

Charter Members of
The Torch Club of Western Maine

Established September 30, 1929

Portland, Maine

Foreword

According to the website of the International Association of Torch Clubs, local clubs operate in 75 locations in the United States and Canada. Club members are professionals who meet monthly for dinner and to hear a paper by a member or guest on a topic of concern to modern society. Following the presentation, the members discuss the paper and pose questions to the speaker. The Torch Club of Western Maine was organized on September 30, 1929 and met for the first time on November 13, 1929 to hear a paper delivered by Professor Wilfrid H. Crook, a sociologist on the faculty of Bowdoin College. This year we celebrate our local Club's 75th Anniversary.

A list of the Club's charter members, identified only by profession, survives in the material that I received in the spring of 2003 when I became Club secretary. Prompted by the upcoming anniversary, I spent some time this past summer trying to find out as much as I could about these professionals and what they did during their lifetimes. What follows are biographical profiles which outline in the barest terms the professional lives of many of our Club's charter members.

Although hooded members of the Ku Klux Klan marched confidently down Portland's Congress Street in 1924 and claimed some prominent Maine citizens among their ranks, we should be proud of the tolerance of differences and the lack of bigotry shown by our Torch forebears just five years after that march. Our list of local Torch charter members includes the Rev. John G. Murray, Roman Catholic Bishop of Portland. It also includes Israel Bernstein, a Jewish citizen of Portland who was a prominent attorney and civic leader and who remained active in the Club until his death in 1967.

Our charter members were individuals destined for accomplishment. One became known as "the father of Alaska statehood" and served as one of that state's first U.S. Senators. Another was called from retirement to serve as President Truman's personal envoy to Korea during the war in that still divided country. Yet another served as Maine's Chief Justice. And another was a well-known portrait artist. Others served their communities as physicians, lawyers, engineers, musicians, and businessmen. Our last surviving charter member, Herman Burgi, Jr., became general manager of the Portland Water District. He died in 1983 after 54 years as a Club member, including 19 years as our treasurer (1935-1954).

Unfortunately, it took the Club 63 years--to 1992--to admit its first woman member, Wendy Bush, an investment manager in Portland. Fortunately, she took only six years to become our President in 1998 and was re-elected in 1999. Today we have seven women on our Club's membership roster, including our treasurer, Virginia Wilder Cross.

For three quarters of a century the Torch Club of Western Maine has shared professional perspectives in an atmosphere of freedom of thought and expression. Proud of our history, and looking to the future, may we continue to add to that rich tradition.

Mark Terison
October 6, 2004

Guy H. Sturgis
Attorney, Judge
Torch Club President, 1929 - 1930
1877 - 1951

Guy H. Sturgis was born in New Gloucester, Maine on March 3, 1877. He was educated at New Gloucester, graduated from Edward Little High School in Auburn in 1894, and entered Bowdoin College where he was a member of Delta Upsilon fraternity. Following his graduation from Bowdoin in 1898, Sturgis studied law at Columbia University, continued his studies in a Portland law office, and passed the bar in 1900. The following year Sturgis returned to New Gloucester where he served his native community briefly as Superintendent of Schools. He then practiced law in Portland, served two terms on the Portland Board of Aldermen and in 1917 the Maine Legislature elected him Attorney General for two terms.



In 1923 Maine Gov. Percival P. Baxter appointed Sturgis to the Maine Supreme Judicial Court. Bowdoin College honored him in 1926 with an honorary degree which cited his "ability to dispense even-handed justice with courage, courtesy, and consideration." In 1929 Justice Sturgis became a charter member of the Torch Club of Western Maine. He served the Club as its first president from 1929 to 1930. Justice Sturgis was reappointed to the court in 1930 and 1937. In 1940 Gov. Lewis O. Barrows elevated Sturgis to Chief Justice. Chief Justice Sturgis retired from the court in 1949, but remained an active-retired justice until his death in Portland at the age of 73 on January 18, 1951.

Our Club has honored Chief Justice Sturgis by naming after him the award given each year for the best local Torch paper of the season as voted by the board of directors.

Compiled from material located at:

- Maine Historical Society, Portland
- George J. Mitchell Special Collections & Archives, Bowdoin College

Prof. Wilfrid H. Crook
Sociologist; Economist
Delivered the First Torch Club Paper, 1929
1888 - 1963

Wilfrid Harris Crook was born in Swinton, Lancashire, England on May 16, 1888. He received a bachelor's degree from Oxford's Lincoln College in 1911 and a master of arts degree from the same institution in 1914. He spent three years of post-graduate work at Oxford's Manchester College before accepting a Hibbert Scholarship to study at Harvard University. In 1919 he became the Assistant Minister at Boston's Central Congregational Church, in association with the Rev. Dr. Willard L. Sperry, later dean of the Harvard School of Theology.



In 1920 Crook became a naturalized U.S. citizen. In 1922 and 1923 he served as an instructor at Simmons College in Boston. Crook continued his teaching career at Bowdoin College where he was hired as an assistant professor of economics and sociology in 1923. While a member of the Bowdoin faculty, Crook earned his Ph.D. from Harvard in 1928. In 1929, Dr. Crook became a charter member of the Torch Club of Western Maine. He enjoys the distinction of having delivered the Club's first paper, entitled "Are There Too Many 'Interlectuals'?", at the Club's first meeting in Portland on November 13, 1929.

Dr. Crook married Evelyn Buchan, also a sociologist, and in 1930 he was promoted to the position of associate professor. Dr. Crook published The General Strike, Labor's Tragic Weapon in Theory and Practice in 1931. He left Bowdoin that same year and became an instructor at Bradford Junior College in Massachusetts. He then taught at Bucknell University in Lewisburg, Pennsylvania. During World War II Dr. Crook worked with both the National War Labor Board and the National Wage Stabilization Board. Following the war, Dr. Crook joined the faculty of Colgate University in New York where he became chair of the Department of Economics. Dr. Crook remained at Colgate until his retirement in 1956. Following his retirement, Dr. Crook moved to Decatur, Georgia and published his second book, Communism and the General Strike, in 1960.

Dr. Crook died in Decatur on April 16, 1963 at age 74.

Compiled from material located at:

- George J. Mitchell Special Collections & Archives, Bowdoin College

William S. Linnell, Esq.
Attorney
Torch Club President, 1932 - 1933
1885 - 1968

William S. Linnell was born in Biddeford, Maine on July 21, 1885. He was the son of William Franklin and Sarah Shepherd Linnell, and graduated in 1903 from Thornton Academy in Saco. He graduated from Bowdoin College with the Class of 1907 and earned a law degree from George Washington University in 1911. He was admitted to the Maine Bar that same year.

On November 12, 1912 he married Jesse E. Hopkinson of Saco. He was president and a director of the Portland Gas Light Company from 1927 until 1963. Linnell was also a director of Bancroft & Martin Corporation and the National Bank of Commerce. He was a senior partner in the Portland law firm of Linnell, Thompson, Hinckley & Thaxter, and began his association with the firm in 1934.

Active in the Republican Party, Linnell chaired the Portland Republican City Committee from 1919 to 1921, was a member of the Republican State Committee from 1923 to 1934, served as national committeeman from Maine from 1937 to 1938, and also served on the Maine Governor's Council from 1925 to 1928.

He was a 32nd degree Mason, served as a district governor of the Rotary Club, and was a member of the Woodfords Club, the Portland Club, and the Cumberland Club. Linnell was also a charter member of the Torch Club of Western Maine and was active in the Club for more than 35 years. He served as vice-president in 1931 and became president in 1932. His papers included "The Nature of National Sovereignty" on March 1, 1944; "Political Panorama" on March 5, 1952; "The Changing Political Philosophy of Party Participation in Government" on November 5, 1958; and "Whose Next Move" on April 1, 1964.

