



KHS Board of Directors

President

Kent London

Vice President/Librarian

Bruce Kirkham

Treasurer

Ernie Plummer

Secretary

Emily Schroeder

Directors

Stefanie Barley
Richard Bridges
Anne Cough
Nelson Leavitt
Jon Phillips
John Stewart

Archivist

Ernie Plummer

Membership Secretary

Joan Plummer

Advisory Committee

John Bridge
Thomas Johnson
Mark Johnston
Sally Joy/newsletter editor
John O'Connor
Joseph M. O'Donnell
Joseph Owen/newsletter
Earle G. Shettleworth Jr.
William Sprague Jr.

Total membership:

420 on June 23

Life members: 161

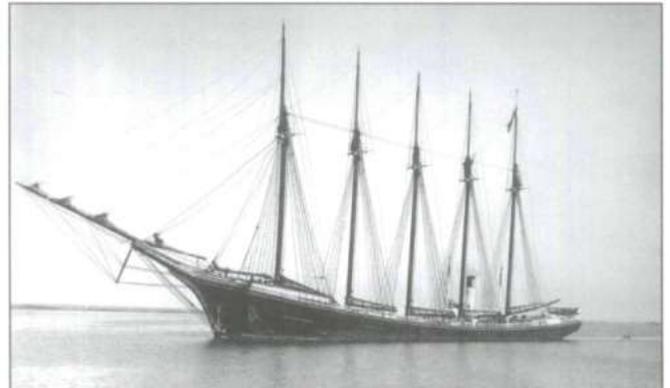
July Program – “Women at Sea: Maine’s Wives and Daughters Who Went to Sea”



The Kennebec Historical Society’s July program features a visual slideshow that will explore the “her-stories” of Penobscot Bay women who went to sea in the nineteenth and early twentieth century. Despite the old sailors’ superstition that women at sea were unlucky, women and girls sometimes accompanied their fathers and husbands on cargo voyages around the world. Some were literally born into the profession and others joined their loved ones with initial trepidation. Using letters, manuscripts and newspaper articles from the Penobscot Marine Museum archives and objects from the museum’s collection, we will learn about their experiences at sea.

The program lecturer, Cipperly Good, pictured above, is collections manager and curator at the Penobscot Marine Museum in Searsport, spent her early museum career just upriver at the L.C. Bates Museum and returned to Maine full time in 2010 to take her current job. She holds a Master of Arts degree in museum studies from The George Washington University and is a graduate of Colby College. She regularly presents to senior colleges, public libraries, historical societies, and other historical groups.

The presentation is free to the public (donations are gladly accepted) and will take place at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, July 19, at Hope Baptist Church, located at 726 Western Avenue in Manchester.



**Cora F. Cressy, five-masted schooner, 1902,
Bath, Maine, Percy and Small shipyard
from the Verkin Collection**

Mark Your Calendar for the Annual Meeting

The 2017 Kennebec Historical Society annual meeting is scheduled for 6 p.m. September 20.

The place and speaker for the night’s lecture are yet to be announced, but it is not too early to mark your calendar. Come and hear about an interesting year that included significant changes to the society’s headquarters.

The Nominations Committee is in the process of putting together a roster of nominees for directors and officers of the board. If you have an interest in participating in the governance of the society. Please contact us at 622-7718 or by email at kennhis1891@gmail.com. Thanks.

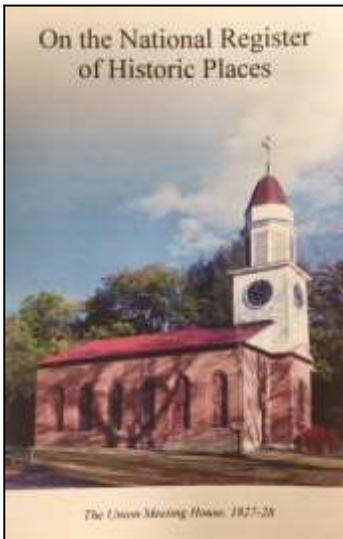
President's Message

The annual meeting is only three months away. A nominating committee has been established with Emily Schroeder as chairwoman. Any suggestions for directors, treasurer and committee leaders should be directed to her. Please help them out as much as possible.

I had the good fortune to receive an invitation to the launch of a new diorama display at the Vassalboro Historical Society on June 10. I had Scott forward it to all officers and directors. Richard Bridges attended along with me. The exhibit is based on the archeology digs at the Cates farm in East Vassalboro and was designed by Don Bassett, formerly of the Maine State Museum. It is well worth seeing. The VHS Museum is open the second and fourth Sundays of each month, 1-4 p.m., through October.

