



Society Planning Major Expansion of Its Headquarters

The Kennebec Historical Society is laying the groundwork for the most ambitious project in its 127-year history – an expansion of the Henry Weld Fuller Jr. House, the society's Augusta headquarters, that would make the building about twice as large as it is now.

The society's Board of Directors has established a committee to plan the expansion. That group has met 10 times so far this year to develop the details. At its July 25 meeting, the committee asked Benjamin Murray, an engineer with Coffin Engineering, to supply drawings of a proposed annex at the committee's next session, which has not been scheduled yet.

The desire to expand is inspired largely by the society's success in recent years. More and more people are donating documents, photos and other items for the society's collection, which has resulted in a shortage of space in the Fuller House's climate-controlled archive. Also, the monthly KHS lectures, which 20 years ago rarely drew an audience of more than a few dozen people, now routinely attract far more than that, occasionally more than 100. The attendance is so large that the society never is able to host the audiences in its own building, but it would like to be able to do so.

While the committee still is working on the concept of the expansion, its members agree generally on several elements of the plan. The existing garage and back room, neither of which were part of the Fuller House originally, would be demolished. The construction phase would include an integrated effort to interrupt the flow of groundwater and rainwater into the existing basement, and to channel water away from the annex's foundation. A three-story ell and back house would be erected on roughly the same footprint that an earlier ell and carriage house occupied during much of the 19th century. Much of the lawn on the North Chestnut Street side the property would become a parking lot. The new basement section would house a meeting hall capable of accommodating about 100 people, with an entrance at ground level on the east side. The annex's first floor would house an expanded reading room with computer terminals. The second floor would become expansion space for the climate-controlled archive.

The expansion committee also has considered – and rejected – the possibility of buying the historic Lot Morrill House, at 113 Winthrop Street, and moving the archive there. The Morrill House, immediately west of and architecturally similar to the Fuller House, went up for sale a few months ago. It is one of Augusta's most significant historic homes. However, it also presents several major structural challenges that would require more time, talent and money than the committee thought the society should commit to it. Instead, the committee is focusing its efforts solely on the plan to expand its current building, at 107 Winthrop Street.



Photo by Scott Wood

The building expansion committee gathers on July 25 with a Coffin Engineering representative on the back lawn of KHS headquarters in Augusta. From left are Ernie Plummer, Kent London, Joseph Owen, Phyllis vonHerrlich, engineer Ben Murray, and KHS President Patsy Crockett. The room on the right, behind them, is expected to be removed to make way for a much larger annex.

President's Message



I have a request for everyone reading this newsletter. I would like you to add Augusta to your list of places to visit this summer. The officers, Board of Directors, and volunteers of Kennebec Historical Society would like to meet you and show off your historical society. While we are enjoying this beautiful weather, please plan a trip to 107 Winthrop St. in Augusta. We have some wonderful pictures, books, research material and many high school yearbooks for you to look at. Also, if you want to get a head start on Christmas shopping or pick up a special birthday gift for a friend or relative, note that we have a gift shop. I'd also like to suggest you purchase a KHS membership. It will make a unique gift for that special person.

Since we last had a chance to chat, one of your KHS committees has been busy planning the expansion of our society's headquarters to make space for archive material and our wonderful monthly programs. The project is still in the early planning stage. We have Ben Murray, an engineer from Coffin Engineering, coming to meet with us, and we have asked that he start the design process. We want illustrations to be able to show folks the wonderful ideas we have for more space for all of you to use.

We are also busy with the Moira H. Fuller Annual Fund campaign, which covers operating expenses at the society. We have sent letters and made phone calls asking for a donation of any size to help keep the lights on. If you have not already done so, please consider sending your donation to help with the operating expenses.

The nominating committee has been busy talking with many folks in Kennebec County in an effort to fill vacant slots on the KHS Board of Directors. We appreciate the departing members who have served on the board, and we fully understand that they have reasons to leave us; but with that said, we will all miss having them help run this wonderful society. At the annual meeting, scheduled for September 19, we will hold an election to fill vacant board slots, and we look forward to telling you about the new board members. Stay tuned for the big unveiling.