Linnell was a long time member of the Greater Portland Chamber of Commerce, serving as chamber president in 1934 to 1935. In 1959, at the age of 73, Linnell again served as chamber president, succeeding his fellow Torch Club member, Halsey Smith. At the time of election, the following editorial appeared in the Portland newspaper:

At this particular juncture in the forward progress of the chamber, what it needs most is a leader with the full confidence of the public, the respect of all political and business factions, a man with ideas of his own but who respects the ideas of those who disagree with him. In electing Mr. Linnell president for the coming year . . . , the chamber has just such a man . . . Mr. Linnell's acceptance of this arduous task, after he has served so long and done so much for his community and his state, is a challenge to his fellow citizens to do their share.

Linnell suffered a stroke and died in Portland on February 14, 1968 at age 82.

Compiled from material located at:
—Maine Historical Society, Portland
—Portland Public Library
—Archives of the Torch Club of Western Maine

S. Judd Beach, M.D.
Ophthalmologist
Torch Club President, 1933 - 1934
1879 - 1953

Sylvester Judd Beach was born in Dedham, Massachusetts on April 7, 1879, the son of Seth Curtis and Frances Hall Judd Beach. He graduated from Phillips Exeter Academy in 1897 and from Harvard College in 1901. Dr. Beach received his medical degree from Harvard University in 1905. From 1904 to 1906 he was surgical house officer at Boston City Hospital. Dr. Beach served as the acting house physician at the Boston Lying-In Hospital in 1906 and was house physician at the Massachusetts Eye & Ear Infirmary in 1907. He married Louise Harris on October 7, 1909.



Dr. Beach served with the Maine State Department of Health from 1916 to 1924 and was a member of the Oculist Medical Advisory Board during World War I. He practiced for eleven years in Augusta where he was a member of the staffs of the Augusta and Gardiner General Hospitals, before beginning the practice of ophthalmology in Portland in 1920.

In 1929 Dr. Beach became a charter member of the Torch Club of Western Maine and served as its first vice-president from 1929 to 1931. He was again vice-president from 1932 to 1933, and served as president of the Club from 1933 to 1934. Dr. Beach was chair of the membership committee from 1937 to 1938.

In 1944 Dr. Beach served as president of the council of the American Ophthalmological Society. He was a consulting ophthalmic surgeon at the Maine Eye & Ear Infirmary where he served as staff president from 1946 to 1948. Dr. Beach was a frequent guest lecturer for graduate courses at George Washington, Florida, Virginia, and Rochester Universities and was the author of "Textbook on Refraction"

and co-author of "The Eye and Its Diseases." He was the first physician from Maine to serve on the nine-member American Board of Ophthalmic Examination. Dr. Beach was also secretary of the American Board of Ophthalmology, vice-president of the Foundation for Vision, a member of the executive committee of the Ophthalmological Study Council, Fellow of the American College of Surgeons, and chair of the Ophthalmology Section of the American Medical Association. He was a member of the council of the American Academy of Ophthalmology and Otolaryngology, a committee member of the Society for Research in Ophthalmology, and a member of the editorial board of the *Quarterly Review of Ophthalmology*.

He served as president of the Waynflete School, superintendent of the First Parish Unitarian Church school, and president of Portland Rotary. Dr. Beach died in Portland on February 10, 1953.

Compiled from material located at:
—Maine Historical Society, Portland

William B. Jack
Educator

Torch Club President, 1934 - 1935
1877 - 1942

William B. Jack was born in Portland on November 16, 1877. He attended Portland public schools and graduated from Portland High School in 1896. In 1900 he received his undergraduate degree from Colby College. During the year following his college graduation, Jack served as the secretary of the American Consulate in Budapest, Hungary. Thereafter he taught school in Wales, Massachusetts.

Returning to his native city, Jack became an instructor and later the principal of Portland High School. He served in that capacity until his selection as superintendent of schools on February 20, 1922.

Jack was a member of the Portland Rotary Club, the Fraternity Club, and the Portland Economic Club. He was also a charter member of the Torch Club of Western Maine. In 1934 and 1935 he served as Torch Club president. Jack was well traveled and led others on tours of foreign countries each summer from 1906 to 1921.

Jack died in Portland on January 8, 1942 at the age of 64. A junior high school in Portland was named in his memory.

Compiled from material located at:
—Maine Historical Society, Portland

Rev. James W. Vallentyne
Clergyman

Torch Club President, 1935 - 1936
1871 - 1952

Rev. Dr. James W. Vallentyne was born in Canada in 1871. He was a school teacher before becoming a clergyman in Minnesota, where he preached for fourteen years. He later served as the pastor of the Unity Church in Oak Park, Illinois for six years.

In 1924 Rev. Dr. Vallentyne was called to serve the Congress Square Universalist Church in Portland. During his pastorate, Rev. Dr. Vallentyne hosted a local radio program called

Rev. Dr. Vallentyne was a Mason, a vice-president of the Chicago Association of Congregational Churches, a director of the Chicago Congregational Club, and a member of both the Chicago Press Club and the Hamilton Club. A charter member of the Torch Club of Western Maine, in retirement Rev. Dr. Vallentyne served as the Club's president in 1935 to 1936. He died in Portland in 1952 at the age of 81.

Compiled from material located at:
—Maine Historical Society, Portland

Dr. Franklin A. Ferguson
Physician

Torch Club President, 1937 - 1938
1876 - 1957

Franklin Archie Ferguson was born in Boston, Massachusetts on April 2, 1876. He was the son of Franklin T. Ferguson, a native of Philadelphia, and Mary E. Hewitt Ferguson, originally from Green Harbor, Nova Scotia. Ferguson was educated in the Boston public schools and graduated from Boston English High School and Boston University. Dr.



Ferguson received his medical degree from Boston University in 1902. He did post-graduate work at the Harvard University School of Medicine and also special diabetic work at Philadelphia General Hospital. He married Maude C. Faulkner of Hyde Park, Massachusetts on December 19, 1903.

Dr. Ferguson interned first at the Massachusetts Homeopathic Hospital in Boston and later at Trull Hospital

in Biddeford, Maine. He was on the medical service of the Maine Eye & Ear Infirmary in Portland and on the surgical service of Bath City Hospital before beginning the practice of medicine in Portland in 1909. Dr. Ferguson was on the staff of Maine Eye & Ear Infirmary and on the courtesy staff of Maine General Hospital. He was a member of the Economic Club of Portland, the Portland Club, and the Rotary Club, which he served as president in 1922. Dr. Ferguson was also a Free Mason.

He was a charter member of the Torch Club of Western Maine and served as Club president from 1937 to 1938. Club member Carlton Lane recalled in 1980 that Dr. Ferguson "invariably carried a huge wad of money so that, as his mother taught him, he could always make change when somebody offered to pay their debts with a bill of large denomination." Dr. Ferguson was a member of the American Medical Association, Maine Medical Association, and the Cumberland County Medical Society. He was president of the Boston University Alumni Association, president of the board of trustees of Portland Junior College, and a member of the Maine Examining Board of Registration of Medicine.

Dr. Ferguson died in Portland on March 23, 1957 at the age of 80.

Compiled from material located at:

- Maine Historical Society, Portland
- Maine Medical Center Archives, Portland
- Club Archives; "Looking Back At Torch," by Carlton G. Lane, October 1, 1980.

Israel Bernstein

Attorney

Torch Club President, 1939 - 1940

1890 - 1967



Israel Bernstein was born in Portland, Maine on November 22, 1890. His parents, Abraham and Sarah Bernstein, had emigrated to the United States to escape the oppression of czarist Russia. They wanted their son "to be learned, and be instilled with the culture and message of his Jewish heritage."¹ Bernstein was educated both at home and in the Portland public

schools. He graduated from Portland High School with the Class of 1908 and received an undergraduate degree from Harvard College in 1912. Bernstein earned a law degree from Harvard Law School in 1915 and began the practice of law in Portland.