— Kent London

August Program “Readfield’s Jewel – The Union Meeting House”



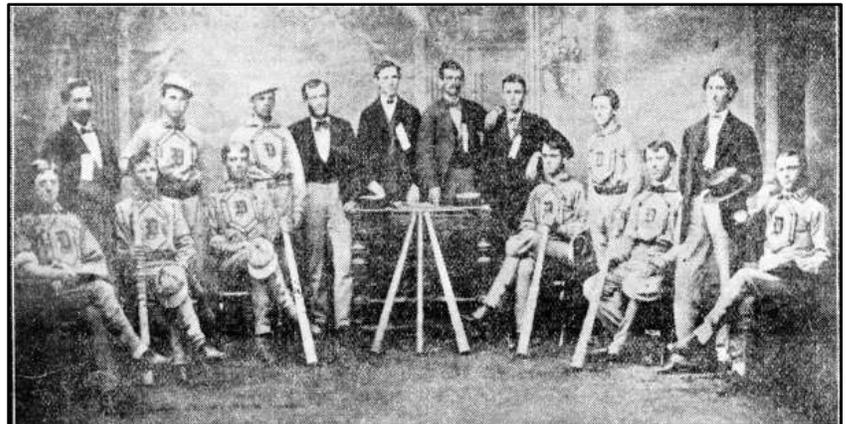
The Union Meeting House is on the National Register of Historic Places primarily because of the well preserved trompe l’oeil murals by Charles Schumacher, of Portland, done in 1866-68. The building was built in 1827-28 and is said to be one of the oldest brick churches in Maine. The presentation will focus on the murals and discuss steps being taken to preserve this historic, artistic and cultural landmark.

Our speaker, Marius B. Péladeau, is the president of the Union Meeting House, director emeritus of the Farnsworth Art Museum, former executive director of the Theater at Monmouth, former exhibition curator at the L.C. Bates Museum, and former director of the Maine League of Historical Societies and Museums. He was an accredited White House correspondent and press secretary to a U.S. congressman. Marius also holds B.A., M.S., and M.A. degrees and is the author of six books on art, history and culture.

The presentation is free to the public (donations are gladly accepted) and will take place at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, August 16, at Lithgow Public Library, located at 45 Winthrop Street in Augusta.

“Play Ball!” – New Exhibit at the Society

It’s summer and time for baseball, so Kennebec Historical Society member Anthony Douin thought it was also time for an exhibit at the society’s headquarters on 19th century baseball in Kennebec County. The exhibit, featuring the Augusta Dirigo Baseball club, which had championship seasons in 1867, 1868, and 1869, is nearing completion. According to an article written in 1912, the club members are in the picture at right. They got new uniforms, too.



Come see the exhibit in July!

At “Sgt. Pepper” Event, KHS Gets by with a Little Help from Friends



Members Billy Noble, of Sidney; Greg Dumas, of Milpitas, California; and Scott Wood, of Oakland, KHS administration and property manager, take part in the June 5 “Sgt. Pepper” event in Hallowell.

The June 1967 release of the Beatles’ album “Sgt. Pepper’s Lonely Hearts Club Band” set the music world on its ear, and the Kennebec Historical Society did not let the 50th anniversary of this groundbreaking musical event go by unnoticed.

On June 5, a KHS fundraising and membership event marking the release’s anniversary was held at the Quarry Tap Room in Hallowell, and by all accounts it was a success. While a DVD of the Beatles’ “Anthology” project played on a big screen, patrons celebrated with KHS members who donned colorful outfits resembling the ones worn by the Fab Four on the “Sgt. Pepper” album cover.

A special edition CD and DVD package was awarded as a door prize to a newly signed member, Lori Mastemaker. A \$50 gift card was awarded to the winner of the Beatles look-alike contest, Mike Clements,

of West Gardiner, a Ringo Starr twin who also turns out to be an Englishman originally from the city of Birmingham.

The KHS gained four new members (plus two more who signed but had not yet paid), five membership renewals, and more than \$200 in donations from beer sold and jars placed on the tables. Promotion of the event on Facebook also generated hundreds of hits, helping to raise the public profile of KHS.