Now, don't forget, I want to see you in Augusta. While you're here, plan to visit our beautiful state Capitol, the Blaine House (home of our governor), Old Fort Western, Lithgow Public Library, the Capital Judicial Center, the old historic Kennebec County Government Center, the new YMCA, the new MaineGeneral Medical Center and adjacent Harold Alfond Center for Cancer Care, the new First Amendment Museum at the Gannett House, the Holocaust and Human Rights Center of Maine, the Maine State Museum, Cony High School, the Augusta Civic Center, the Kennebec Arsenal, Viles Arboretum, and Capitol Park. Visit our shopping malls, have lunch at one of our wonderful restaurants, and come to 107 Winthrop St., home of Kennebec Historical Society.

Please let us know if you have any questions. We are here to help you have an enjoyable visit.

— Patsy Garside Crockett, President

Corrections

March–April Edition of Newsletter, Page 1: In the caption under the main picture, Paul Vachon, head coach of the Cony High School basketball team, was incorrectly identified.

May–June Edition of Newsletter, Page 6: In the list of new members, Dennis Doiron's name was spelled incorrectly.



KHS Board of Directors

President

Patsy Crockett

Vice President/Librarian

Bruce Kirkham

Treasurer

Doreen Harvey

Secretary

Emily Schroeder

Directors

Stefanie Barley

Richard Bridges

Anne Cough

John Lawrence

Kent London

Billy Noble

Joseph Owen

Jon Phillips

Ernie Plummer

John Stewart

Membership Secretary

Joan Plummer

Advisory Committee

John Bridge

Thomas Johnson

Mark Johnston

Sally Joy/newsletter

Rich Eastman/newsletter editor

John O'Connor

Joseph M. O'Donnell

Joseph Owen/newsletter

Earle G. Shettleworth Jr.

William Sprague Jr.

Total membership:

514 on August 1

Life members: 184

The Kennebec Current encourages letters to the editor.

Email letters to
kennhis1891@gmail.com.
All letters are subject to editing
for taste, style, and length.

KHS Annual Meeting – September 19

The society's annual meeting will begin with a potluck supper at 4:30 p.m., September 19, at South Parish Congregational Church, located at 9 Church Street in Augusta, and followed at 6 p.m. by the society's annual business meeting and election of directors. For details about the potluck supper, please contact Anne Cough, either by email at acough60@aol.com, or by phone at 582-2823. Note changes to the society's bylaws in Article V, Board of Directors, Section 1; and Article VIII, Committees of the Society, Section 1, Subsection A, Executive Committee, will be proposed. Bylaw additions are indicated below in boldface type; deletions are stricken through.

Striking the comments in the parentheses in line 3 of the following paragraph:

Article V Board of Directors

1. Board of Directors. The management and control of the property and affairs of the Kennebec Historical Society is vested in a Board of Directors of eleven to fifteen persons who are members of the Society. The Board of Directors shall consist of the society's four officers, seven other elected members ~~from which the optional officers are selected~~, and a maximum of four at-large members appointed by majority vote of the officers and the Board of Directors' elected members. The Executive Director shall be an ex officio, nonvoting member of the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors shall have and may exercise all the powers allowed to nonprofit corporations under the laws of the State of Maine except as may be limited by the provisions of these Bylaws and the Articles of Incorporation. The Board of Directors may delegate powers to the officers and committees necessary to the administration of the affairs of the Society.

AND adding an "s" to the end of Vice President in line 1. A., changing "one additional Director" to "two additional Directors,"

Article VIII Committees of the Society

1. Executive Committee.

A. The Executive committee shall consist of the President, the Vice President[s], the Secretary, and the Treasurer of the Society and ~~one~~ **two** additional Director[s], elected by the Board of Directors. The Executive Director shall be a non-voting ex officio member of the Executive Committee.

Anyone having questions regarding the two proposed bylaw changes is encouraged to contact Administrative Director Scott Wood, at 622-7718 or drop by the historical society's headquarters, located at 107 Winthrop Street in Augusta.