During World War I Bernstein's law practice was interrupted by his service as a regimental sergeant-major with the U.S. Army's 12th division. Following the war, Bernstein returned to Portland and resumed his law practice in 1919. He also served as Commissioner for Relief of Needy Veterans. Bernstein was appointed the Government Appeal Agent for the U.S. Selective Service System and held that position for many years. He married Rebecca Thurman in 1922 and the couple later had a son, Sumner T. Bernstein, and a daughter, Helen.

In 1930 with his younger brother, Louis, Bernstein formed the law firm of Bernstein & Bernstein. The two were soon joined in the practice by Barnett I. Shur. Bernstein's son, Sumner, and Herbert H. Sawyer joined the firm in 1949. Leonard Nelson joined in 1960 and the firm became known as Bernstein, Bernstein & Nelson. By the mid-1960's the firm became Bernstein, Shur, Sawyer & Nelson. On the occasion of the firm's 75th Anniversary, Sumner Bernstein wrote that although his father's

community commitments . . . were, in part, office and career-oriented, they were to him part of his articles of faith, part of the fabric of his life. He was unselfish of his time and of his effort. I see him before me, finishing his dinner, then taking a quick nap before going off to a meeting in the early evening, his energy restored by his brief rest. His ability to catnap was one key to his ability to maintain the pace of his life.²

In 1929 Bernstein became a charter member of the Torch Club of Western Maine, served as Club secretary in 1933 to 1935, vice-president from 1938 to 1939 and assumed the Club presidency in 1939 and 1940. He was on the program committee for 1942 and 1943. On October 4, 1944 Bernstein delivered a Torch Club paper entitled "The G.I. Bill of Rights." He led a political forum on May 3, 1950. Other papers included "Abraham Lincoln: Master of Men" on February 2, 1955, "A Tourist's Impression of Israel," on February 5, 1958, and "Realignment of Political Parties" on January 6, 1965.

Active in business, Bernstein was a founding director of both the Casco Bank & Trust Company and the Home Federal Savings & Loan Association. He also served as

¹ Bernstein, Shur, Sawyer & Nelson: *The First 75 Years, 1915-1990* (Portland, Maine: 1990), p.8

² *Ibid.*, pp.8-9

vice-president of both the Greater Portland Chamber of Commerce and the Portland Better Business Bureau.

Bernstein was also an active civic leader. He was a member of the Portland School Committee, a trustee of the Portland Public Library, and a director of the Boy Scouts of America.

An active leader of the Maine Bar, Bernstein served as president of the Cumberland County Bar Association. Perhaps his most important professional contribution was his role in the adoption of the Maine Rules of Civil Procedure which replaced the old form of common law and equity pleading on December 1, 1959. Writing in 1991 on the occasion of the centennial of the Maine State Bar Association, Justice Herbert T. Silsby, II described Bernstein's role in the adoption of the modern rules of civil practice for Maine courts. After hearing a speech on pleading and practice at the 1956 summer meeting of the Maine Bar in Rockland, Bernstein moved to place on the next day's business meeting agenda a study of the rules of practice, and the motion carried. During the meeting the following day, Bernstein moved that the Bar Association recommend that the Legislature empower the Supreme Judicial Court to prescribe rules of practice. However, the matter was delayed and Bernstein was appointed to a committee to undertake further study.

At the Bar's 1957 winter meeting in Augusta, Bernstein reported for the committee that a survey of the Bar had revealed overwhelming support for changing the rules of practice and for granting the Supreme Court the authority to do so. After hearing the survey results, those present voted in favor of the motion Bernstein made the previous summer. Following the Legislature's statutory authorization, Chief Justice Robert B. Williamson appointed Bernstein to a 12-member Advisory Committee on Rules. The Committee made an interim report at the 1958 summer meeting of the Bar and an open discussion of the Committee's proposed rules took place at the winter meeting in Augusta in January 1959. The following December the Supreme Court promulgated the new rules which are still in effect in amended form today.³

Bernstein "was also heavily involved in matters of the Jewish Community."⁴ He was a founder, director and president of the Jewish Federation of Portland, a founder and first president of the Maine Jewish Council, director of the Jewish Community Center, vice-chairman of the New England Region of the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds, and a founder and first president of the Jewish Historical Society of Portland. He also founded and led the Maimonides Club, a Jewish literary organization.

Writing on the occasion of the Torch Club's 50th Anniversary, one of our former Club presidents, Carlton G. Lane, recalled "the friendly debates between Bill Linnell, a conservative, and Israel Bernstein, a liberal" and noted that the discussions "were always worth the price of admission." Lane remembered that the only time Linnell and Bernstein were in agreement "was when Israel's subject was Abraham Lincoln." However, Lane acknowledged one other area of agreement between the two. Linnell and Bernstein "enthusiastically agreed" on "the values and benefits of Torch." In Lane's view, the discussions between Linnell and Bernstein "did much to make our Club a good one."

Club member Ed Godfrey, a former Dean of the University of Maine School of Law and a former Associate Justice of the Supreme Judicial Court of Maine, recalls that Bernstein was a "staunch supporter" of the new Law School from its inception in 1961.

Israel Bernstein died in his native Portland on June 26, 1967. Shortly after his death, the Board of Directors of Casco Bank adopted a resolution which saluted Bernstein's integrity, extraordinary vision, and human compassion.

Compiled from material located at:

- Maine Historical Society, Portland
- Maine State Bar Association, Augusta
- Club Archives ; "Looking Back At Torch," by Carlton G. Lane, October 1, 1980.
- August 10, 2004 letter from Edward Godfrey

George E. Haggas

Engineer

Torch Club President, 1949 - 1950

1879 - 1929

George E. Haggas was born on January 7, 1886 in Jamestown, New York. The son of Leach Haggas and Martha Driver Haggas, he graduated from the University of Michigan with a degree in civil engineering.

He moved to Portland, Maine in 1915 to become an evaluation engineer with the Cumberland County Power and Light Company, a predecessor of today's Central Maine

³ The complete story of the adoption of the Maine Rules of Civil Procedure may be found in One Hundred Years of Law & Justice, 1891-1991, Maine State Bar Association (August, Maine: January, 1991), pp.33-36

⁴ Bernstein, Shur, Sawyer & Nelson: The First 75 Years, 1915-1990 (Portland, Maine: 1990), p.8

Power Company. Haggas rose to chief engineer and assistant general manager, and retired from Central Maine Power Company in 1951.

Haggas was a member of Tau Beta Pi, an honorary engineering society. He was also a member of the Woodfords Congregational Church and served as the president of both the Woodfords Club and the Portland Kiwanis Club. He was a director of the YMCA in Portland for fifteen years, including six years as president. He was also president of the Maine Association of Engineers.

Haggas was the first Club treasurer, serving from 1929 to 1931. He served as a director of the Torch Club of Western Maine from 1937 to 1944 and again from 1949 to 1952. He was Club secretary for two years from 1938 to 1940. Haggas served as Club vice-president in 1941 and 1942. He was Club president in 1949 and 1950. His only paper recorded in Club archives is "Wind As A Source of Power," delivered on March 6, 1946.

Haggas died in Portland at the age of 78 on November 3, 1964.

Compiled from material located at:
—Maine Historical Society, Portland

Herman Burgi, Jr.
Engineer
Torch Club President, 1955 - 1956
1891 - 1983

Herman Burgi, Jr. was born in New York City in 1891. A son of Herman and Wilhelmina Papendick Burgi, he graduated from Columbia University in 1913. As a student at Columbia, Burgi was a labmate and friend of Edwin H. Armstrong (1890-1954) who was later credited with inventing FM radio.

Burgi testified in court in 1919 supporting Armstrong's patent claims for the first of several electrical inventions. A diary which Burgi kept had an entry dated December 7, 1912 in which Burgi wrote, "Armstrong told me he had an invention for intensifying sound." Relying in part upon Burgi's testimony, a New York judge ultimately upheld Armstrong's patent claims and the way was paved for his FM radio invention in 1933.



