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**Total membership:**

425 on August 10  
Life members: 163

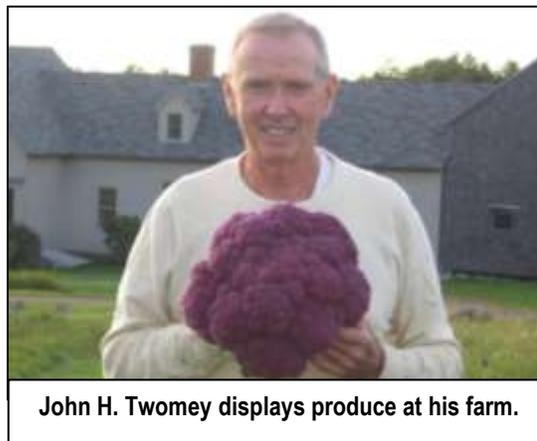
## September Program:

### "Intimate Details of Life on a Remote Farm in Maine"

John H. Twomey will speak September 20 at the Maine State Library about his recent book, *Retiring To, Not From — From Massachusetts Professor to Maine Farmer*. The lecture will encompass many aspects of life on his farm and will include a slide presentation. John and his partner, Leigh Norcott, live in a 19th-century Maine farmhouse. They raise vegetables, fruit, chickens, and brook trout; and they enjoy hiking and cross-country skiing on the many trails on the farm. Their lives include many aspects of life from the 19th, 20th, and 21st centuries. They live quietly and in touch with the natural world that surrounds them. Since 1978, John has worked on maintaining and improving wildlife habitat on the farm's 125 acres. He will talk about those efforts, focusing attention on his work in the fields, brushy areas, and woodlands.

After 37 years as a professor at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth, John retired in 2009 and moved with Leigh to Montville. There they live simply and deliberately on the farm that John has owned since 1978. The farm operates on solar power, completely off the grid, and the pair produce almost all of their own food and all of their own firewood. An avid naturalist, John has worked for years to maintain and improve the wildlife habitat on the farm. He does so by carefully scheduling the mowing of his fields and brushy areas; by planting, transplanting, grafting, and pruning hundreds of apple trees; and by planting thousands of white and chestnut oaks. Having seen farms sold and developed in his hometowns in Connecticut and Massachusetts, John long ago set his sights on owning and nurturing an old New England farm. He has accomplished that and intends to protect his Montville farm permanently.

The presentation, co-sponsored by the library, is free to the public. It will take place at 6:30 p.m. at the library, at 230 State Street in Augusta. Copies of the book will be on sale at a cost of \$21.



John H. Twomey displays produce at his farm.

**NOTE:** The program will be preceded at 4:30 p.m. by a potluck supper and at 6 p.m. by the society's annual meeting and election of officers and directors. Please see details on Page 3, including proposed bylaw changes. For details about the potluck supper, contact Anne Cough, either by email at [acough60@aol.com](mailto:acough60@aol.com) or by phone at 582-2823.

## President's Message

Next month the annual meeting will be held, with the election of officers and some directors. Also, there will be a proposed change to the bylaws to allow up to 25 percent of the board to be full-time or part-time employees, along with independent contractors.

The last two years have been interesting to say the least. The society is now heading toward a major capital campaign for both dedicated money to keep the bills paid and for expanding the current building to include our own meeting venue, an enlarged archive, and museum space. The Development Committee is already laying the groundwork for this venture.

I want to wish everyone a grand end of summer and I will see you just before autumn.

