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Total membership:

454 on December 14

Life members: 174

Society's Location Finally Set in Stone

Workers installed a granite marker identifying 107 Winthrop Street in Augusta as the Kennebec Historical Society's home on December 14, nearly 10 years after KHS moved into the building.

The vertical marker, set on the front lawn and facing the northwest corner of Winthrop and South Chestnut streets, is highly visible to drivers approaching from the east and the south. It is about 3 feet tall, 5 feet wide, and 3 inches thick, according to KHS Administrative Director Scott Wood.

"It's been a long time coming," he said, adding that the purchase, carving and placement of the marker cost about \$3,300.

Henry Weld Fuller V, of Nova Scotia, and Robert G. Fuller Jr., of Maryland, descendants of the Fuller clan that originally owned the property, funded the project, according to the society's treasurer, Ernie Plummer.

KHS ordered the marker in August from Swenson Granite, of Westbrook, but its placement had to wait until the society could obtain signed permits from the city of Augusta and until a concrete footing could be built. When that happened, a slotted granite base was added, and the marker was inserted into it.



Kennebec Historical Society President Patsy Garside Crockett shows off a granite marker identifying KHS' home on December 17.

January Program

"150 years of the Belfast and Moosehead Lake Railroad"

Come for a ride through 150 years of history in Waldo County. Chartered in 1867, the Belfast and Moosehead Lake Railroad has survived two world wars, the construction of highways and the collapse of the poultry industry in Waldo County. It survives today as a tourist railroad and historical relic. This presentation by author and railroad historian Joseph T. "Joey" Kelley will outline the history of this unique railroad and give you a summary of his book on the subject – the first ever written on the Belfast and Moosehead Lake Railroad.



KELLY

Our speaker is a railroad historian, photographer and volunteer with the Brooks Preservation Society. He has been involved with the Belfast and Moosehead Lake Railroad on and off since 2004 and was once a paid employee of the Belfast and Moosehead Lake Railroad Preservation Society. His other passions include photography, motorcycles and restoring antique equipment.

The presentation is co-sponsored by the Maine State Library and is free to the public. It will take place at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, January 17, at the Maine State Library, at 230 State Street in Augusta.



President's Message

At the December 6 board meeting, committee representatives gave a brief update and recommendations. I'd like to give you a little rundown of what your Kennebec Historical Society folks are busy working on for you, our members.

With enthusiasm and pride for the committee's work, we heard from the Building and Grounds Committee chairwoman, Phyllis vonHerrlich, that the shutters are almost completely installed on the Henry Weld Fuller Jr. House, our society's headquarters in Augusta. I'm pleased to tell you that Phyllis got a Windover Foundation grant to cover most of the cost of the shutters. Also, new internal storm windows are being installed. In addition to helping prevent heat loss, they offer our valuable collection protection from ultraviolet light.

This fall a group from Chynergy, a social group of young professionals in the area, did some outside work to help clean the KHS yard. We appreciate their help. Looks great, folks!

Phyllis has welcomed a new member I assigned to her committee, Gerry Gaboury. Gerry is a KHS neighbor and longtime life member. Welcome back, Gerry; we look forward to your advice and help.

Roger Pomerleau and his Development Committee have been working hard to raise the funds that help to keep the doors open, the heat on and the lights bright. With help from Joe Owen, Glenn Adams, John Bridge and Tom Johnson, we expect almost to reach our fundraising goal. We would appreciate you sending any extra cash you can spare to push us over the finish line for 2017. As always, we send a huge thank-you to the Fuller family for its continued support. We assure you we will continue to keep making the calls, sending the letters and knocking on the doors of all our neighbors and spread the word about the good work of KHS.

Membership Committee Chairman Glenn Adams has welcomed the new members whom I have assigned to his committee – Stefanie Barley, John Lawrence, and John Stewart. They are eager to recruit new KHS members and have many new ideas about how to do that. We are planning a program for Granite Hill Estates, a senior citizens' residential facility in Augusta and Hallowell. Roger Madore will show slides and speak about old buildings in our area. This is sure to be an interesting presentation. Roger will offer his Postcard History Series book, *Augusta*, for sale and we will offer memberships to KHS.