Following his graduation from Columbia, Burgi became a power engineer at Cumberland County Power and Light Company in Portland. In 1927 he was listed as an engineer on the payroll of Consumers Water Company. By World War II Burgi had risen to the position of Chief Engineer and was especially busy, as a consultant to George F. West & Son, helping to provide water to the many troops housed on the islands of Casco Bay, the primary anchorage for the North Atlantic Convoy Fleet.⁵

Following the war, travel by train to visit the various subsidiaries of Consumers Water Company took five days. Because of the grueling travel schedule, Burgi left the company in 1949 and joined the Portland Water District. In 1950 Burgi became general manager and treasurer of the District and held the positions until his retirement in 1964. A conference room at the District's offices on Douglass Street in Portland bears Burgi's name in recognition of his years of service to the District. Burgi served on the Portland Planning Board from 1957 to 1964, including six months as the Board's chair. He was also a member of the Rotary Club of Portland. Burgi enjoyed sailing and was a Commander of the Portland Yacht Club.

He was a charter member of the Torch Club of Western Maine and served for 19 years as the Club's treasurer, from 1935 to 1954. From 1951 to 1954 he also held the office of secretary. He was Club president from 1955 to 1956. Among the papers he delivered were "The Future of Public Utilities," on January 6, 1943; "Water," on October 4, 1950; "Portland's Water Supply," October 1, 1952; and "Ethics," on March 2, 1960. Burgi teamed up with William D. Monie, his successor at the Portland Water District, to present a paper entitled "Water Pollution—Old Fashioned and Modern," on March 4, 1964. Following his retirement, Burgi became an honorary associate of the Club and moved to Winnetka, Illinois where he died at the age of 92 on October 30, 1983. He was the Torch Club's last surviving charter member.

Compiled from material located at:
—Maine Historical Society, Portland
—Club Archives; "Looking Back At Torch," by Carlton G. Lane, October 1, 1980.

⁵ Parker, John Van C., *From Maine to the Main Line, A History of Consumers Water Company*, Custom Communications (Saco: 2000), at pp. 45-46.

Right Rev. Benjamin Brewster, D.D.
Bishop of Maine, 1916 - 1940
Episcopal Diocese
1860 - 1941

Benjamin Brewster was born in New Haven, Connecticut on November 25, 1860 to the Rev. Joseph and Sarah Jane Bunce Brewster. He was a descendant of Elder William Brewster, one of the Pilgrim leaders of the voyage of the Mayflower. Brewster was educated in New Haven schools and received the A.B. degree in 1882 from Yale, where he was a member of the Psi Upsilon Fraternity and elected to Phi Beta Kappa. His divinity degree was from the General Theological Seminary, New York, in 1886. Although he had planned to study law, his brother, the Right Rev. Chauncey Brewster, persuaded Brewster to enter the priesthood. He was ordained a deacon that year and became the assistant minister at Calvary Parish in New York. Brewster was ordained a priest the following year and served as vicar of Calvary Chapel.



In 1891, Rev. Brewster became rector of the Church of the Holy Communion in South Orange, New Jersey. He married Stella Yates of New York on June 10, 1891. From 1895 to 1906, he was rector of Grace Church in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Rev. Brewster then became dean of St. Mark's Cathedral in Salt Lake City and served until 1909 when he was consecrated missionary bishop of Western Colorado. In 1914 Bishop Brewster supported the cause of striking Colorado coal miners. On June 7, 1916, he was elected Bishop of Maine.

In his first year as Bishop of Maine, Right Rev. Brewster was a delegate to the Neutral Conference Committee which met with President Woodrow Wilson to discuss calling a conference of neutral nations to halt the war raging in Europe. In 1934 Bishop Brewster chaired a committee of the church's General Convention which backed a resolution granting freedom to physicians, hospitals and clinics convey contraceptive information to patients. He was a member of the American Civil Liberties Union. He was a charter member of the Torch Club of Western Maine and was also a life member of the Elks Club.

On February 1, 1929, on her way home to Portland after visiting her daughter in Boston, Mrs. Brewster was the victim

of a tragic bus accident in Portsmouth, New Hampshire. In August, 1937 Bishop Brewster married Mrs. Mary Philips Hay. That same year he was honored with an honorary degree from King's College in Halifax, Nova Scotia.

The Bishop had been a member of the Society of the Mayflower Descendants in the State of Maine for twenty years, he resigned his membership in 1937. Although he refused to comment on the reason for his resignation, it was reported that the Society's opposition to the American Civil Liberties Union for alleged affiliation with the Communist Party in the United States was the reason behind his action.

In 1938 Bishop Brewster issued a directive which banned all games of chance for the purpose of raising money in the church. That same year he protested against rebel bombings of civilian populations in war-torn Spain. He also opposed shipment of water materials to Japan. In November 1940, however, Bishop Brewster suggested that all aid, including troops if necessary, be extended to Great Britain. Bishop Brewster retired in December, 1940, and died in Portland on February 2, 1941.

Compiled from material located at:

- Maine Historical Society, Portland
- Archives of the Episcopal Diocese of Maine, Portland

Curtis J. Birkenmayer
Accountant
1864 - 1953

Curtis J. Birkenmayer was born in New York City on March 30, 1864. The son of Paris S. and Julia Judson Birkenmayer, he was educated in New York schools and attended the City College of New York. Following graduation, he was associated with Randolph & Clough of Waterbury, Connecticut. He then joined the Brown Company in Portland where he served more than fifty years as chief accountant. Birkenmayer was a member of the Institute of Certified Public Accountants of America.

He became a charter member of the Torch Club of Western Maine in 1929 and remained active with the Club for the remainder of his life. He was also a member of the Portland Club and the Lions Club, as well as the Portland Athletic Club.

Birkenmayer died in Portland on August 24, 1953 at the age of 89.

Compiled from material located at:

- Maine Historical Society, Portland

Mortimer Warren, M.D.**Pathologist****1873 - 1944**

Mortimer Warren was born at Cumberland Mills, Maine in 1873. The son of John E. and Harriet Brown Warren, he attended public schools and graduated from Bowdoin College in 1896. He received a medical degree from Johns Hopkins University in 1900. From 1902 to 1910, he was assistant pathologist at Cornell Medical College. Dr. Warren was the pathologist at New York City



Dr. Warren served overseas with the U.S. Army during World War I and was promoted from lieutenant to major. Following the war, Dr. Warren came to Portland where he opened an office on State Street as a consulting pathologist. He joined the Maine General Hospital staff in 1922 on a part-time basis and later became the hospital's first full-time pathologist. Dr. Warren was also instrumental in establishing a blood bank, tumor clinic, and a community blood donor service. In 1931 Bowdoin College awarded him an honorary degree citing "his scientific knowledge and accurate analysis" in the advancement of medicine in Maine.

Dr. Warren died in 1944. Maine Medical Center paid tribute to Dr. Warren in the fall of 1958 by dedicating its remodeled and enlarged laboratory in his memory as the Warren Memorial Laboratory.

Compiled from material located at:

- Maine Medical Center Archives
- George J. Mitchell Special Collections & Archives, Bowdoin College

Edward H. Wass**Musician****1874 - 1935**

Edward Hames Wass was born in Weymouth, Massachusetts on December 7, 1874. He studied music at Harvard with Professor J.K. Paine, and studied piano with Girard Tallandin and voice with Charles H. Whittier of Boston. Later he studied organ with Stanley S. Searing and Warren A. Locke, also in Boston. Wass taught voice, piano and organ to students in Boston and Malden, Massachusetts

prior to moving to Augusta, Maine where he taught from 1904 to 1912.

Wass served as organist at Trinity, St. Andrews, and Church of the Ascension, all in Boston; St. Paul's in Malden and Trinity in Melrose; and at St. Mark's in Augusta. He became organist at Brunswick's First Parish Church in 1910 and held that position until 1930. Wass played Chopin's "Funeral March" on February 27, 1914 at the conclusion of Gen. Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain's funeral as his casket was carried from the Church.