— Kent London

## October Program

### “A Pioneering Mainer’s Wife Who Landed in the Klondike Gold Rush”

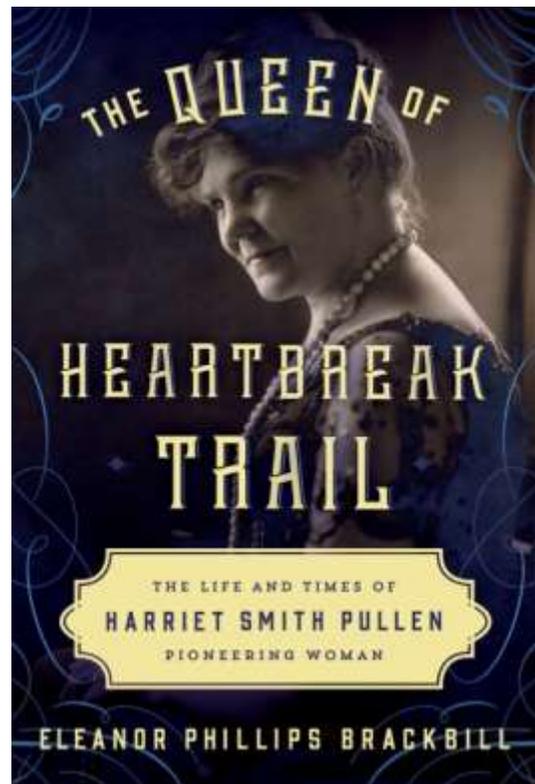
In “A Pioneering Mainer’s Wife Who Landed in the Klondike Gold Rush,” Eleanor Phillips Brackbill discusses how she came to research and write *The Queen of Heartbreak Trail: The Life and Times of Harriet Smith Pullen, Pioneering Woman*. Pullen was both the subject and the source of myriad crazy tales about her years in Alaska during and after the 1897 Klondike Gold Rush, which muddled the author's journey of discovery in uncovering Pullen's story. But as a historian, Brackbill's goal was to separate fact from fiction and ferret out the real story.

*The Queen of Heartbreak Trail* is a finalist for a 2017 WILLA Literary Award, which honors the best in literature featuring women's stories set in the West. The award is named in honor of Pulitzer Prize winner Willa Cather. Women Writing the West (WWW), a nonprofit association of writers and other professionals, underwrites and presents the nationally recognized award annually. A Fairbanks, Alaska, newspaper named *The Queen of Heartbreak Trail* one of the six best Alaska books of 2016, and Frank Freeman reviewed it in the Maine Sunday Telegram in April this year.

Our speaker, Ms. Brackbill, earned a Master of Arts degree in art history at Boston University and studied in the art history doctoral program at City University of New York.

Following twenty-five years as a curator at the Neuberger Museum of Art, Purchase College, State University of New York, she embarked on a second career writing about history. She lives in Westbrook.

The Kennebec Historical Society's October presentation, which is co-sponsored by the Maine State Library, is free to the public (donations gladly accepted). The presentation will take place at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, October 18, at the library, located at 230 State Street in Augusta.



## **KHS Annual Meeting – September 20 Maine State Library**

The society's annual meeting will begin with a potluck supper at 4:30 p.m. September 20, to be followed at 6 p.m. by the society's annual business meeting and election of officers and directors. If you need information about where the potluck dinner will be held, please contact Anne Cough, either by email at [acough60@aol.com](mailto:acough60@aol.com) or by phone at 582-2823.

Note that changes to the society's bylaws in Article V, Section 3, Eligibility/Compensation/Conflict of Interest, will be proposed. The two paragraph below show Paragraphs A and C as they are now.

A. Full-time or part-time employees, and independent contractors paid by the Society are not eligible for election to the Board of Directors.

C. Each Board of Directors member and Officer of the Society shall disclose in writing to the Board of Directors any conflict of interest which the member or officer believes may arise in connection with his service as a member of the Board of Directors or Officer of the Society. No contract or other transaction between the Society and any other corporation, firm, association, or other entity in which one or more of its Board of Directors members or Officers are directors or officers, or have a substantial financial interest, shall be either void or voidable for this reason alone or by reason alone that such Board of Directors member or Board of Directors members or Officer or Officers are present at the meeting of the Board of Directors or of a committee thereof, which authorizes such contract or transaction, or that their votes are counted for such purposes if the material facts as to such common directorship, officership, financial or other interest are disclosed in good faith or known to the Board of Directors or Committee, and if the Board of Directors or committee authorizes such contract or transaction by a vote sufficient for such purpose without counting the vote or votes of such interested Trustee or officer.