2018 Election of Society Directors

Returning Officers:

President: Patsy Crockett, Augusta
Vice President: Kent London, North Vassalboro
Treasurer: Doreen Harvey, Winthrop
Secretary: Emily Schroeder, South China

Returning Directors:

Stefanie Barley, Augusta
Bruce Kirkham, Augusta
John Lawrence, Gardiner
Joseph Owen, Augusta

The Nominating Committee presents the following slate of directors for election:

(All terms are two years)

Ernest Plummer, Pittston

Jean Carney Gallant, China

Jan Rollins, Augusta

At the October KHS Board of Directors meeting, the following names will be presented as at-large members for appointment:

(All terms are one year)

Anne Cough, Gardiner

Billy Noble, Sidney

Phyllis vonHerrlich, Augusta

The Collections Box

As I write this, it's a balmy 93 degrees outside. I try to remember that this is the weather we prayed for in February, but it's not working.

Among the books purchased or donated was a copy of *Dwellings 1762-2012: The Unique Homes of Hallowell*. The Augusta-Gardiner-Hallowell directories for 1925-26, 1969, and 1970, and the Kennebec County directory for 1923-24 will be added to our directory collection. Copies of Cony High School's Coniad yearbook for 1955 and 1957 will expand our collection of high school yearbooks. A *History of St. Denis Church in Whitefield*, a major Irish immigration church, will expand our church histories holdings, as will the *Centennial Services Held at All Souls Church Unitarian in Augusta in 1926*. From former KHS President Don Beattie we received *Pageant of East Winthrop*, *The School Laws of the State of Maine for 1867*, Linwood Moody's *Maine Two Footers*, *Maine Central 1861-1962*, Stewart Holbrook's *Yankee Loggers*, and New Hampshire Heads of Families from the 1790 Census. Ernest and Pauline DeRaps presented us with a signed copy of *Light Housekeeping / Light House Keeping*.



Three donations of ephemera were received. They include material related to Hallowell and World War II, a collection of pamphlets and souvenirs from the 1939 New York World's Fair, Chizzle Wizzle and Vassalboro Historical Society material, and scanned copies of newspaper clippings largely about Augusta Mayor Robert A. Cony.

Among the images received were a tintype of John Henry Cony (1838-1907), a studio card of Owen and Blanche Leavitt Dow, an early 1900s photo of waitresses and kitchen staff at the Augusta House hotel, and 146 interior and exterior photos of the society's headquarters at 107 Winthrop Street taken by the American Baptist Churches of Maine when the society purchased the house from that organization in 2007.

A letter from Moses Fogg in Hallowell to Jona Fogg in North Searsmont unfortunately had no date, and Caleb Curtis in Boston received a letter from Hallowell dated September 8, 1837, with an account of the sale of dried produce from an unknown correspondent. Rice, Reed, and Co. in Boston asked Eben T. Warren in Hallowell on August 12, 1808, for advice on how to settle the "Hamlin situation." Pitt Dillingham, Seth Williams, and Joshua Gage, the Overseers of the Poor in Augusta, wrote to the Overseers of the Poor in Middleborough, Massachusetts, on March 9, 1816, concerning Betsy Brown, a black girl, daughter of Prince Brown of Middleborough, both of whom were dead. P. Sheldon, of the Christian Intelligencer in Gardiner, sent a dunning letter about his subscription to Abner Stubbs in Livermore Falls on December 21, 1837.

We added issues for November 2 and 9, 1922, and May 5, 1923, to our Maine Farmer newspaper holdings.

A lovely 1856 map of Gardiner has been added to the town map display in the reading room; and six pages of the 1884 Gardiner Sanborn maps will be added to our Sanborn collection.

The Collections Box will return in cooler weather.

For the Collections Committee
— Bruce Kirkham

Society Planning Major Expansion of Its Headquarters

Continued from page 1

While the society already carries out a valuable mission in the space it has now, the board expects that the expansion would enable KHS to improve its services tremendously, and would assure the society's place as an unmistakably prominent facet of Kennebec County's cultural landscape. The Coffin Engineering drawings are expected to serve as, among other things, a tool that will help the committee ascertain the project's cost, which almost certainly will exceed the entire amount the society has spent since 2007 to buy, retrofit, and improve the Fuller House. It also will serve as a fundraising tool, used to show potential donors the anticipated appearance of the finished expansion.