Programs and Publicity Committee Chairwoman Annie Cough has welcomed two new members I assigned to that committee – Clyde Berry and Richard Bridges. This committee does an amazing job with all the programs KHS offers. Every month we provide a wonderful speaker on some really interesting topics. I sincerely hope you will attend one of our programs. If you would like to go out to eat with others who plan to attend the presentations, note that Annie sees to it that arrangements are made at a local restaurant. All are welcome to join us.

Starting in January, the working hours of Scott Wood, our administrative director, will be increased. We have a two-page list of his tasks. I won't try to cover them all, except to tell you he will be busy applying for grants, seeing the building is managed properly, and making sure everything is handled in a timely manner.

As president of KHS, I'm proud of all the folks who have come before me and have done the hard work to bring this organization to where it is today – respected and valued. I truly enjoy working with all the committees and I especially enjoy talking with all the current members and recruiting new members. I have signed up seven new members and I appreciate their interest in KHS and welcome them.

We ask you as members to go on Facebook and click "like" on the KHS Facebook page. This will help spread the word to all your friends. Also, if you need a last-minute gift or just something a little different, we suggest that you give that special person a KHS membership.

Finally, I thank the Fullers for entrusting KHS with the treasures that tell the story about their family's contribution to Kennebec County.

I hope you all have a merry Christmas and a happy and healthy 2018. I hope to see you at our next program.



Phyllis vonHerrlich stands in front of one of the sets of shutters that were installed this fall on the KHS headquarters building in Augusta.

February Program

“The Life and Mysterious Death of Maine-Born Millionaire Sir Harry Oakes”



Sir Harry Oakes

Born in Sangerville in 1879, Harry Oakes traveled on six continents and earned a knighthood as well as a personal fortune rivaling all others, but his life ended tragically in a brutal 1943 murder that remains unsolved. Portrayed by Gene Hackman in one of the actor's least memorable endeavors, Oakes' career, fortune and death garnered worldwide attention; but he never forgot his Maine roots. He is buried in the bucolic beauty of the East Dover Cemetery.

KHS speaker David Leigh's career in Maine education spanned 31 years as a teacher, high school principal and community college instructor. In retirement Leigh has continued to direct the Time/Newsweek Cover Project. Begun with his students in 1972, the collection now includes over 1,100 autographed news magazine covers, some dating as far back as 1938. In addition, he has presented enrichment lectures on cruise ships to the Canadian Maritimes, the Caribbean and to Great Britain. He and wife Ann own and manage a 62-acre tree farm in Belgrade.

This February presentation, free to the public (although donations are accepted gladly), will take place at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, February 21, at the Emmanuel Lutheran Episcopal Church, located at 209 Eastern Avenue in Augusta.

Want to save a 49-cent stamp? Use PayPal

If you want to pay your Kennebec Historical Society dues, buy something from the society, or make a donation, you can do so now online through PayPal.

The society recently added a “donate” button on its website, www.kennebechistorical.org, on the right side of the home page. Just click the button and answer the questions. Please make sure you leave a note saying what the money is for. Enjoy, save money, and save time!

The Kennebec Historical Society Welcomes the Following New Members

Lorenzo D. Eastman – Augusta

McKee Law – Augusta

Patricia M. McLaughlin – North Wayne

Ann Marie Mullen – Manchester

Jan and Dave Rollins – Augusta

Melda Page – Augusta

John Lawrence – Gardiner

and recognizes our Sustaining Business Members

Kennebec Savings Bank, Augusta

Dufour's Welding and Machining Services, Inc. (new as of this issue)

and our

Sponsoring Business Member

Pine State Trading Company, Distributor, Gardiner

A Holiday Gift for all Historical and Genealogical Researchers

Santa's little elves (aka KHS interns, librarians, research assistants, archivists, etc.) have been hard at work adding records to the society database and indexing so everyone can find them. Over the last year they have added 2,564 records. They have also indexed these records for names, adding 7,990 names and bringing the total to 47,697. For these names an additional 16,504 citations can now be found, bringing the list of citations to 88,213. Check out our website for new citations in the Kennebec Surname List and come to society headquarters to view the original items.

To see the Kennebec Surname List, go to <http://www.kennebechistorical.org/> and click on the "genealogy" link. On the genealogy page, you can click "Kennebec Surname List," which will open a PDF file. In the upper right section of the tool bar, you will see an Adobe Reader search box. Enter the surname you are interested in, followed by a comma, and you should see what is available. Adobe Reader must be installed on your computer for this to work. You can download it free; see our "newsletter" Web page for instructions. If you want a demonstration, just drop by during the society's open hours. Happy hunting!