### **The Board proposes to replace Paragraph A with the following sentence:**

The Board of Directors may have up to 25% of the board's members be full-time or part-time employees, and independent contractors paid by the Society.

### **In Paragraph C, the Board proposes to delete everything after the first sentence and replace the deleted text with a single new sentence. If adopted, the entire paragraph would be as follows:**

Each Board of Directors member and Officer of the Society shall disclose in writing to the Board of Directors any conflict of interest which the member or officer believes may arise in connection with his service as a member of the Board of Directors or Officer of the Society. Employees and independent contractors may offer explanations and answer questions about the services they are providing to the Society; they may not vote, or be present in the meeting room during said vote.

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## **Development Committee Refines Fundraising Goal**

The Kennebec Historical Society's Board of Directors gave consensus approval at its August meeting to the Development Committee's recommendation that the 2017 Moira H. Fuller Annual Fund campaign goal be divided into three parts.

The committee seeks to raise a total of \$90,000 this year. Of that total, \$55,000 would be allocated to general operating expenses, \$15,000 to the Building Maintenance Reserve Account, and \$20,000 to the start of a capital campaign intended to fund the expansion of the society's headquarters, the Henry Weld Fuller Jr. House, at 107 Winthrop Street in Augusta. The expansion would provide additional archive space and a meeting room where monthly lectures could be held.

Members with campaign questions are encouraged to contact Roger Pomerleau through the KHS office.

## The Collections Box

We have recently acquired a number of interesting items through purchase and donation.

Photographs include cartes de visite of Augusta Unitarian Minister Henry Brown by Hendee; Eden Fuller, a Water Street druggist, by Hendee; the Augusta High School graduating class of 1872 by A.W. Kimball, a stereoview of quarry workers outside their boarding house in Hallowell; a studio photo of Hyman Foster, later an Augusta dentist, as a youth; a portrait of Melville Weston Fuller framed with the signatures of Fuller's U.S. Supreme Court associate justices; and a forty-six-inch panorama of Winthrop by Mansur, of Augusta. Lastly, we have an oil portrait of Robert G. Fuller Jr., painted in Augusta in 1966.

Among the letters are Jonathan Allen in New Bedford, Massachusetts, to David Sanford in Augusta, May 26, 1811, about the settlement of a debt involving William Paddleford; L. Leonard in Augusta to A.F. Barnard in Searsport, December 29, 1849, about opening an account in Augusta's Granite Bank; A. Leonard, cashier of the Central Bank of Hallowell, to the assessors of Readfield, May, 1, 1844, reporting that Johnathan Smith is the only person in Readfield with holdings in that bank; cousin Sarah in Winthrop to Miss Eunice A.H. Alden in Turner, May 1, 1864, concerning family matters; William W. Woodbury, of Merchants Bank in Portland, to George W. Allen in Augusta, June 23, 1843, concerning W.L. Stone's debt to John P. Hunter, of Gardiner; E. Richardson, of Bangor Commercial Bank, to Carleton Dole, of Citizen's Bank in Augusta, April 11, 1834, about Dole's credit to John Barker; David Campbell in Readfield to David Campbell in Cambridge, Washington County, New York, December 19, 1813, which is postmarked "Augusta" as Readfield had no post office; and Sarah B. Cook, of Norwich, Connecticut, to Miss Eliza Barrett in Hallowell, March 29, 1847, reminiscing with her former travelling companion.

Books and other publications include *The Maine Farmer* for July 26, 1873; the *23rd Annual Report of Augusta's Board of Education* (1929); Betty Worster Ruby's *Recipes and Recollections from the Famous Worster House; Recalling Monmouth's Greatest Turf and Farm Era; 1915-16 Kennebec County Directory*; *The Gospel Banner* for December 12, 1863; *Daughters of America*, September 1890, published by True and Co. of Augusta; Volumes 1 and 2 of Joseph T. Beck's *Historical Notes on Augusta*, containing a small photo of Beck, age 11; *The Chief Justiceship of Melville Weston Fuller 1888-1910*, by James W. Ely; *Journal of Supreme Court History*, volume 38, number 3; *Separate and Unequal: Homer Plessy and the Supreme Court Decision that Legalized Racism*, by Harvey Fireside; *Melville Weston Fuller*, by Willard L. King; the 1921 Cony High School yearbook, the *Calumet*; the 1893 *Maine Register*; *Beneath This Ground: A Guide to the Monmouth Center Cemetery*; *The Charter and Ordinances of the City of Gardiner for 1895*; six catalogs (1977-1982) from Bob Bishop's Nursery and Landscape Business located on Western Avenue, Manchester; and ten copies of the first annual reports of the Maine State Board of Agriculture.