With a design in hand, the committee expects to launch a capital campaign sometime in 2019. By that time, it also expects to have decided whether to hire a professional fundraiser to coordinate the campaign.

All the society's members, neighbors, and friends are encouraged to submit comments, questions, and suggestions about the plan, whether in person or by postal mail, email, Facebook, or telephone.

Research-ready: Photographs and Newspaper Clippings from the Robert Alonzo Cony (1841-1913) and Ida Elva Cony (nee Pratt) (1858-1913) Family

This collection of 37 photographs (accession 2018.0078) and 16 newspaper clippings (accession 2018.0099) ranges over four generations. In a special agreement, the photographs were lent to the society long enough for us to scan and print copies, which are now available for research purposes. The originals were returned to the owner in three weeks. Likewise, the clippings were loaned to the society for scanning and transcription to text, which likewise are available through the society. Although this is not our preferred method of accepting items, it does give us a chance to have the information with the expectation of receiving the originals at a later date.

Two photographs of note are tintypes, one of Ida Elva Pratt (1858-1913) (2018.0078.0010) and one of her sister Florilla Pratt (born 1862) (2018.0078.0011), who at the time of the photographs were teenagers. I believe they are unique in the collection because of the fact that the images of their jewelry have been hand-gilded, probably by the photographer.

Among the clippings collection (2018.0099.00001), is a page from *The New Capitol Theatre, Augusta, Maine, 1930 Memorial Program*, dated September 30, 1930 (2009.0099.0021). The entire program already is an important item in our own collection and includes a page depicting Robert Alexander Cony (1876-1945), the mayor of Augusta at the time. He was a three-term mayor of Augusta, a Maine Superior Court justice and a state senator. Mayor Cony writes:

“Gathered here tonight, for the purpose of dedicating this new theatre, our thoughts turn toward the progress of our city down through the years.

This new theatre marks another step towards our goal of making Augusta a better city to live in, to play in.

May we go forward in the work and the passing years show greater progress.

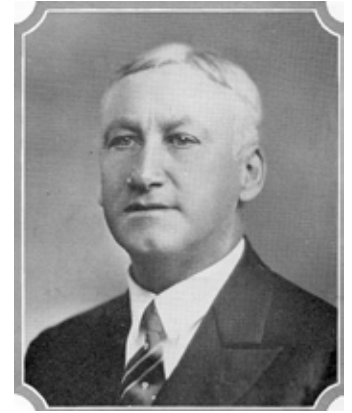
To the owners, may I, as spokesman for the people of Augusta, offer congratulations for work well done and success.

Robert A. Cony Mayor of Augusta”

The program for the event contains an excellent summary of the history of the site of the Capitol Theater as well as the above picture of Robert Alexander Cony. It also includes pictures of its previous incarnation as an opera house and pictures of the interior of the theater in 1930 and earlier.

So here, a new collection helped us understand and expand an older item.

— Ernest L. Plummer, Archivist



**Robert Alexander Cony
(1876-1945)**

Home at Last

Here we see Esther Gould Fuller (1785–1866) keeping watch next to the Fuller clock, where she had waited for so many months for her husband, Henry Weld Fuller (1783–1841), left, to return after a long trip to Boston, Massachusetts and Harvard, Massachusetts. And doesn't he look spiffy, all cleaned up with his frame newly renovated after a rough trip?

This painting of Mr. Fuller was a gift from the Fuller family. It is an original by Thomas Badger, the artist who produced many Augusta paintings of the period. Through the generosity of the Fuller family and the Nash Campaign contributors, it has been restored. The restoration was done by Mark Sirdevan, of West Newton, Massachusetts; and the frame repair was done by Sue Jackson, of Harvard Arts. Please take an opportunity to drop by the society and see how good it looks in person.