The Kennebec Historical Society Welcomes the Following New Members

Ellen Bowman – Readfield
 David Landmann – Windsor
 Joan Koechig – St. Charles, Missouri
 Dale McCormick – Augusta
 Cliff Young – Sidney

Jessica Couture – Waterville
 Maeghan Maloney – Augusta
 Edward Boucher – Lewiston
 Jamie Logan – Augusta

and continues to recognize our

Sustaining Business Member
 Kennebec Savings Bank, Augusta

and our

Sponsoring Business Member
 Pine State Trading Company, Gardiner

In Memoriam

Joyce Fessenden, 85, died May 14 in Winthrop. The Cony High School graduate and state retiree was a fixture at local nursing homes and other institutions, where she often played the piano. The Kennebec Historical Society benefited from her talent as well, hosting Joyce as a pianist at some of its Victorian tea receptions. Mrs. Fessenden, who lived in Winthrop, is survived by three children and five grandchildren.

Alice Gifford, 92, of Newcastle, a former Kennebec Historical Society member who was active in the society for several years, died May 19 in Newcastle. Mrs. Gifford and her husband, Hal, a former KHS treasurer, operated Kennebec Books, a bookstore on Western Avenue in Augusta that specialized in local and Maine history, among other things. The Giffords both were French teachers before that, having spent part of their careers in France and Belgium. Mrs. Gifford is survived by three children and six grandchildren.

Dr. Henry F. Ryan, 78, a longtime Augusta resident and KHS member and benefactor, died May 21 in Augusta. A New York City native and Army veteran, Dr. Ryan was Maine's chief medical examiner for 22 years. In a Portland Press Herald story about his death, Maine Attorney General Janet Mills credited Ryan with having "instituted procedures for crime scene investigations, exhumations and evidence collection that helped solve cases and provide crucial evidence to juries. He also wrote the laws and protocols governing medical examiner cases." Earlier, he was a faculty member at New York University Medical School and New York Medical College. He was an active parishioner at St. Mary of the Assumption Church, serving as a lector, sacristan, altar server and Eucharistic Minister for many years. He is survived by a nephew and several cousins.

2017 Maine Genealogy Fair to be Held July 8 in Augusta

The 2017 Maine Genealogy Fair will be held from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, July 8, in the lobby of the Cultural Building at 230 State Street in Augusta and is free to all. Visit the Maine Genealogical Society and other Maine-based organizations that want to help you research your family history. Whether you are a seasoned professional looking to learn more about resources available across the state, or just starting genealogy, there will be something for everyone. Our plans for this year include presentations, more vendors and even door prizes.

The Brick Wall Busters will be back and better than ever. Attendees will have the opportunity to meet one-on-one with a seasoned researcher for advice and guidance.

The Cultural Building is the ideal setting for the fair. The state library, museum and archives will all be open to visitors. The library is just downstairs, with a large and varied collection of Maine-related history and genealogical resources. The Maine State Museum showcases thousands of years of Maine history, from the Paleo-Indian cultures to Maine's own moon rock from Apollo 17's 1972 landing. Stop by and see a three-story water-powered woodworking mill, and many other exhibits. In addition, the staff from the state archives will be on hand to describe their collections and wonderful materials.

The 2015 Genealogy Fair was attended by nearly 300 people. Please join us as we explore Maine history and genealogy during this free one-day event.

Emily Schroeder is the Maine Genealogical Society's event chairwoman. She can be contacted at the Maine State Library, 287-5613, or via e-mail at emily.schroeder@maine.gov or mainegenealogicalsociety@gmail.com. The MGS website address is www.maineroots.org.

Hope to see you in July!

— Emily Schroeder

The Collections Box

The last few months have yielded fewer additions to the collections than in the past, but at least three pleasant surprises.

One of them is a letter from Dr. John Hubbard, who had been Maine's governor from 1849 to 1851. Just at the end of the Civil War, on April 30, 1865, he wrote to his son Col. Thomas Hamlin Hubbard, who was in Washington, D.C., serving in the 30th Maine Volunteers. Dr. Hubbard was pleased that a Confederate general named Johnson – presumably Maj. Gen. Bushrod Johnson (1817-1880) – had finally surrendered. Union Maj. Gen. William T. Sherman's actions suggested to Dr. Hubbard that he may be treacherous to the cause. Most importantly, Dr. Hubbard was pleased that his son had survived the war. Ironically, Thomas Hubbard had less than four years to live, as he died February 6, 1869.

