



KHS Board of Directors

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- Stefanie Barley
- Clyde Berry
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- Anne Cough
- John Lawrence
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- Joseph Owen
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- 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:

432 on October 15
Life members: 168

Patsy Crockett Elected Kennebec Historical Society's President



Patsy Garside Crockett was elected president of the Kennebec Historical Society during the annual meeting held Sept. 20 at the Maine State Library in Augusta.

Society members also re-elected Vice President Bruce Kirkham, of Augusta; Secretary Emily Schroeder, of South China; and Treasurer Ernest Plummer, of Pittston. Board of Directors members who were elected are Stefanie Barley, of Augusta; Richard Bridges, of Augusta; and Anne Cough, of Gardiner. Also, John Lawrence, of Gardiner, and outgoing President Kent London, of Vassalboro, were elected to the board.

Patsy, a Kennebec County commissioner and former state representative from Augusta, said she is pleased to join the "family of members" again. She was the society's secretary in the early 1990s and an executive committee member from 1996 to 1998. Her late husband, Robert Crockett, was the society's president from 1995 to 1997, and their granddaughter Sarah Ann Crockett became the society's youngest life member several years ago when she joined while a sixth-grader student at Maranacook Community School in Readfield.

"The society has made great progress in the years since Bob and I were in a leadership role, and I look forward to working with so many members of our community who are dedicated to the preservation of our many interesting items in the growing archives and display area of our Kennebec Historical Society headquarters on Winthrop Street in Augusta," Patsy said.

"I hope to spread the word to folks that they are welcome to come to their society and do research about their family, other families who have built our area, look at many old papers and magazines and see the many photographs. This is the Kennebec Historical Society, which means we have items of interest from all parts of Kennebec County. It truly is your historical headquarters."

The Board of Directors also includes four appointive seats. At its October 11 meeting, the board picked people to fill three of those appointive seats. They are Clyde Berry, of Winslow; Billy Noble, of Sidney; and Joseph Owen, of Augusta. The board still is looking for a candidate to fill the remaining seat.

Board Approves Use of PayPal for Payment of Dues, Donations.

At its October 11 regular meeting, the Kennebec Historical Society Board of Directors approved the adoption of PayPal as a means to pay dues and donations. In the near future the website, kennebechistorical.org, will contain a link to the society's PayPal account, where you can use your credit card to make payments.

The Facebook page, Facebook/khs1891, also will be modified to contain a link to the account. Stay tuned for an announcement about when the account is up and ready and for instructions on how to make payments.

President's Message

It's been an interesting month since I was elected president of the Kennebec Historical Society on September 20 at the annual meeting. I'm proud and excited to join so many folks who work hard to care for and display the great acquisitions the society has. It's exciting to help promote the study of the history of Kennebec County.

I have been busy meeting with members of the Board of Directors to learn a little about all the committee members and their special interest in the committees they serve on. I have learned that Annie Cough knows everyone in Kennebec County, and we all know what a great job she does organizing our interesting programs. Our other committees – chaired by Ernie Plummer, Glen Adams, Bruce Kirkham, Roger Pomerleau, Phyllis vonHerrlich, and Kent London – all work hard to be sure our building and grounds look great, and our displays are arranged and easily accessible for everyone to view. If you have not done so yet, we hope you'll view our photos, papers, maps, yearbooks and so much more. The society's administrative director, Scott Wood, looks forward to welcoming you and helping you use our resources.

None of this would be possible without the generous support of many individuals and businesses located not only in Kennebec County but all over the United States.

If you're not already a member, I hope you will join KHS; and we welcome you to attend any of our programs. They are always free to the public.

I look forward to hearing from you with suggestions, ideas or donations for the Kennebec Historical Society.

– Patsy Crockett

November Program: “Preserving your Family Archives”

Please join us Wednesday, November 15, as Chuck Rand, professional archivist and Old Bristol Historical Society co-president, discusses the proper care and handling of personal family documents and photos. His talk will focus on the factors that cause deterioration and will offer specific suggestions and materials to help you prolong the life of your family treasures.

Chuck Rand (pictured below) began his professional life as a historical archaeologist in the summer of 1972 following his first year as an undergraduate studying anthropology/archaeology at the University of Maine. After acquiring a Master of Arts degree in history, he moved to the Washington, D.C., area and became affiliated with the Smithsonian Institution and its National Museum of American History, where his duties included collections management and photography.



developed on the job.