Bowdoin College hired Wass in 1912 as an instructor in music and as College organist. He inaugurated a new course of study in harmony and counterpoint, and in 1916 he became assistant professor of music and in 1922 associate professor. The College conferred upon Wass an honorary doctor of music in 1928. The citation read:

Edward Hames Wass, Associate Professor of Music and Organist of the College; for the past sixteen years in very large measure the personal cause of the notable advance made in the knowledge, practice, and appreciation of music on the part of the student body of Bowdoin; indefatigable worker for the undergraduates, their companion, frank critic, and friend; known through Maine as a thorough musician of high standards; honored today for his devotion to music and to the College.

In 1929 Professor Wass became a charter member of the Torch Club of Western Maine. He died in Brunswick on November 12, 1935 at age 60.

Compiled from material located at:

- George J. Mitchell Special Collections & Archives, Bowdoin College

Rupert Neily**Musician****1876 - 1962**

Rupert Neily was born in Paradise, Nova Scotia, Canada on February 8, 1876. He was the son of George Wesley Neily and Lucetta Purple Neily. A few months after his birth, he moved with his family to Lynn, Massachusetts where he graduated from Lynn High School in 1892.

Neily studied piano in Lynn and later with Buonamicci, The Elder in Florence, Italy. He also studied organ with S.B. Whitney and Wallace Goodrich of Boston. He also studied voice in Boston, New York, Paris, and Florence. He married Anne McAdams in 1916.

Neily became the supervisor of music for the Westerly,

Rhode Island public schools, and also taught voice in Lynn and Boston and at Hoeling College in Virginia. He was a composer of both sacred and secular vocal music. Neily was the organist and choir director for Congregational churches in Biddeford and Sanford before he assumed the same duties at Portland's Williston Congregational Church. In 1929, when he became a charter member of the Torch Club of Western Maine, Neily was the director of the Maine Conservatory of Music where he was a vocal instructor.

Neily was also the director of the Portland Women's Choral Society, and director of voice and music at Portland's Westbrook Junior College. He died in Portland on April 3, 1962 at age 86.

Compiled from material located at:
—Portland Public Library

Rev. John G. Murray
Bishop of Portland, 1925 - 1931
Roman Catholic Diocese
1877 - 1956

John Gregory Murray was born in Waterbury, Connecticut on February 27, 1877. The son of William and Mary Connor Murray, he graduated from the College of the Holy Cross in 1897. He studied for the priesthood at the American College in Louvain, Belgium. He was ordained a priest at Louvain on April 14, 1900 by Bishop Joseph F. Van der Stappen.



Rev. Murray served as a parish priest in Hartford, Connecticut until 1919 when he became Auxiliary Bishop of Hartford. Five months later, on April 28, 1920, he was consecrated Titular Bishop of Flavia in Hartford. Following the death of Bishop Louis Sebastian Walsh, Bishop Murray was appointed the fifth Bishop of Portland on May 29, 1925 and was installed on October 12, 1925.

In the prosperous early days of his tenure, Bishop Murray established two dozen new parishes in Maine. He also dedicated new church buildings, including St. Mary's in Augusta in 1927 and an impressive English Gothic structure, St. Joseph's, in Portland in 1931. The Bishop also expanded the Catholic school system throughout Maine, opening fifteen schools in his six-year tenure. The Catholic Institute, founded as a high school in 1917, was renamed Cheverus

in 1926 to honor the memory of one of the Maine's early missionaries. Bishop Murray also founded the diocesan newspaper, The Church World, on May 18, 1930.

Bishop Murray was involved in the work of the National Catholic Welfare Conference and was motivated by a heightened sense of social consciousness and responsibility, especially during the economic depression years. In addition to supporting Catholic hospitals throughout Maine, the Bishop also opened a dental clinic on Free Street in Portland. When Bishop Murray left Portland to become the Archbishop of St. Paul, his fellow Torch Club member, Episcopal Bishop Benjamin Brewster, praised Bishop Murray at a Portland Elks Club farewell dinner for his social welfare and reform work. However, the Bishop left the diocese in debt. The construction costs during the boom years of the 1920's, coupled with the depressed national economy, resulted in millions of dollars of indebtedness.

On October 29, 1931 Bishop Murray was appointed Archbishop of St. Paul where he served until his death on October 11, 1956. President Eisenhower, campaigning for re-election in St. Paul at the time, praised Archbishop Murray as "a great citizen, [and] a civic and spiritual leader."

Compiled from material located at:
—Archives of the Roman Catholic Diocese, Portland

Talcott Ostrom Vanamee, M.D.
Physician
1879 - 1929

Talcott O. Vanamee was born in Middletown, New York on October 12, 1879. The son of William and Lida Ostrom Vanamee, he prepared for college at St. Stephen's School and graduated from Hamilton College in 1898. A graduate of Columbia University's College of Physicians & Surgeons with the Class of 1904, Dr. Vanamee first practiced medicine in Newburgh, New York.

Following his marriage to Eleanor Wright of Portland, Maine, on June 12, 1912, Dr. Vanamee settled in his wife's home city that same year to practice orthopedic surgery. The couple had four children. During World War I Dr. Vanamee performed medical examinations for the U.S. Army. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, and carpentry. His carpentry skills were evident in an oceanside guest cottage he built at his home.

Dr. Vanamee also enjoyed traveling. In 1928 traveling with his wife in Belgium, he was a passenger on a train involved in an accident. He used his medical training to treat forty injured passengers and later received a commendation from the railroad corporation for his heroic action.

Dr. Vanamee died suddenly of heart disease in Portland

on October 8, 1929, shortly after the organization of the Torch Club of Western Maine and just four days shy of his 50th birthday.

Compiled from material located at:

- Maine Medical Center Archives, Portland
- Journal of the Maine Medical Association, Vol. XX, No. 12 (December 1929).

Alfred Brinkler

Musician

1880 - 1972

Alfred Brinkler was born in Ramsgate, Kent, England on May 2, 1880. The son of George B. H. Brinkler and Mary Smith Brinkler, he studied at Durham University with the leading organists of England at the time. For five years he served as the organist of the historic Church of St. Mary's Minister in Thanet near Canterbury, England. At age 19 he earned a degree as an associate of the Royal College of Organists of London.

In 1900 Brinkler came to the United States to serve as organist and choir master of St. Matthew's Cathedral in Dallas, Texas. Six years later he came to St. Luke's Cathedral in Portland. In 1911, Brinkler organized the Portland Chapter of the American Guild of Organists and was instrumental in founding other chapters throughout Maine. Brinkler installed a massive pipe organ in his home which he used to teach student organists. According to Brinkler, the only place students could practice on the pipe organ was in church, "and since churches weren't heated much when I started teaching it made practicing a chilly business."

Brinkler left St. Luke's in 1912 to become organist and choir master at St. Stephen's Church on Congress Street. That same year he attended the first concert of Portland's Kotschmar Memorial Organ in City Hall. He married Beatrice Bartol Banks of Portland on August 5, 1913. In 1927 Brinkler returned to St. Luke's and remained there until his retirement in 1952. He was among the founders of the Portland Concert Association, still in existence today. In 1929 he was among the charter members of the Torch Club of Western Maine.

Brinkler also served as Portland's Municipal Organist, performing on the Kotschmar organ and succeeding Edwin H. Lamare in the 1920s. He retired as Municipal Organist in 1952 and was succeeded by John E. Fay. That same year he received an honorary doctor of music degree from Bowdoin College, where he had served as lecturer in music in 1932 and acting chair of the Department of Music in 1936 following the death of fellow Torch Club member, Professor Edward H.