It has been a bountiful summer.

For the Collections Committee  
— E. Bruce Kirkham

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## In Memoriam

**Ida Owen**, 92, of Augusta, died August 7 at MaineGeneral Rehabilitation & Long-Term Care at Glenridge in Augusta. A retired telephone company operator, Mrs. Owen was a generous donor to Kennebec Historical Society annual campaigns and an attendee at donor receptions.

**Mary Sturtevant**, 80, formerly of Winthrop, died July 10. A retired laboratory technician who worked for the state of Maine, Mary also was a frequent Kennebec Historical Society volunteer and donor in the early 2000s. Her husband, the late Thomas Sturtevant, was the person who suggested the name "Kennebec Current" as the name of this publication in 2003, and it has borne that name ever since then.

## The Kennebec Historical Society Welcomes the Following New Members

Anna M. Lazaro – West Gardiner  
Michael C. Clements – West Gardiner  
Jon Williams – Augusta  
Jake Slusher – Pennsville, New Jersey

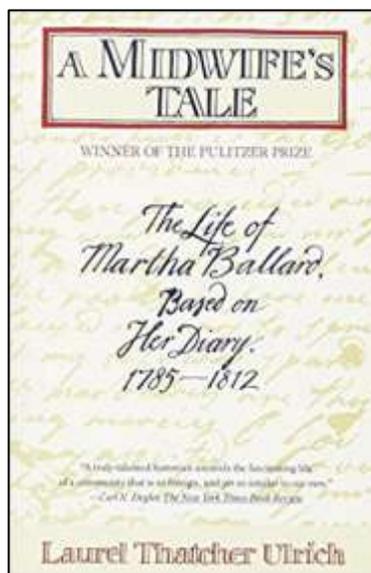
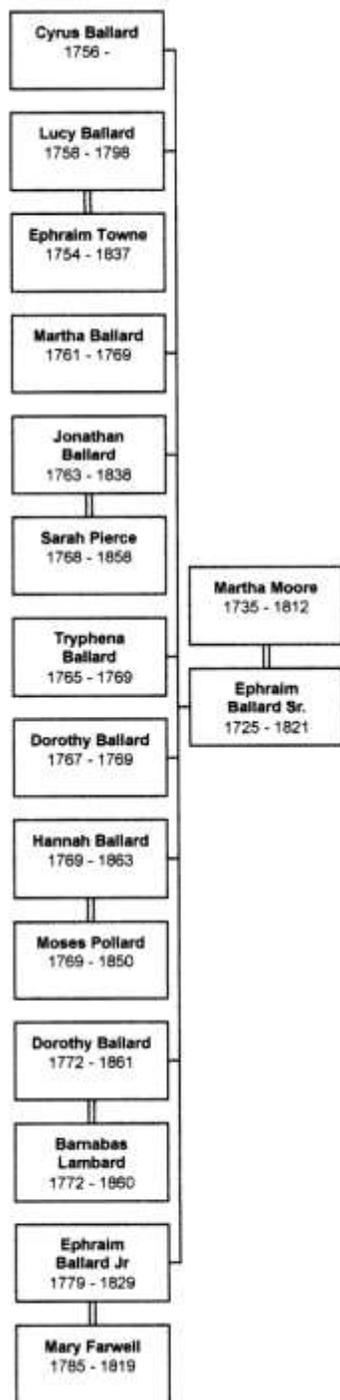
Cheryl Swift – Augusta  
Joseph Roland Lagasse – Sidney  
Genevieve Morgan – Portland  
Enola Couture – Waterville