The elves have been extra busy this year. They are now transcribing printed and handwritten items and entering their transcriptions into the description field in the database records. As a result, you can read whole documents and print them out to take them home. They also are scanning documents and photographs as they enter them in the database. Although this change has been in effect only in the past few months, aided by a Maine State Archives grant, a growing number are now becoming available at the society in digital form.

All of this constitutes a nice gift for our research patrons. Although we do not have regular reading room hours from December 1 to March 1, you can call and make an appointment to do research or to visit the society from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. any Wednesday, Thursday or Friday. Call 622-7718.

Take an Hour or Two to Learn How to Use the KHS Collections Database

The collections database provides a window on the artifacts, documents, letters, diaries, scrapbooks, etc., and images, including postcards and photographs, in our collection.

It takes some practical skills to use the database, but they are skills that everyone can learn. In time, the database will be available on the internet; but for now it is available only at the society's headquarters.

We are now offering training in using the database. It will take about one to two hours, but when you are done you can readily find information about historical people, places, and activities that you can't find on ancestry.com or other archives. The material our society archives is largely the kind of material that bridges the spaces between birth, marriage and death. It is the actual stories of people's lives.

Call us at 622-7718 or email us at kennhis1891@gmail.com, for an appointment.

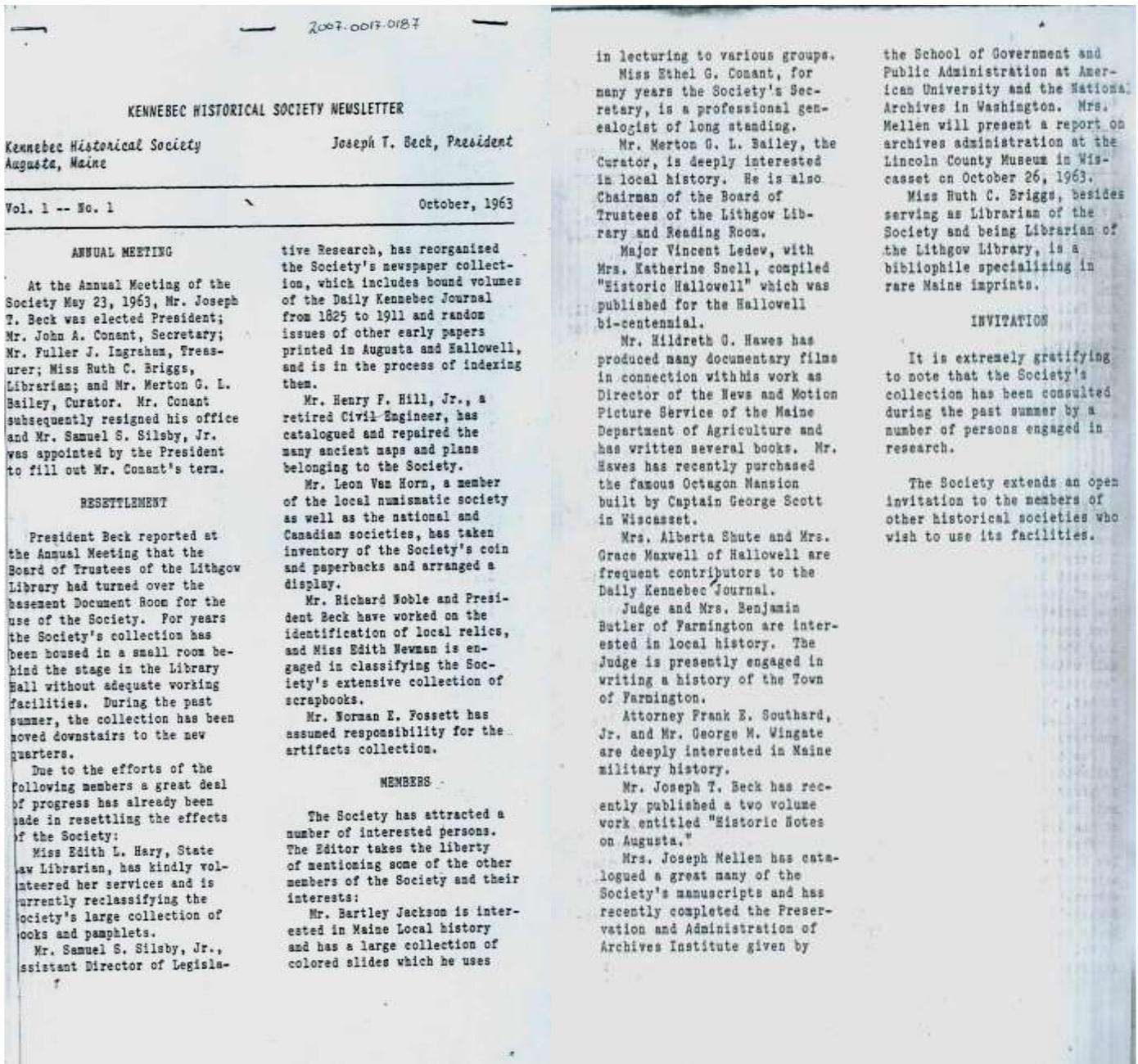
The Longest March ...