Wass. The citation read:

Alfred Brinkler, of Portland, organist and choir master, Fellow of the American Guild of Organists, Associate of the Royal College of Organists, gladly serving the College in time of need as Lecturer in Music, founder of the Interfraternity Singing Contest and donor of the original Wass Cup, a musician who has done much for music in the State of Maine by setting the highest standards of taste and performance both for himself and for his pupils.

Brinkler donated the original Wass Cup at Bowdoin, in memory of Professor Wass, Bowdoin's first professor of music.

Brinkler's last recital on the Kotschmar Memorial Organ was on May 18, 1971 when he was 91 years old. He directed that the proceeds from the recital be deposited into a fund for the resumption of the free summer organ recitals which had been suspended due to the lack of city funds. Included on the program was one of Brinkler's own compositions, "Springtime Variations."

Brinkler was also an accomplished photographer. He used a gum finishing process which caused his photographs to resemble etchings. In the 1940s the Portland Museum of Art exhibited a selection of his photographic work.

Brinkler became a Fellow of the American Guild of Organists in 1905. At the time of his death on March 3, 1972 at age 91 in Portland, Brinkler was the Guild's oldest Fellow.

Compiled from material located at:

- Portland Public Library
- George J. Mitchell Special Collections & Archives, Bowdoin College

Joseph B. Kahill

Artist

1882 - 1957

Joseph B. Kahill was born in Alexandria, Egypt on May 15, 1882. He studied painting there and also in Paris before coming to the United States to study with Charles Fox in Portland. His brother, Victor Kahill, of Casablanca, Morocco, was also an artist and sculptor. (Victor Kahill sketched the portrait of Torch Club member Israel Bernstein. He also sculpted the bronze lobster fisherman statue located today on the corner of Temple and Middle Streets in Portland).

Joseph Kahill painted portraits of many U.S. Senators, state governors and national political figures. He also painted murals on the walls of the Bowdoin College Chapel in Brunswick.

Kahill was a life member of the Portland Society of Art and a long time member of the Portland Lions Club. He was a 32nd degree Mason and a member of the board of directors of the Portland Club. He was also a charter member of the Torch Club of Western Maine.

He died in Portland on June 19, 1957 at the age of 75.

Compiled from material located at:

--Maine Historical Society, Portland

M. Carroll Webber, M.D.

Physician

1882 - 1960

Millard Carroll Webber was born in Richmond, Maine on June 7, 1882, the son of Dr. George Webber and Allie Ham Webber. He graduated from Coburn Classical Institute in Waterville and from Bowdoin College with the Class of 1907. Webber attended the Maine Medical School in Brunswick and graduated in 1910. Dr. Webber served an internship at the Maine Eye and Ear Infirmary and also pursued post graduate training at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. He married Martha B. O'Brien in 1915.



During World War I Dr. Webber was a captain in the U.S. Army Medical Corps. He practiced medicine in Portland for nearly fifty years and was a member of the staffs of Maine Medical Center and Mercy Hospital in Portland. Dr. Webber was a member of the American Medical Association, the Maine Medical Association, and the Cumberland County Medical Society. He was a member of the Aegis Club and served as president of the Portland Medical Society. He was also a member of the American College of Physicians.

In 1929 Dr. Webber became a charter member of the Torch Club of Western Maine. He was active with the Masons and was also a member of the Sons of Colonial Wars. Dr. Webber died in Portland on March 19, 1960 at the age of 77.

Compiled from material located at:

—Portland Public Library

Philip F. Chapman, Esq.

Attorney

1884 - 1949

Born in Portland on November 3, 1884, Philip Freeland Chapman was the son of Portland Mayor Charles Jarvis Chapman and Annie Hinds Chapman. He was educated in Portland schools and graduated from Portland High School in 1902. He also studied at Phillips-Exeter Academy. Chapman graduated from Bowdoin College with the Class of 1906. He received a law degree from the Harvard Law School in 1909.

During World War I, Chapman was a lieutenant colonel in the Maine Guard. During World War II, he operated his own craft in Florida as a member of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary.

Chapman was well known for his banking, real estate, newspaper and political activities. He was president of Chapman National Bank and was instrumental in the construction of the Chapman Building. Chapman developed Wildwood Park, a residential development in Cumberland Foreside. He held a major interest in the Portland Evening News until it ceased publication in 1938. Chapman was elected as a trustee of the Portland Water District. Once a law partner of Owen Brewster, Chapman served on Brewster's staff when he was governor of Maine.

Chapman served as a director of the U.S. Trust Company and of the Ogdensburg Railroad. He served as trustee of the Maine Eye and Ear Infirmary, the Children's Protective Society, the Associated Charities of Portland, the Portland Widow's Wood Society, and the YMCA. He was a charter member of both the Torch Club of Western Maine and the Portland Kiwanis Club. He was also a member of the Portland Club, the Cumberland Club, the Portland Country Club, the Portland Yacht Club, and the Masons.

He was injured in an automobile accident in Coco, Florida in April 1949 and died aboard his yacht at Daytona Beach, Florida on May 19, 1949 at the age of 64.

Compiled from material located at:

—Maine Historical Society, Portland

Major General Frank E. Lowe

Engineer; Military Officer;

Presidential Representative in Korea

1885 - 1968

Frank E. Lowe was born in Springfield, Massachusetts and was educated at the Worcester Polytechnic Institute, from which he graduated in 1908. He was a mining engineer until the United States joined the hostilities in World War

I. In 1917 Lowe enlisted at Leon Spring, Texas. He went overseas as a captain in command of the Park Battery of the Third Corps Artillery Park. In 1919 he returned in command of the Park.

In 1929, as the president of the Kennebec Wharf & Coal Company, he became a charter member of the Torch Club of Western Maine. From 1934 to 1936 Lowe served as national president of the Reserve Officers Association. He was a member of the Military Order of the World War, the Army and Navy Club of Washington, D.C., and the Phi Gamma Delta fraternity. He was Maine commander of the American Legion and also the national vice-commander and commander. In 1938 he retired from Kennebec Wharf & Coal Company and became executive director of the Associated Industries of Maine, a post he held until he was recalled to active military duty in 1940 as a field colonel in the Army reserves, and as the first reserve officer selected for extended active duty in World War II.

In 1941 General Lowe traveled to London to study British methods of selecting and training emergency officers. He used this knowledge to help train America's fast growing officers' corps. After the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor, Colonel Lowe became a brigadier general and was assigned to the War Department, first as executive for Reserve and ROTC affairs, and from 1942 on as an executive officer assigned to the Senate War Investigating Committee chaired by Missouri Senator Harry S. Truman. Colonel Lowe's work with the Committee required him to cross the Atlantic three times, the Pacific three times, to visit Alaska twice, and to visit the Philippines where he received a ribbon from that nation's president.

In 1945, Senator Truman nominated Lowe for promotion to major general. General Lowe returned to inactive status in 1946 and then retired to his farm in Harrison, Maine. However, service to his country had not yet ended. When the conflict broke out in Korea in 1950, President Truman selected 65-year-old General Lowe as his personal representative in Korea. While on the Korean assignment for the President, General Lowe was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for "extraordinary heroism in action against the enemy." General Douglas MacArthur's citation read in part:

Accepting personal hazards for beyond the requirements of his mission, he devoted long periods of time with the forward elements of our major units in combat in order that he might better observe and evaluate the battle efficiency of the United Nations command.

After returning to Maine, General Lowe became head of the Maine Amateur Athletic Union and was also a member of the executive committee of the National Amateur Athletic Union. He was state chairman of the American Cancer Society, a commander of the Harold T. Andrews Post of

the American Legion in Portland, chaired the Maine Good Roads Association, and was a member of the Cumberland Barracks of the Veterans of World War I. In 1966 he was honored at a gala testimonial dinner at Portland's Stevens Avenue Armory given by the State of Maine Chapter of the Military Order of World Wars. The featured speaker was General Lewis B. Hersey, then director of the U.S. Selective Service.