Municipal Directories Prove Valuable to Researchers

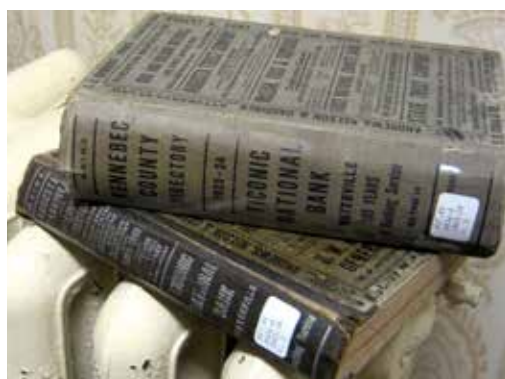
In the beautiful “Blue Room” at 107 Winthrop Street, as the sun moves westward across the sky, its beams reach through the jewel tones of the stained glass windows to alight on the glass doors of a built-in bookshelf. On these shelves, researchers will find a small collection of basic reference books, including a fine set of local directories. These books are an excellent starting point for researching the people and businesses found in each year of the directory. Over 45 volumes are available, ranging from 1871 to 1985.

The society has had some recent directory donations, which supplement our collection. One is the *1923-1924 Directory of Kennebec County Maine, embracing cities of Augusta, Gardiner, Hallowell, and Waterville*. Subtitles continue as follows: *Twenty-Five towns and One Organized Plantation, A Careful Compilation of the Inhabitants with Their Addresses, Institutions, Societies, Etc., and a Classified List of Business Firms, Corporations, Manufactories, Etc.* A second one is the *1925-1926 Directory of Augusta, Gardiner and Hallowell (Maine)*. It goes on: *Embracing the towns of Farmingdale, Manchester, Randolph, Richmond, West Gardiner and Winthrop containing a general directory of the citizens, classified business directory, city officers, churches, societies, etc.*

Both of these directories were published by the Portland Directory Company (Fred L. Tower, proprietor; then J.M. Tower, president), which was located at 199 Federal Street in Portland. This company was a member of the Association of North American Directory Publishers, organized in 1898. In the 1920s, there were over 40 members. In addition, these directory companies were the first advertising list makers, similar to those we now have tracking us on the internet. An inside cover reads in part: “Mailing Lists, Accurate and up-to-date. Compiled from the latest available information to include only names of your logical prospects. ... Lists of wealthy and middle class, etc. ... Lists of women—married and single. Lists of home owners, mail order buyers, etc.” Another big directory publisher was H.A. Manning Co. Publishers, by whom many of our current collection of directories are done. Manning produced yearly volumes approximately 1905 to 1984, and for over 300 New England communities.

The aforementioned 1925-1926 directory (467 pages) originally sold for \$8 and was for sale at the J. Frank Pierce Store, 224 Water Street, Augusta. The 1923-1924 directory (871 pages) was only \$6 and was additionally sold at George W. Quimby, 258 Water Street, Augusta; C.H. Beane, 193 Water Street, Gardiner; W.D. Spaulding, 124 Water Street, Hallowell; and Carleton P. Cook, 130 Main Street, Waterville. It is also interesting in this era to note that these are all downtown business addresses.

The value of the directories to researchers is manifold. They serve as a reflection of the community as well as a barometer for the local business climate. As suggested in the listing of the subtitles above, these books include much useful information. Indexes are available for contents and for advertisements by town. There is also much more, such as a listing of blocks and buildings; an Augusta street directory; ward boundaries; state, county, and Augusta city government; churches; public schools; societies; corporations; and the fire and police departments. The 1925-1926 directory alone includes 8,291 names from Augusta, 3,684 names from Gardiner, and 1,652 names from Hallowell.



As lovely as our collection is, we do have some gaps that we would love to have filled. If anyone happens upon directories of the local area out in the wide world, we would welcome their donation to expand the potential scope for research in this area. The following is a list of directories we are still looking for: 1870 and prior, 1872-1875, 1878-1879, 1881, 1883, 1893, 1896, 1907-1912, 1917-1920, 1928, 1930, 1932, 1937, 1940-1944, 1946-1947, 1949-1951, 1953-1954, 1956, 1958-1959, 1961, 1963-1964, 1966, 1968, 1972, 1974, 1976-1977, 1979-1984, 1986 and more recent. If you have any donations or questions please call, e-mail, or stop by and we would be happy to help.