Our collections database will not be available on the internet for some time, but we already are taking steps in preparation for when that time comes. Our catalogers now scan each document or image to produce a digital copy. Printed documents are converted to text documents and imbedded in our database records. Handwritten documents are scanned, transcribed, and the contents also imbedded in the database records. All documents are indexed for quick reference. The next step will be to provide access through our website.

We are going to make a small database available on our website as a prototype of a database of the whole collection. We have decided to build that prototype around our KHS newsletters, the Kennebec Current, starting with the first newsletter issued in 1963. At the society, you soon will have access to the complete text for all the newsletters and a digital image of the full newsletter.

The society has a complete run of printed versions of all its newsletters – 1963-1965, 1975-1982, and 1990-present – at the Henry Weld Fuller Jr. House, 107 Winthrop Street in Augusta, and they are available to the public.

See an image of the first newsletter on page 5.



Start off the New Year with a New Adventure

Kennebec Historical Society members and friends, we'd love to have your help getting caught up on various projects around the society. Our work continues behind the scenes during the closed winter months. There are many unique ways to contribute that we are sure to find the perfect niche for you.

Come on in, join me for a cup of tea, and let's see what we can accomplish together.

Please call (622-7718), email (kennhis1891@gmail.com), or stop by 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesday through Friday starting January 3.

— Cynthia Thompson, volunteer coordinator

The Collections Box

As I write this, Christmas will soon be here. But for the Collections Committee, it's Christmas every month when we review the purchases and donations. Photos, manuscripts, books, ephemera, newspapers, magazines: They are all surprises. Here's a selection.

The newspaper collection was expanded by copies of *The New Age* (January 1, 1915), *The Maine Farmer* (April 4 and May 2, 1837; June 7, 1855; August 26, October 30, and November 13, 1875; June 10, June 24, July 1, July 8, and August 12, 1876), *The Hallowell Gazette* (February 18, 1869), and *Drew's Rural Intelligencer* (February 16 and October 4, 1856). Added to the magazine collection were *Hearth and Home* (June, July, and August 1901) and *The American Woman* (October 1903). We are always looking to fill gaps in both our newspaper and magazine collections.

An addition to our school-related ephemera was a 10th-grade diploma presented to Lena Frances Morton by the North Parish School on June 23, 1908. A 1909 Chizzle Wizzle Ball dance card has an etching of the old Cony High School on the cover, but unlike the dance card in the recently discussed 1944 Cony High School scrapbook, this one specifies each dance by name. A postcard-size card lists all the events for the 1906 Anniversary Week for Maine Wesleyan Seminary and Woman's College at Kent's Hill. Rounding out the school-related items this month were a collection of 45 Cony High School Alumni Association newsletters, Cony-related newspaper clippings, and a copy of the Alumni Association Bylaws dated June 5, 1997.

Letters were both numerous and varied. Horatio S. Murry in Portland wrote to Madison Tuck in Hallowell on June 4, 1832, about a promissory note. Nathan Perry in Gardiner wrote to his cousin Elisha Perry in Monument, Massachusetts, on May 24, 1834, concerning business and family matters. Helen Louis in Whitefield also recounted family matters to Harriet Barker in Pittston on April 3, 1838. William and Mary S. Foster in Augusta passed along family news to an unknown recipient, April 19, 1869. A man whose name is not fully legible, working at the Manchester Haynes company in Augusta, wrote to someone about mortgages on May 7, 1887. A person with another illegible name in Augusta wrote a business letter to Mark E. Jose in Limerick on May 2, 1848.