Major General Lowe died at the Veterans Facility at Togus, Maine on December 28, 1968 at the age of 83.

Compiled from material located at:
—Portland Public Library

E. E. Holt, Jr., M.D.
Ophthalmologist
1885 - 1946

Erastus Eugene Holt, Jr. was born in Portland on September 5, 1885. He was the son of Dr. Erastus E. Holt and Mary Dyer Holt and was educated in Portland schools. Dr. Holt graduated from the Bowdoin College Medical School in 1910 and attended the World's Eye Clinic in Philadelphia.

He was an intern at the Maine Eye and Ear Infirmary which his father founded. Eventually, the younger Dr. Holt succeeded his father as head of the Infirmary. He became a fellow of the American College of Surgeons in 1922. In 1926 he was elected president of the Portland Medical Club.

Dr. Holt became a charter member of the Torch Club of Western Maine in 1929. He served as secretary, treasurer and president of the Cumberland County Medical Association. He was also president of the New England Ophthalmological Society and chair of the council of the Maine Medical Association. In addition, Dr. Holt was president of the Portland Club. He was a consulting physician for the Children's Hospital and Maine General Hospital in Portland, and for the Webber Hospital in Biddeford and Goodall Memorial Hospital in Sanford.

He died in Portland on February 2, 1946 at the age of 60.

Compiled from material located at:
—Maine Historical Society, Portland

Ernest Gruening

**Physician; Journalist; Governor of Alaska; U.S. Senator
1887–1974**

Ernest Gruening was born in New York City on February 6, 1887. He attended Drisler School and Sachs School and graduated from Hotchkiss School in 1903. In 1907 he received his undergraduate degree from Harvard and in 1912 he received a medical degree from Harvard Medical School. Dr. Gruening gave up the practice of medicine to become a journalist. He became a reporter in 1912 for the Boston American and became managing editor of the New York Tribune in 1917.



With the outbreak of World War I, Dr. Gruening served in the U.S. Army Field Artillery Corps in 1918. He was editor of The Nation from 1920 to 1923. In 1924 Dr. Gruening was publicity director for the LaFollette Progressive Party presidential campaign. Dr. Gruening founded the Portland Evening News in 1927 and served as its editor until 1932. The paper ceased publication in 1938. In 1929 Dr. Gruening became a charter member of the Torch Club of Western Maine.

From 1932 to 1933 Dr. Gruening was editor of the New York Post. He was an adviser to the United States delegation to the Seventh Inter-American Conference held in Montevideo, Chile in 1933. During the administration of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, Dr. Gruening was director from 1934 to 1939 of the Division of Territories and Island Possessions of the U.S. Department of the Interior. He was a member of the Alaska International Highway Commission from 1938 to 1942, and President Roosevelt appointed him territorial Governor of Alaska in 1939. Governor Gruening was twice reappointed to the post and served as Alaska's Governor until 1953. Dr. Gruening became known as "the father of Alaska statehood," and was elected to the U.S. Senate from Alaska on November 25, 1958 at the age of 71. Upon Alaska's admission to the Union on January 3, 1959, Senator Gruening drew the four-year Senate term beginning that day and ending on January 3, 1963. Re-elected to the Senate in 1962, Senator Gruening became an early and vocal opponent of the Vietnam War.

In 1968 Senator Gruening was defeated in the Democratic primary by Mike Gravel, who succeeded him in the Senate on January 3, 1969. After his Senate service ended, Dr. Gruening became president of an investment firm and also served as a legislative consultant. He died in Washington, D.C. on June 26, 1974 at the age of 87. His ashes were

scattered over Mount Ernest Gruening, north of Juneau, Alaska.

Compiled from material located at:

- Portland Public Library
- Portland Press Herald Library

George O. Cummings, M.D.

**Otolaryngologist
1892 - 1981**

The son of Dr. George H. Cummings and Andaman Celestia Otis Cummings, George Otis Cummings was born in Portland in 1892 and graduated from Portland High School in 1909. He graduated from Bowdoin College with the Class of 1913 and from the Bowdoin College Medical School with the Class of 1916. Thereafter he was an intern at the Maine General Hospital in Portland in 1916 and 1917.



Dr. Cummings served with the U.S. Navy during World War I. After his naval service, he attended the graduate school of medicine at the University of Pennsylvania.

Dr. Cummings practiced medicine in Portland and limited his practice to diseases of the ear, nose and throat. In 1926 he became a diplomate of the Board of Otolaryngology. Dr. Cummings was a member of the staffs of Maine Medical Center and Mercy Hospital. He was also a member of the Cumberland County Medical Society and the American and Maine Medical Associations. In 1929 he became a charter member of the Torch Club of Western Maine and was an active member until 1953.

Dr. Cummings was a member of the Purpoodock Club, the Woodfords Club, and the Portland Lions Club. He died at Cape Elizabeth on February 22, 1981.

Compiled from material located at:

- Maine Historical Society, Portland

Hubert H. Barker, D.D.S.
Dentist; Professor of Dentistry
 1893 - 1978

Hubert Hazen Barker was born in Norway, Maine, the son of Frank and Gertrude Holden Barker. He attended schools in Norway, and graduated from Norway High School and from Bridgton Academy in 1912. Barker attended Colby College, where he was a member of the Upsilon Beta fraternity, played baseball, served on the newspaper and yearbook boards, and was a member of the student council. He graduated with the Class of 1916. Dr. Barker received the D.D.S. degree from the University of Louisville Dental School and also served in the U.S. Army dental corps during World War I. He was also a professor of dentistry at the University of Louisville.

He practiced dentistry in Portland for more than 50 years, retiring in 1971. In 1929, Dr. Barker became a charter member of the Torch Club of Western Maine. He married Elizabeth Blanchard Merrill of Yarmouth, a social worker with the Children's Family Service Bureau, on October 2, 1937.

Dr. Barker was a member of the Masons; the Portland, Maine, and American Dental Associations; and the Purpoodock Country Club of South Portland. He died in Portland on October 18, 1978 at the age of 85.

Compiled from material located at:

- Portland Public Library
- Archives, Colby College

Elton R. Blaisdell, M.D.
Physician
 1893 - 1978

The son of Charles and Martha Turner Blaisdell, Elton R. Blaisdell was born in Westfield, Maine. He graduated from Aroostook Central Institute in 1911, from Bowdoin College, and from the Bowdoin Medical School in 1915. He served an internship at the Maine General Hospital in Portland and then returned to Aroostook County where he practiced medicine for six years. He married Maude E. McGrath of Portland on October 12, 1916.

In 1925 and 1926 Dr. Blaisdell studied at Allen's Diabetic



Clinic in Boston. He became a charter member of the Torch Club of Western Maine in 1929. Dr. Blaisdell studied cardiology at Boston's Peter Bent Brigham Hospital in 1930 and was a resident physician at Valhard's Clinic in Frankfurt, Germany in 1932 and at the University of Vienna in 1936.

Dr. Blaisdell was a pioneer in the modern treatment of diabetes. He specialized in the relatively unfamiliar disease just three years after the discovery of insulin. The author of three booklets on diabetic diets, Dr. Blaisdell lectured widely on the subject and also published articles in the American Medical Journal and the New England Medical Journal. He was the first physician in Maine to specialize in internal medicine and was also the first in Maine to use insulin in the treatment of diabetics. Another first in Maine was Dr. Blaisdell's use of the electrocardiogram.

In 1941 Dr. Blaisdell left private practice and became chief of the Maine General Hospital Unit serving with the U.S. Army in England during World War II. He served in Europe for 40 months and rose to the rank of Colonel. When he was discharged Dr. Blaisdell received the Bronze Star, and was the only physician from Maine to receive the award during the war.