— Kari Mullen-McLaughlin, Archival Intern

Society Receives Seven 19th-Century Maps of Gardiner

The Kennebec Historical Society has become the recipient of seven maps of 19th-century Gardiner, donated by Norman Gosline. The gift includes an 1856 map of Gardiner with depictions of 14 historic buildings that were in that city at the time the map was published. In addition, there are six pages that comprised the Sanborn fire insurance map of 1884.

I find it interesting that in 1884 there was a roller-skating rink on a pier in the pond that now is the Hannaford supermarket parking lot in Gardiner. Anyone know anything about it?



The 3-by-4 foot map from 1856 has been reframed and hung in the Reading Room at KHS headquarters along with many of our other county and city maps.

The Sanborn maps have been hung in the exhibition parlor in a temporary exhibit that will give visitors a closeup opportunity to see what the location and footprint of buildings in the city of Gardiner looked like in 1884.

— Ernie Plummer, Archivist



1856 map of the city of Gardiner, published by F.M. Woodford.

✧ In Memoriam ✧

Ronald Roussel, 74, of South Gardiner, a Kennebec Historical Society member for several years, died June 26 at the Maine Veterans' Home in Augusta. Mr. Roussel, a 1961 graduate of Augusta's Cony High School and a history student at the University of Maine at Augusta, had a 38-year career with the Maine Army National Guard. He was the longtime curator of the Maine Military Historical Society museum at Camp Keyes in Augusta. He was a member of many choirs and other singing groups, and of several veterans' organizations. His survivors include his wife, Cecile; his children, Michelle Edwards and Richard Roussel; and five grandchildren.



The Kennebec Historical Society Welcomes the Following New Members

Richard Sherburne — Augusta

Bridgit Kirouac — Hobe Sound, Florida

and continues to recognize...

Sustaining Business Members (\$1,000+ annual)

Kennebec Savings Bank
Dufour's Welding and Machining Services, Inc.
Kennebec Journal

Sponsoring Business Members (\$500+ annual)

Pine State Trading Company, Distributor, Gardiner



Visit to KHS Proves Worthwhile

A visit to the Kennebec Historical Society reading room is like taking a stroll into the past. As a researcher who wants the historical aspects of a planned historical novel to be absolutely correct, I have found the collection at KHS to be invaluable, and the staff particularly helpful. There is nothing quite like the feeling that accompanies the discovery, for instance, in the 1938 Works Progress Administration tax photos of Augusta, of an image that contains the figures of one's father and great-grandparents. Pure serendipity, yet so thrilling! Or, of finding the residences of long-dead ancestors on a 1902 plan of the city. Who knew?

KHS's collection includes the complete set of indexed 1938 WPA tax photos, a large-format blueprint-style 1902 plan for the city of Augusta, Sanborn fire insurance maps, and Cony High School yearbooks, to name just a few examples. These holdings are unique to KHS, and have proven extremely useful as primary sources to me in the sense of seeing in my mind's eye the physical layout and characteristics of the area through time, as the city grew. Because KHS has been in existence for so long, they have been able to preserve an incredible collection of primary source materials, and through the work of an outstanding team of dedicated volunteers, is able to make items in their collection readily accessible for research. What a gem!

— Bridgit Kirouac, Augusta native
Hobe Sound, Florida

“Foundling Photographs” Recall Kinsman Family Links

I read with interest the article regarding the photos left on the society's doorstep (May-June, pg. 4; *Research Ready: The Mysterious Case of the “Foundling Photographs”*) and the story regarding the family of William Enman. Though I don't know much about the members of the Enman family, I do know that William worked as a laborer in the pharmaceutical drug firm of Fred W. Kinsman. Kinsman prescription bottles can still be found with a visit to most any antique shop in the Augusta area.

The Kinsman family operated a pharmacy in Augusta for many years and were good friends to both my grandfathers, Lorenzo Eastman and Charles Crockett. Charles “Brud” Kinsman had been an old friend and fishing buddy, and my mother used to babysit many of the Kinsman children when they lived on Winthrop Street.

