom that it is hoped will not be abandoned. After supper there was a great deal of singing. A full account of the proceedings will be found in the Records Vol. V.

At the meeting on May 19th the President read a short account of the life of Samuel de Champlain, for whom the Society is named. An assessment of \$4.10 per member was voted to meet necessary expenses; and there was a long discussion of candidates for membership.

On May 26th the names of a number of candidates for membership were considered, and then referred to the

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On June 14th The Society met for the last time in 34 Grays. The Geological Report was presented and read. The Captain then read a bulletin containing an offer of the use of tents etc from Mr. C. W. Eliot, and a scheme for a expedition to Mt. Desert during the coming summer. Nearly all the newly elected candidates for membership were present. It was decided to camp on the Island during the summer.

The last arrangements for this expedition were made on June 19th at a small meeting held at 33 Grays.

The Expedition began work on July 3rd and ended work on Sept. 9th. The camp was pitched on July 10th, and struck on Sept. 2nd. An account of it will be given after the other meetings of the year are mentioned.

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On Dec 14th there was a meeting at 29 College House. The financial report of the summer expedition was read. The questions of new members and of another expedition were discussed.

On March 1st the Society met at 16 Quincy St. There was a general and informal discussion of future plans. This was the last meeting of the year.

As far as length of time goes the Expedition of 1882, is greatly superior to all former expeditions. In 1880 the work began on July 5th and ended on Aug. 28th, 55 days; in 1881, work lasted from July 3rd to Aug 18th, 47 days; in 1882, from July 3rd to Sept. 9th, 69 days! The time spent in camp during the three years was as follows;— in 1880 from July 5th to Aug. 25th ^{52 days}; in 1881 from July 4th to Aug. 13th, 41 days; in 1882 from July 10th to Sept. 2nd 55 days.

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was found impossible to camp in the same manner as in former years; the expense of an outfit of cooking utensils, dishes, etc would be great, and the small number of men enlisted would make the price of board very high, if a cook were hired. For these and other reasons it was thought best to have no cooking done in camp, but to arrange for meals at some convenient farmhouse;-- a plan that was finally agreed to. The President and Secretary were early on the ground, and endeavored to make suitable arrangements before any other members arrived. As it was found impossible to procure board in the vicinity of the site of Camp Pemetic, the old camping ground had to be abandoned, much to the grief of all. A new site was selected at the head of Northeast Harbor, and board procured at Captain Savage's, a short distance off. The camp, consisting of three

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large sleeping tents and the parlor tent, was pitched on July 10th. After a great deal of discussion the camp was named Camp Asticou, after an old Indian friend of the worthy Captain. During much of the summer the "Sunshine" lay in Northeast Harbor, and was used as a sleeping place by some of the members. The old flag pole was towed round from Camp Pemetic, and the C. S. colors floated over the camp all the summer.

The board at Savage's was very satisfactory, and the price, - \$5. per week, - very reasonable considering the appetites of the members. From the well at the house we obtained water both for washing and drinking purposes; it would have been more convenient, doubtless, if we had been able to obtain it nearer the camp, but the distance was not a very great objection.

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There is an impression among members of the Society that little or no work was done during the summer, an impression that is on the whole erroneous. In every department represented good work was done by some member or members, and there was not very much more loafing, comparatively speaking, than in 1881. We must remember that some of our members were born to enliven us socially, not to drudge over scientific work! Hot weather,

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mosquitoes, black flies, "constitutional laziness", Southwest Harbor, the "Junco", the "Sunshine", and the "Initials" may be mentioned as the great causes of loafing.

The departments represented in 1882 were the Botanical, Geological, Ornithological, and Zoological. From all of these reports are expected, which can best describe the results reached in each case. The sudden and unfortunate collapse of the ^{Department} Meteorological, is much to be regretted, especially as nothing has been heard from it since 1880 in spite of the numerous observations taken. An Hydrographical Department blossomed for a few days, and then faded, leaving its results to be absorbed by the Geological Department. The Entomological Department and Ichthyological Department were not heard from, although there was a faint attempt to do a little work in the latter department. There was also no photographer at camp, although it was

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Early in the summer a notice was sent to the Bar Harbor papers inviting those interested in the work of the Champlain Society to correspond with the Secretary. Only two replies were received, one from Frank M. Day (1719 Arch St. Phila), Botany, the other from Richard H. Day (460 N. 4th St. Phila) Zoology. From the first named gentleman the Botanical Department obtained quite a number of species new to its list.

Of the social side of the camp life during the summer very little need be said. Much information on the subject may be found in the Camp Log, (C.S. Records Vol. 6), by any member interested. There was very little need of a Captain, owing to the different method of camping, but what needed to be done was done by E.L. Rand

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As a method of conducting an expedition of this kind, it is believed that the method practised last summer was at the same time the most inexpensive and the most comfortable in every way. By it no member of

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The additions to the Library this year have not been very numerous.

A paper on the "Little Mountains East of the Catskills" has been presented by ^{its author,} our learned member Mr. Davis; a paper on Samuel de Champlain, by our President Mr. Eliot; and Reports, on Botany by Jones and Rand; Geology by Hubbard (with maps); on Geological Progress by C. Eliot; on Ornithology by Spelman, make up the list. The suggestion is made that it would be well either now or at some future time to make provision for binding the different C. S. papers in a cheap but durable binding; in their present condition they are very apt to be lost or mislaid unless taken great care of.

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year it seems to me to be all-important, not only that our organization should be kept up under all circumstances, but that another expedition should be sent to Mt. Desert this coming summer.

When I look over the materials we have on hand, it is surprising to see how very meagre they are, and how much remains to be done. If in the Reports for 1882 each Department would give some account of what remains to be done, and if an expedition would endeavor to do this something, whatever it is, and what is more would do work instead of thinking about it, we should be much nearer the completion of our purpose next year than we are this. I would also suggest that we use every effort to interest every lover of Mt. Desert in our work, whether by correspondence, or personal appeal.

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