Photos we acquired were both informative and frustrating. A studio card of the L.A. Moore family was unusual in that the names of all those in the picture – L.A., Lucy Welch Moore, Willis and Mabel – were written on the photo. Likewise, a cabinet card by McIntosh of Gardiner not only had the names of the three ladies – Margaret Johnson, Edith A. Wrenn, and Helen Maria Wrenn – but additional biographical information on the back. Kimball of Augusta produced an odd item. It is the size of a carte de visite (CDV), but the subject is not a person but the image of a plate depicting a stag. The most challenging photo accession is an album with 43 CDVs and tintypes. Most were taken by Augusta photographers or photographers in nearby towns. Only two people are identified: Mrs. Campbell and Charles P. Kling. Surely the other 41 people have some relationship to Kling, Campbell, and each other. And there's the challenge.

The Collection Committee wishes you a happy holiday and a prosperous new year.

For the Collections Committee
— *E. Bruce Kirkham*

In Memoriam

Holly Sanborn, 64, a Kennebec Historical Society member for several years, died November 9 of complications from a longtime illness. Ms. Sanborn was an Augusta native, a Cony High School graduate, an enthusiastic singer and a frequent attendee at KHS lectures.

Academic Internship at KHS

Those of you whom I've had the pleasure of meeting have probably gleaned a bit about my level of enthusiasm about Kennebec Historical Society and my internship experience. I have enjoyed every moment, gaining skills in item-level cataloguing, and learning the scope and history of the society. I was also able to work on an interesting project in which I created process and procedure documents and worked through the unique cataloguing needs of scrapbooks. I have been involved in a few of the committees and I am working hard at restoring the organization of the volunteer program.

Academic internship is a form of active learning that allows students to learn by doing, guided by a pre-set selection of learning goals and objectives paired with reflection on this learning process. The difference between a volunteer and an intern is that an intern is involved in a deliberate learning process that balances learning and contributions, which result in academic credit. This internship opportunity was my Capstone project, the last building block in my information and library services (Bachelor of Science degree) program structure. Now I have completed all requirements for graduation.

Internships can serve different purposes for different students. Internships can help some determine their career interests and decide what they do and don't want to do. Regardless of the fact that my previous career was in the food-service industry, and that my experience in the library/archive field was nil until this internship opportunity, I did have a clear direction. I was seeking to gain professional experience and to begin to develop a network of people in the archiving field. Most importantly, I wished to understand the daily operations of a historical society and to be able to contribute to it. I had my eye specifically on the Kennebec Historical Society for my internship since the beginning of my exploration into the information and library science program. I became a member of KHS over a year ago, in tandem with an exploratory research experience on-site, which was a requirement of my introduction to archiving and manuscripts class. I struggled with resisting volunteering at KHS in the intervening time, before I secured my internship, as the academic program frowned on "interning where you already work." I didn't want to jinx anything. When membership renewal time came around, I did not hesitate to become a life member, sensing the value of the society and hoping to become even more involved in the future.

Select benefits of academic internships for students:

- They help develop meaningful substantive professional relationships.
- Devotion to purposeful tasks deepens student investment and commitment.
- They offer opportunities to experience diversity of opinion and practice.
- They provide an environment of rich feedback.
- They allow application and testing of academic principles in the workplace.
- They give chances to reflect on who students are and how they fit into their community.
- They clarify the relationship between skills building and contribution to common goals.

As mentioned previously, I knew that I wanted to be a part of KHS for a long time, and each day that I have had the pleasure of interacting with everyone here, that feeling has grown. I am pleased to be able to continue learning and contributing even more by volunteering and serving on committees. In addition, an upcoming paid internship will allow me to continue assisting the focused need of catching up on cataloguing levels. Besides the fact that I have had such a wonderful internship experience, I would also love to act as mentor or guide for any future academic interns on-site. If you have any interest in interning or volunteering at KHS, I strongly encourage you to give us a call. We can sit down to discuss where your interests and skills lie, as volunteering here is a richly rewarding experience.

Thank you all for supporting the Kennebec Historical Society.

— *Kari Mullen-McLaughlin, University of Maine at Augusta academic intern*

Kennebec Historical Society, Inc.
PO Box 5582
Augusta, ME 04332-5582
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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: December 1 through March 1 by appointment only

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