Mr. Rand obtained a Master of Library Science degree from the University of Maryland and moved to Oklahoma, where he held a number of positions related to information services including curator of the Political Commercial Archive at the University of Oklahoma. His tenure as director of the Dickinson Research Center at the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum was rewarding and enabled him to employ all the skills and abilities he had developed to that point and some, such as oral history interviewing, videography and video editing, that he learned and

The presentation is free to the public (donations gladly accepted). It will take place at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, November 15, at South Parish Congregational Church, located at 9 Church Street in Augusta.

December Program – “The Halifax Explosion”

On December 7, 1917, two ships collided in the harbor at Halifax, Nova Scotia. Following the collision and subsequent fire, a massive explosion occurred, killing about 2,000 people and wounding countless more. At the time, it was the largest man-made explosion in history. With the city devastated, help was needed. Boston is still remembered for responding quickly and sending up a train with supplies and people the following day. The response still is celebrated today with a Christmas tree that is sent from Halifax to Boston each year.

However, Maine also played a role in the relief effort. Mainers joined the Boston relief train, sending supplies and a National Guard troop. This talk will discuss the overall history of the event and the relief effort, but will also aim to focus more on Maine’s role in the relief effort.

Our speaker, Sam Howes, is an archivist at the Maine State Archives, where he has been for three years developing exhibits and preserving the State’s historical records. He earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in history with a mix of American labor, Canadian history, and medieval studies at Acadia University in Nova Scotia. While living in Nova Scotia, he became interested in the relationship between the Maritime Provinces and the New England states. That interest is what led him to research the Halifax Explosion and the response from New England, and Maine in particular.

The presentation, cosponsored by the Kennebec Historical Society and the Maine State Library, is free to the public (donations gladly accepted). It will take place at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, December 13, at the Maine State Library, located at 230 State Street in Augusta.



Society Purchases Large-format Flatbed Scanner

As part of its program to scan and transcribe its collection artifacts, the Kennebec Historical Society has bought a large-format flatbed scanner, which will allow it to scan items such as the newsprint magazine *Comfort, Hearth and Home*, *Good Stories*, *Needlework*, etc. This is particularly important because several of these artifacts received from distant locations in the U.S. and locally are badly deteriorated, as is common with such acid paper publications. Once scanned, the digital images can be printed and made available to researchers and the originals protected. As we reported earlier in the *Kennebec Current*, the society’s collection of these magazines is unique and has received particular attention recently for quilting patterns published over the years.

KHS was able to purchase this item by combining funds from our current Maine State Archives grant with funds from the annual Charles E. Nash fundraising campaign. The society is grateful to the state archive and to KHS members for their support.

KHS Board Initiates Ad Hoc Committee on Technology

At its October 11 meeting, the Kennebec Historical Society board initiated an ad hoc committee on technology with the hope that in a year, it will become a standing committee of the board. The committee is charged with exploring and fulfilling the technology needs of the society and setting policy for its use. Some areas suggested for exploration were a recorder for oral histories and related interviews, the possibility of using cloud-based resources for the society’s burgeoning scans and transcriptions and the possibility of a computer server for the facility. Ernie Plummer has volunteered for the committee and would welcome other participants.

The committee will, appropriately for its interests, explore the possibility of virtual meeting rather than time consuming face-to-face meetings. If interested, please give Ernie a call at 458-3195 or 622-7718 or contact him at the society at kennhis1891@gmail.com.

The Kennebec Historical Society Welcomes the Following New Members

Linda Buttrick – Augusta
 Phil and Jany Choate – Augusta
 Deborah M. Campbell – Litchfield

Cameron O'Brien – Washington, D.C.
 Teresa Cough Rizzo – Kensington, MD

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

The Collections Box

Through the generosity of Robert Hudson, former director of the Augusta Symphony Orchestra, and with the help of Suzanne Hosch, of Black Mountain, North Carolina, the Augusta Cadet Band bass drum has been returned to its home.

Hudson revived the moribund ASO in 1971 as the UMA Community Orchestra and Chorus. He believes that he was given the drum about 1977. When he resigned and left his home in Hallowell for Alabama in 1982, he took the drum with him, as there was no band in Augusta, and Hallowell did not need a bass drum. When he returned to Maine in 1988, he left the drum behind with Tracy Tyler, a percussionist with the Magic City Community Orchestra, which Hudson had founded. Hudson thought of the drum while participating in R.B. Hall Day in Bangor last year and called to ask if we would be interested in having it. Fortunately, Tyler still had it and flew it to Hudson in Hendersonville, North Carolina, where he now lives, and from whence Ms. Hosch brought it to Augusta.