— Rich Eastman,
Augusta

Editor's Note: Our article in the May-June issue about the photographs of the Enman family, found on our doorstep some weeks ago, provoked a visit from the donor. It appears that the photographs were an inheritance from Madeline Phylis Cook (nee Currier). She had received them from a second cousin, possibly Hazel Eva Gladys Enman, who was part of the Enman family. A quick genealogical search of the family revealed two possible links in either a family named Mellish or one named Campbell, both from Prince Edward Island.

Upcoming Programs

September Public Presentation: “Maine in World War I”

With the same patriotic fervor shown in Maine’s response to a call for troops in the Civil War, more than 35,000 men and women across the state joined the armed forces in 1917-18 to fight in aid of America’s European allies against the Germans as well as to redress German destruction of American vessels in the North Atlantic. Mainers also provided vital support to the United States and the Allies through war-related industries such as shipbuilding, munitions, textiles, and agriculture, while purchasing more than \$100 million in war bonds and donating bandages, books, and other comforts of home to the troops. The Kennebec Historical Society’s illustrated annual meeting lecture presents many newly discovered historic photographs, including real-photo postcards of the period, to tell the story of recruitment, bond drives, shipbuilding, war-related industries, and knitting socks for the soldiers. This chapter in Maine’s past comes alive in these century-old pictures.



A native of Portland, co-speaker Earle G. Shettleworth Jr. attended Deering High School, Colby College, and Boston University and was the recipient of honorary doctorates from Bowdoin College and the Maine College of Art. At the age of 13, Shettleworth became interested in historic preservation through the destruction of Portland’s Union Station in 1961. In 1971 he was appointed by Governor Kenneth Curtis to serve on the first board of the Maine Historic Preservation Commission, for which he became architectural historian in 1973 and director in 1976. He retired from that position in 2015. Mr. Shettleworth has lectured and written extensively on Maine history and architecture and served as state historian since 2004.

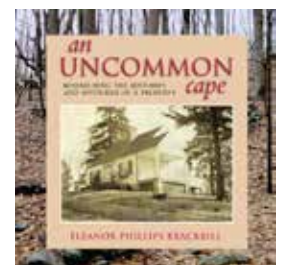
Co-speaker Jason C. Libby grew up in Augusta and is a graduate of the University of Maine with a bachelor’s degree in history and political science and a graduate degree in education. Returning to Maine from New York after several years in higher education administration, he served as executive director of a historic preservation nonprofit. He currently works for the Department of Education and also as an adjunct instructor at Central Maine Community College. Libby is chairman of the Maine Historic Preservation Commission and volunteers for a number of organizations, including the Boy Scouts of America. He is the author of several historical books including *Maine in World War I*, which he co-wrote with Mr. Shettleworth.

The Kennebec Historical Society’s September presentation is free to the public (donations gladly accepted). The presentation will take place at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, September 19, at South Parish Congregational Church, located at 9 Church Street in Augusta. 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 members of the Board of Directors.

October Public Presentation:

“An Uncommon Cape: Researching the Histories and Mysteries of a Property”

Join Eleanor Phillips Brackbill on October 17 as she presents an illustrated talk about *An Uncommon Cape: Researching the Histories and Mysteries of a Property*. When she bought her house, three mysteries precipitated an investigation into an otherwise ordinary property. Intent upon finding the facts, she peeled back layers of history, allowing the house and the land to tell their stories, while uncovering a past inextricably woven into four centuries of American history. As she unraveled the mysteries, it occurred to her that everyone’s home has a story to tell. At her small cape there is no historical marker out front, no designation as a historic site. It’s not even very old, and George Washington certainly never slept there. But stories she did find. At the same time, she found 32 owners, across 350 years, who had just one thing in common: ownership of a particular parcel of land. Through material presented in 22 sidebars, the book offers readers insights and guidelines on how to find the stories behind their own homes.



Our speaker earned an 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 25 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 is co-sponsored by the Maine State Library and is free to the public (donations gladly accepted). It will take place at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, October 17, at the library, located at 230 State Street in Augusta.

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

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
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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 _____

Email 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