**and continues to recognize our  
Sustaining Business Member  
Kennebec Savings Bank, Augusta  
and our  
Sponsoring Business Member  
Pine State Trading Company, Gardiner**



### Dating a Farrington School Photo

This photograph (Item ID 2012.0076.0387) is labeled only with the name Farrington School. On the back it says "Newlands Studio Gardens, Augusta, Maine." We would love to date the photo but cannot find reference to the Newlands Studio in our early 20<sup>th</sup> century directories. We hope that someone out there can provide some information because they recognize either the clothes, the studio name, or perhaps someone in the photo.



## Identifying Martha Ballard’s Descendants

Most people in Kennebec County and many throughout the United States can identify and recognize the significance of Martha Moore Ballard, a former resident of what is now Augusta, Maine. That is largely because of Laura Thatcher Ulrich’s Pulitzer Prize winning biography, *A Midwife’s Tale: The Life of Martha Ballard*, published in 1990 and based on Ballard’s diary, which she kept between 1785 and 1812.

Innumerable people can trace their ancestry to the 816 children she delivered in Kennebec County as recorded in her diary. In addition, Martha Moore and Ephraim Ballard had nine children themselves, born in Massachusetts; three of the nine died as children and one, their first born, Cyrus, never married. That means that five descendant lines emanated from the marriage of Martha and Ephraim, three matriarchal and two patriarchal.

In recent months, we have had many research questions that directly or indirectly led to the need to trace these lines. We have, in the process, tentatively identified about 1,000 individuals represented by 31 surnames.

It would be valuable for the society to have a complete list of the descendants of Martha and Ephraim Ballard to speed the process in answering these questions. Although we can accomplish this through tools like ancestry.com, familysearch.com, etc., we would like to enhance our results with the aid of living descendants of this family. If you are one of those descendants, please send us an email at: [kennhis1891@gmail.com](mailto:kennhis1891@gmail.com) or give us a call at 622-7718 and ask for Ernie.

One of our current goals is to enhance our Martha Moore Ballard collection and set up an exhibit centered around her and her family. Your input would help. Thanks.

— Ernie Plummer

## This Summer is Driving Me Nuts!

Having projects that need to be done around an old house probably does not surprise anyone. From painting the front porch in the summer to shoveling walkways in the winter, there is always some project that needs to be addressed. The Henry Weld Fuller Jr. House, the Kennebec Historical Society's headquarters, is no exception. Recently our archivist, Ernie Plummer, discovered evidence that there was some sort of creature in the attic above the archive. Since I am the building estates manager, Ernie quickly turned the task over to me to figure out what was living in the attic. After a couple of visits from some pest control experts who surveyed and analyzed the damage, it was determined that we had squirrels.

After receiving advice from the pest control experts, I began to brainstorm ways to get rid of them. There was plenty of evidence of a squirrel infestation, but no one had seen or heard any. My first move was to figure out where they were coming in and to try and stop them. I entered the second-floor archive, climbed up the pull-down staircase, unlatched the attic door and stepped up into the attic. Once I was in the attic, I closed the door to prevent the critters from entering the archive behind me. Has anyone ever been in an old, well-insulated attic during the hottest months of the year? Almost immediately I was dripping with perspiration; however, I had discovered many crevices and cracks for the squirrels to slip through and found what was probably their main entrance and exit. I quickly descended from the steamy attic, being careful to latch the attic door behind me, because I had no interest in giving them access to our archive, where they would be nearly impossible to catch. I exited the archive, again closing the door behind me, went down the stairs and out the back door located near the driveway. I then climbed my ladder, got up onto the carriage house roof and proudly proceeded to shut down the "squirrel highway" by securing some wire mesh around the hole. My thought was that the squirrels had left since it was summer and they were probably out collecting acorns, frolicking in the warm sunshine or whatever else squirrels do for fun.