I have often remarked on interesting photos that have survived with little or no identification. Luckily that was not the case with a group photo of the Augusta Band taken in front of the Weymouth House in Boothbay Harbor. The location is obvious from the front of the building in the background of the photo. However, the back of the photo yields not only the date the photo was taken, 1880, but provides more information. Fastened there is a typed list on the stationery of George W. Merrill, Typewriters and Office Supplies at 221 Water Street in Augusta, of the names of all the band members in the order in which they appear. It is a significant addition to our Augusta Band collection.

Our collections include several dozen scrapbooks. Some were made in the late nineteenth century or early twentieth century. Some are from the 1940s and '50s. Most of them were made by adults and filled with newspaper clippings of events, both political and local, marking wars and elections and marriages and deaths. It was fortunate, I think, that we acquired a scrapbook assembled by a Manchester girl, Phyllis Owen Noble, in 1941-1944. As there was no high school in Manchester, she attended and went on to graduate from Cony High School in Augusta. The pages of the scrapbook are filled with items important to a teenager. There are matchbook covers, restaurant napkins, notes from a teacher, ticket stubs, and souvenirs of events: a Chizzle Wizzle program, the senior prom program, her dance card with only one name, "Bob," written across all 14 dances, and her graduation program. Here are also war-related items, such as ration card stubs, whose significance is not, of course, war-related, but known only to Phyllis. The scrapbook suggests that high school is forever high school, no matter what is going on outside the walls of the building.

For the Collections Committee
— *Bruce Kirkham*

Annual Fuller Fund Campaign Gets Underway

Contributions and pledges to the Kennebec Historical Society's 2017 Moira H. Fuller Annual Fund have begun to arrive, totaling more than \$6,500 so far, which exceeds 10 percent of the Development Committee's goal of \$60,000.

The fund, established in 2008 by the late Augusta philanthropist Elsie Viles to honor her friend Moira Fuller, of Winthrop, provides the lion's share of money used to conduct KHS activities and to operate and maintain the society's headquarters, the Henry Weld Fuller Jr. House, at 107 Winthrop Street in Augusta.

The KHS Board of Directors has increased the number of hours per week that Scott Wood, the society's part-time administration and property manager, is working. Partly as a result of that, the committee has increased the amount of money it hopes to raise. It derives encouragement from the fact that the 2016 campaign, for which the society budgeted an income of \$45,000, raised about \$61,000. As a result, this year's campaign will be considered a success if it manages only to duplicate last year's accomplishment.

Anyone with questions about the campaign is encouraged to contact Development Committee Chairman Roger Pomerleau through the society at 622-7718 or kennhis1891@gmail.com.

KHS receiving Augusta Board of Trade Business Files



Peter Thompson, interim executive director of the Augusta Board of Trade, looks over some of that organization's files on June 21 with Kennebec Historical Society volunteer Al Cook, of Augusta, at a rented storage unit in Chelsea.

In 1993, striving to cast off the residual effects of late-1980s inactivity, the Kennebec Historical Society retrieved its archive from two years of seclusion in an out of-town storage locker and moved it to publicly accessible space at the University of Maine at Augusta library. The archive has moved twice since then, most recently in 2008 to its permanent home, the Henry Weld Fuller Jr. House, at 107 Winthrop Street in Augusta, and it is more comprehensive and in better condition than ever.

Now another storage locker is disgorging its contents, and the society is benefiting once again.

The Augusta Board of Trade offered KHS the files it began accumulating in the 1990s at a storage site in Chelsea. The society accepted the offer, and on June 21 it began moving the files – consisting of contracts, mortgage documents and other records – to the Fuller House.

The Board of Trade is disposing of the material because it has no room to store it in its tiny Augusta office, and “simply because there’s no huge interest in retaining it at this point,” said Peter Thompson, the board’s interim executive director, who also is a former Augusta mayor and a former longtime executive director of the Kennebec Valley Chamber of Commerce. The board is focused more on looking ahead at the next 50 years, not looking back at the last 50, he said.

The donated files contain much information about business development in the areas around the Augusta Civic Center, the University of Maine at Augusta, and the Augusta Business Park, according to Thompson.

The Augusta Board of Trade, a nongovernment organization, founded originally in 1887, was established in its current form in 1965 at the instigation of then Augusta City Manager Paul Poulin, largely as a response to the potential closure of a major employer in the city, the Bates Manufacturing Company’s Edwards mill, located at the bottom of Sand Hill, where Mill Park is today. The mill complex functioned for only a few more years after that, but the Board of Trade also sought to encourage business development in other parts of the city and elsewhere to soften the blow of losing a key industry, Thompson said.