Dr. Blaisdell became chief of medicine and chief of staff at both the Maine General Hospital and the Maine Eye and Ear Infirmary. He served as president of the Cumberland County Medical Society, the New England Diabetic Association, the Maine Heart Association and the Pine Tree Diabetic Association. He was a fellow of the American College of Physicians and the governor of that college from the state of Maine for eight years. He was also a life member of the American Board of Internal Medicine, and was awarded an honorary doctor of science degree from Bowdoin College in 1966.

Dr. Blaisdell retired from the active practice of internal medicine in 1978. He died in Portland on January 23, 1984 at the age of 89.

Compiled from material located at:

- Portland Public Library

Alton H. Swett, D.D.S.
Dentist
 1894 - 1970

Alton H. Swett was born in Weld, Maine on February 1, 1894. The son of Dennis B. Swett and Josephine Houghton Swett, he attended Weld schools, Wilton Academy and graduated from Kents Hill School in 1914. He graduated from Tufts Dental School with the Class of 1917 and served in the U.S. Army Dental Corps during World War I. Upon

his return from the war, Dr. Swett began his dental practice in Houlton, Maine.

In 1921 Dr. Swett moved his dental practice to Portland. He was active with the Masons and in 1929 became a charter member of the Torch Club of Western Maine. He was also a member of the Portland Lions Club, the Cumberland Club, and the Portland Club. Dr. Swett was a long-time member of the board of trustees of the Kents Hill School. He served as secretary of the Maine Board of Dental Examiners.

Dr. Swett died in Portland on December 25, 1970 at age 76.

Compiled from material located at:
—Portland Public Library

Vincent B. Silliman, D.D.

Clergyman

1894 - 1979

Vincent B. Silliman was born in Hudson, Wisconsin, the son of Dwight and Frances Brown Silliman. He graduated from the University of Minnesota and the Meadville Theological School, and served with the military during World War I. Rev. Silliman was an active clergyman for 62 years with the Unitarian and Unitarian-Universalist churches.

When Rev. Silliman became a charter member of the Torch Club of Western Maine, he was the pastor of the First Parish Church in Portland. He preached his first sermon there on April 18, 1926 and was its tenth minister since the Church was founded in 1725. He originated the Church's Christmas pageant which has been presented every year since 1926. Rev. Silliman served First Parish Church for twelve years. He also served churches in Iowa City, Iowa and in Buffalo, Brooklyn, and Hollis, New York. He was also the pastor of the Beverly Unitarian Church in Chicago.

In 1963 Rev. Silliman was called to the Unitarian-Universalist Church in Yarmouth, which he served until his death. During his lengthy career Rev. Silliman edited two Unitarian-Universalist song and service books for children and young people, and a "Handbook for Ministers." He was also a member of a committee which produced a hymnal for the denomination.

Rev. Silliman was a member of the Religious Arts Guild of the Unitarian-Universalist Association. In 1973 the Guild held its annual meeting in Yarmouth to honor Rev. Silliman's 50 years in the ministry. He died in Portland on February 2, 1979 at the age of 84.

Compiled from material located at:
—Maine Historical Society

Rev. Dr. Ralph W. Stoody

Clergyman

1896 - 1980

Born April 19, 1896 in Rochester, New York, Ralph W. Stoody was educated at Ohio Wesleyan, Columbia and Harvard Universities. He also attended Boston University School of Theology and the Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary in Evanston, Illinois.

Although he trained as a clergyman, Rev. Dr. Stoody maintained his interest in journalism and writing. He worked as a correspondent and feature writer for newspapers while serving as a pastor in St. Albans and St. Johnsbury, Vermont, and also while pastor at the Chestnut Street Methodist Church in Portland from 1926 to 1934. During his time in Portland Rev. Dr. Stoody served for four years as president of the Portland Federation of Churches.

In 1948 Rev. Dr. Stoody served on the press staff covering the first Assembly of the World Council of Churches in Amsterdam. He also covered the World Methodist Conference in Oxford, England in 1951 and the second Assembly of the World Council of Churches held in Evanston, Illinois in 1954. Rev. Dr. Stoody received a number of honorary degrees, including an honorary doctor of letters degree from American University in Washington, D.C. awarded in 1958. The citation read, in part: "You have, through the past 18 years, achieved a unique position in the world Protestant movement [as] . . . dean of church public relations officials."

He retired in 1964 after more than twenty years as general secretary of the Commission on Public Relations and Methodist Information of the United Methodist Church, and died in Pompano Beach, Florida in January, 1980 at the age of 83.

Compiled from material located at:
—Maine Historical Society, Portland

John J. McDonough

Engineer

1898 - 1988

John J. McDonough was born in South Boston. A son of Thomas and Bridget Keeley McDonough, he attended Boston schools and graduated from Mechanics Arts School, the Franklin Institute, and the Lowell Institute. He later received a law degree from the Suffolk University Law School.

During World War I McDonough was a part of the student army training corps at Harvard University. As a young man McDonough joined New England Telephone and

Telegraph Company. He became an equipment engineer and remained with the Company for 47 years, retiring in 1963. McDonough moved to the Portland area in 1928 and became a charter member of the Torch Club of Western Maine in 1929. In World War II McDonough was a colonel in the U.S. Army Air Corps. He married Helen C. Sullivan of Portland on February 7, 1948.

McDonough was a member of the Harold T. Andrews Post of the American Legion, the Jasper N. Keller Chapter of the Telephone Pioneers, the Knights of Columbus, and the Adventurer's Club of Boston. He was a long-time communicant of Saint Dominic's Church in Portland where he served as a eucharistic minister.

McDonough died in Portland on December 26, 1988 at the age of 90.

Compiled from material located at:

—Portland Public Library

Henry W. Lamb, M.D.
Orthopedic Surgeon
1899 - 1964

Henry W. Lamb was born in Tilton, New Hampshire on April 16, 1899, the son of Dr. Frank Wilson Lamb and Grace Bolton Lamb. He attended schools in Portland and graduated from Portland High School in 1916. He graduated from Bowdoin College with the Class of 1920, from Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine in 1924. From 1924 to 1926 he was an intern at Boston City Hospital.



In 1929 Dr. Lamb became a charter member of the Torch Club of Western Maine. He married Helen Lord of Portland on August 24, 1938. Dr. Lamb was a founder and the first president of the Pine Tree Society for Crippled Children. In later years he owned and operated the Gray Gull Gift Shop in Portland. Dr. Lamb died in Portland on April 19, 1964 at age 65.

Compiled from material located at:

—Portland Public Library

Other names are included on the list of the charter members of the Torch Club of Western Maine, but little biographical information about these individuals was available at the time of our 75th Anniversary celebration. Perhaps sketches of the following charter members will emerge from the mist of local history at some time in the not too distant future:

Lucius C. Bennett
 Charles W. Bickford
 H.F. Biddle
 Sylvester Boyer
 Elias Caplan
 Charles L. Donahue
 Bay E. Estes
 Ernest W. Files
 George E. Fogg
 Ray Gibbons
 Daniel I. Gross
 Charles W. Helsley
 E. Leander Higgins
 Ralph H. Hutchinson
 Albert Johnson
 Douglas M. Milne
 A. H. Morrill
 Warren P. Morrill
 James A. Noon
 G. W. Stiles
 E. Sutermeister
 John P. Thomas
 Morris H. Turk
 Stephen E. Vosburgh
 Roy M. Whelden



Ernest W. Files

Torch Club of Western Maine

75th Anniversary Program

October 6, 2004

Portland Country Club

Cocktails

Call to Order & President's Remarks

Donald Gove, D.M.D., President

Recognition of Guests and Dignitaries

Donald Gove, D.M.D., President

Introduction of Anniversary Program

James Lockman, Program Chair

Anniversary Program

Virginia Wilder Cross, Treasurer

Dinner & Discussion

Dessert & Comment

Adjourn

*This booklet was produced to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the Torch Club of Western Maine.
It was prepared by F. Mark Terison, the Club's Secretary and Virginia Wilder Cross, the Club's Treasurer.
James Lockman, Program Chair, gave technical and moral support.*