Once the entryway was covered, my next move was to set a trap in the attic. I know, I know, that is not the popular solution; however, it was a recommendation from one of the pest control experts. So I climbed off the roof and took my ladder down because I didn't want any neighborhood hooligans to get up on the roof, went back inside, up the stairs to the second floor, into the archive and up the pull-down stairs, unlatched the attic door, climbed into the sweltering attic to set my trap for those elusive critters. As I placed the trap, I noticed an old curtain located in the corner of the attic, close to the exit hole. When I nonchalantly pulled the curtain back, imagine my surprise as I unveiled three medium-sized squirrels all huddled together in a nice little nest. After my initial fright, I decided that I would use a broom and simply shoo the squirrels out the hole they came in. What a brilliant idea! It was at that moment that I remembered I had just sealed their potential exit with wire mesh. After I muttered a few colorful phrases, I slowly backed away from the three squirrels, which were nervously chattering away, and opened the attic door to head outside and remove the wire mesh that I had just put on. Again, I made a point to latch the attic door before going down the pull-down steps, out the archive, down the stairs and out into the driveway where I put my ladder back up and proceeded to tear down my once proud enclosure.

Once the mesh was off, I proceeded back down the ladder, once again put it away so no one would go up on the roof, went back inside, up the stairs, into the archive, up the pull-down ladder, unlatched the attic door and back into the attic only to realize that I forgot to bring a broom with me. Suffering succotash! I reversed all my steps, got the broom and then was ready to shoo them out. Thankfully the squirrels were still in the same spot. After my verbal requests for them to leave failed, I proceeded to try and "sweep" them out. They refused to leave their comfy nest and instead chose to hop over my broom and away from the exit hole. After fifteen minutes of sweeping and thoroughly frustrated, I decided to set the lethal trap; however, since the squirrels were still in the attic, I left the hole open, hoping they would eventually leave. I checked the attic several days later. They were no longer in their nest, but my trap was also empty.

Long story short, after having experienced what it was like to be Elmer Fudd trying to track down that rascally rabbit, I solicited professional assistance and can confidently say I have no idea if the squirrels are gone. Entry points and exits have been filled and there is now a one-way door covering the hole, which will allow the squirrels to exit, but not come back in. There is no visual evidence that they remain, but there is also no evidence that suggests they packed up and left. Time will tell what happened to the three squirrels. The only thing I do know is that summer is quickly coming to an end and that when the snow flies, there will be more projects to do. Hopefully, for my own sanity, they will not involve trying to catch critters.

— Scott Wood, KHS building estates manager

Kennebec Historical Society, Inc.  
PO Box 5582  
Augusta, ME 04332-5582  
**Address Service Requested**

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Augusta, ME 04330

**KENNEBEC HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC. – Application for Membership**

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Town/City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP code: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone number: Home \_\_\_\_\_ Business \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Type: New \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_\_\_

Category: Individual (annual) – \$20 \_\_\_\_\_

Family (annual) – \$30 \_\_\_\_\_

Senior (60+) (annual) – \$15 \_\_\_\_\_ Senior Family (annual) – \$25 \_\_\_\_\_

Student (full-time) (annual) – \$15 \_\_\_\_\_

Life (1 person) – \$200 \_\_\_\_\_ Life (Family) – \$300 \_\_\_\_\_

Business (annual, fewer than 25 employees) – \$75 \_\_\_\_\_

Corporate (annual, 25 employees or more) – \$125 \_\_\_\_\_

Nonprofit group (annual) – \$35 \_\_\_\_\_

Donation (optional): \$ \_\_\_\_\_

This is a gift membership, given by: \_\_\_\_\_

(Please send to Kennebec Historical Society, P.O. Box 5582, Augusta, ME 04332-5582.)

***This line and below for society use only:*** Date received: \_\_\_\_\_

Cash \_\_\_\_\_ Check #: \_\_\_\_\_ file 2.8.2

**Reading Room hours:** Wednesday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.; other times by appointment

**Mailing address:** P.O. Box 5582, Augusta, ME 04332-5582

**Telephone:** (207) 622-7718

**E-mail address:** [kennhis1891@gmail.com](mailto:kennhis1891@gmail.com)

**Web site:** [www.kennebechistorical.org](http://www.kennebechistorical.org)