Probably made in the 1850s, the drum has been restored. However, the drum head is without the band's name. That omission will soon be corrected.

Only a little is known about the band. Charles White was the instructor in February 1900. Frank Arthur Dennis was the leader at the time of his death in 1931. In our collection is a photo of the band led by Ernest Richard Hill in the May 30, 1942, Memorial Day Parade in Hallowell.

We would like to hear from anyone who could fill in the gaps.



Bruce Kirkham and Suzanna Hosch with the Augusta Cadet Band drum.

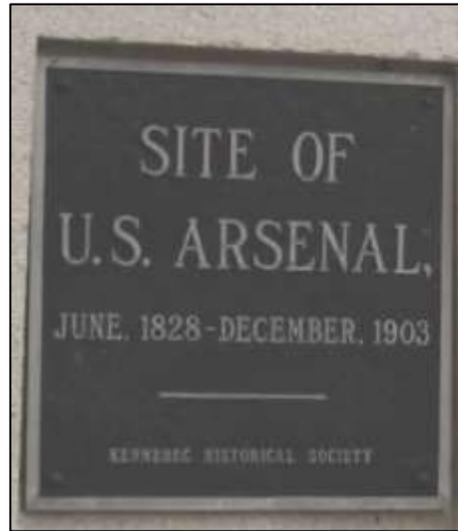
For the Collections Committee
 — E. Bruce Kirkham

A Pillar of the Community

Two pillars stand on Arsenal Street in Augusta at the northern entrance to what, in the latter two-thirds of the 19th century, was the site of the Kennebec Arsenal. The buildings of the former federal ammunition depot constitute one of the more intact examples of an early American arsenal.

The western pillar, the one closest to the nearby Kennebec River, appears to have been rotated slightly on its pedestal, perhaps as the result of a vehicle striking it. The Kennebec Historical Society apparently saw fit to attach a plaque to that pillar, as the close-up image shows, although no date is on it. One longtime KHS member suspects the plaque was attached to the pillar in the 1960s, but documentation about its placement is not immediately available.

Do any of our readers know more about this? Please drop us a line and let us know.



Gardiner Yearbooks Prior to 1933 Needed

There are several early Quill, Gardiner High School, yearbooks that the Kennebec Historical Society does not have in its collection, namely those before 1933. The society would appreciate donations of these to help complete its collection. KHS is especially interested in the 1926 yearbook, as a recent family donation centers on that year. If you have one and would like to donate it, great; but if we could copy it, that would help too.

Back Issues of Kennebec Current Available on KHS Website

It took the Kennebec Historical Society 72 years after its founding in 1891 to begin producing a newsletter. It took almost exactly a century to begin issuing one at regular, uninterrupted intervals. Then it took more than another decade put it online. Even then, the capacity of the society's website was so limited that only one issue of the Kennebec Current at a time could be displayed there.

That more recent limitation melted away in 2013, when KHS gained access to greater online storage capacity. Now whenever a new issue of the Current is posted, the older ones stay put. This newsletter increases the number of issues now available online to 25.

Members who would like to consult the complete run of older issues, dating as far back as 1963, are welcome to see them at the society's headquarters, the Henry Weld Fuller Jr. House, at 107 Winthrop Street in Augusta.

Four New Faces at KHS Headquarters

Two new interns and two new volunteers recently began applying their skills at the Kennebec Historical Society's Augusta headquarters, the Henry Weld Fuller Jr. House.

The new interns are Kari Mullen-McLaughlin, of Manchester, and J. Richardson Collins, of Augusta. The volunteers are Cynthia Thompson, also of Augusta, and Hannah McLaughlin, of Manchester.

A native of the Poughkeepsie, New York, area, Kari Mullen-McLaughlin came to KHS in August as an academic intern working on a bachelor's degree in information and library services at the University of Maine at Augusta. She expects to graduate in December. She joined KHS in 2016 as a life member, and she also has joined the society's Collections Committee.

"My project is to develop policy and procedure for handling scrapbooks in the best archival fashion," she said of her internship at KHS, adding that she is working now on cataloging the Sarah Higgins collection, a group of scrapbooks that the society received in 2007 from the Manchester Community Church.