The donation poses a challenge to KHS. Ideally, the society should organize and catalogue the Board of Trade items and add them to the climate-controlled KHS archive room. However, because of other major donations, the archive room became filled to capacity a few years ago, and now KHS is trying to figure out how to expand its available space.

In the meantime, by acquiring the Board of Trade files, KHS has made possible the preservation of important documents that were in danger of being discarded.

Spring Book Sales a Success

The book sales held on May 13 and June 3 added over \$700 to the society’s Building Improvement Fund. The dedicated work of the setting up, sales, and clearing up crews made this possible. Thanks go to Wayne Barter, Richard Bridges, Al Cook, Sally Joy, Bruce Kirkham, Kathy Kirkham, Heide Munro, Rod Spearin, Phil Tiemann, and Mary Anne Tiemann who handled thousands of books. The shelves are clear again because any unsold books were given to Goodwill. Donations are now welcome. When enough books have been accumulated, there will be another sale.

The Story of Charles Bourget, a Member of the Arnold Expedition

by Paul Lessard © June 2017
Published by permission of the author

“... a French Lad, Inlisted, at Fort Western, ...”

Capt. Henry Dearborn penned these words in his journal as he reached the region called Sartigan, along the Chaudière River in Quebec, to describe Charles “Burget” (a misspelling of “Bourget”), a member of his company in the Arnold Expedition that left Fort Western in late September 1775 to travel north up the Kennebec River and through the Maine wilderness to attack Quebec City.

Dearborn would continue to lead the 3rd New Hampshire Regiment until the end of the war. After the war he settled in Gardiner, a few miles downriver from Fort Western, and was elected to two terms in the U.S. House of Representatives from Massachusetts. Dearborn eventually rose to the rank of general in the Army. He was appointed by President Thomas Jefferson as secretary of war and served in that capacity during the War of 1812. Later, under President James Madison, he served as minister to Portugal.

Capt. Dearborn, a trained physician before he enlisted in the Army, had good fortune in having this young man assigned to his unit at Fort Western. It could have been Bourget’s relationship to the native French population in the village of St. Joseph that permitted Dearborn’s life to be saved after he came down with pneumonia while crossing the Height of Land. Dearborn, Bourget and 3rd New Hampshire Regiment member Charles Hilton were permitted to stay at St. Joseph for four weeks while he recuperated from his illness before they finally left to rejoin their company at Quebec City in early December.

The expanded text of Dearborn’s journal entry from Sartigan reads, beginning November 5:

“...at evening Charles Hilton, and Charles Burget, a French Lad, Inlisted, at Fort Western, who was a native of Canady, Came back for me with Two Horses, we Stay’d here all night.

“(November 6) I hir’d an Indian to Carry me down the River, 9 Miles to one Sonsosees, a French-mans, one of Charles Burgets relations, where I hir’d Lodgings and took my Bed Immediately, I was this time in a High fever...”

Bourget, a 23-year-old English-speaking French-Canadian immigrant from Quebec, was the only man to enlist at Fort Western in the Province of Maine in September 1775 to join the Arnold Expedition. He participated on December 31, 1775, in the unsuccessful attack on Quebec City, where Bourget and 30 other soldiers from his unit were captured, including their company commander, Dearborn. Every one of the approximately 200 prisoners taken that day were released by 1777, after which Bourget re-enlisted for three more years at Albany, New York, to continue to serve with the 3rd New Hampshire Regiment under then-Lt. Col. Dearborn.

While with Dearborn, Bourget was at Valley Forge in the bitter winter of 1777-78 and fought in the Battle of Monmouth in New Jersey in 1778. This regiment endured another grueling winter in 1778-79 in Redding and Danbury, Connecticut. In January 1780, while once again at Danbury, Bourget re-enlisted for another three years, this time with the elite 2nd Continental Light Dragoons. This unit, led by Col. Elisha Sheldon, had been the first cavalry regiment to be commissioned by the Continental Congress.

Under its Maj. Benjamin Tallmadge, the 2nd Light Dragoons became George Washington’s bodyguard and worked within his network of spies to transmit secret messages in and around New York City. The dragoons even guarded Maj. John André, the British spy who was Benedict Arnold’s contact in the failed attempt to compromise the fort at West Point, during André’s trial and up to his execution. A contingent of the dragoons was at Yorktown where the British surrender eventually led to the Treaty of Paris.

Bourget was honorably discharged at the end of the war in July 1783.

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

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
Paid
Permit No. 198
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

E-mail address: kennhis1891@gmail.com

Telephone: (207) 622-7718

Web site: www.kennebechistorical.org