Earlier, Kari owned and operated Blue Sky Bakery in Gardiner with her mother, and she worked 13 years as a sous-chef at the Senator Inn & Spa in Augusta. She and her husband, John McLaughlin, have lived in Manchester for 20 years. They have two adult daughters.

"I'm interested in many things in the world. It's just another area of interest," Kari said of her work at KHS.

J. Richardson Collins moved in February to Augusta from the Brunswick area, where he grew up, and is working on a 100-hour paid internship at KHS partly as a way to get familiar with the area.

He received his undergraduate degree in education at Trinity College in Burlington, Vermont, a master's degree in theology from the Bangor Theological Seminary, and a master's in social work from the University of New England. He worked for eight years in policy development at the Center for Community Inclusion and Disabilities Studies and the University of Maine, in Orono.

Having arrived at KHS in September and after finishing his internship training, he now is working on substantiating the identities of people in an assortment of photos, as well as processing other items the society is cataloging. That internship and one that will follow it are funded by a grant from the Maine State Archive.

Cynthia Thompson, a retired nurse who hails originally from South Hadley, Massachusetts, has lived in Augusta for 40 years with her husband, John Thompson, on Augusta's east side in what an Augusta Historic Preservation Commission plaque identifies as the John Hanson House. The Thompsons have three adult children. Although she spent much of her career in nursing, Cynthia also worked 14 years as a Winthrop Ambulance first responder and seven years in school libraries.

"I've been wanting to volunteer here, and I finally made it happen," she said, adding that she began doing so in July. At KHS, she is cataloging an unnamed group of 17 scrapbooks that were assembled from 1893 to 1917 and have been in the society's possession as long as any current members of the society can remember.

Hannah McLaughlin is a fourth-year student at the University of Maine at Augusta. She began volunteering in late September, when her mother, Kari Mullen-McLaughlin, started her internship. That isn't her only motivation for volunteering at KHS, however. "Also because it was an opportunity to get out into the community," she said. "I'm trying to reach out and try new things, broaden my horizons."

Hannah is a 2014 graduate of Maranacook Community High School in Readfield. She is majoring in English and minoring in sociology at UMA. She is interested in editing, and in writing, possibly for television.



Kari Mullen-McLaughlin



J. Richardson Collins



Cynthia Thompson



Hannah McLaughlin

Kennebec Proprietors Lecture Draws Two Dozen

Twenty-four people attended the Kennebec Historical Society's sixth annual Kennebec Proprietors dinner and lecture October 10 at Joyce's restaurant in Hallowell.

Earle G. Shettleworth Jr., the featured speaker, delivered a talk about the history of Hallowell in the early 20th century, accompanied by dozens of images of Hallowell buildings and streetscapes, most of which appeared on picture postcards of the era. Mr. Shettleworth, a longtime KHS member, is a former executive director of the Maine Historic Preservation Commission and is the Maine state historian.

The original Kennebec Proprietors were the Boston businessmen who, in the mid-18th century, obtained the rights from the British crown to organize the settlement of the Kennebec Valley. Some of their family names, such as Bowdoin, Gardiner, Hallowell and Vassal, inspired community names that still exist.

In a modern context, the Kennebec Historical Society uses the term "Kennebec Proprietors" to identify major donors to the society's Moira H. Fuller Annual Fund campaign, which was founded by the late philanthropist Elsie P. Viles in 2008 and is the society's chief source of operating income. The annual Kennebec Proprietors dinner and lecture, a tradition established in 2012, is held as a gesture of thanks to those who have donated significant amounts to the campaign and to make connections with key community leaders.



At lower left, Anne Cough, chairwoman of the Kennebec Historical Society's Programs and Publicity Committee, prepares name tags October 10 for guests arriving at Joyce's restaurant for the annual Kennebec Proprietors lecture and dinner while, in the immediate background, Development Committee member John Bridge and his wife, Charlene, appear to keep an eye on her to make sure things are going well.



Clockwise from left, Kennebec Historical Society Development Committee Chairman Roger Pomerleau, Augusta Mayor David Rollins, KHS volunteer Rich Eastman, KHS President Patsy Crockett, and Rebecca Lazure, executive director of the First Amendment Museum in Augusta, socialize October 10 at the annual Kennebec Proprietors lecture, held at Joyce's restaurant in Hallowell.

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

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Telephone: (207) 622-7718

Web site: www.kennebechistorical.org