



Kennebec Current



Discovering, preserving, and disseminating Kennebec County history since 1891

Volume 29 Issue 4

KENNEBEC HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

July–August 2019

Dedication in Augusta Helps Launch State’s Bicentennial

Governor Janet Mills, Augusta Mayor David Rollins, Maine State Archivist David Cheever and dozens of others, including many Kennebec Historical Society members, gathered July 30 in Mill Park to help dedicate the new William Payson Viles Tricentennial Pine Grove.

The event was billed as one of the opening salvos of the bicentennial of Maine’s 1820 statehood. The “tricentennial pines” are called that because its planters hope they will be fully grown around the time Maine celebrates its 300th anniversary of statehood in 2120.

The grove, named after a prominent local mid-20th-century business leader, adds another dimension to the multi-use park alongside the Kennebec River. The park already features a weekly farmers’ market, pétanque courts, a dog exercise area and a boat launch.

The evening event included a cannon salute by the James Howard Company, a group of historical re-enactors from Old Fort Western; a presentation by the Augusta Police Color Guard; and the flying of Maine’s recently adopted bicentennial flag.



The Augusta police color guard presents the flags before the opening ceremony while Will Lund (grandson of William Viles), State Archivist David Cheever, and Governor Janet Mills look on. (Below) Mayor Dave Rollins welcomes the crowd on behalf of the city.

Photos by Jamie Logan



In attendance were KHS President Patsy Garside Crockett, Pamela Roby, and KHS Program Chair Anne Cough, all lifetime members.

Photo courtesy of Patsy Crockett

More information about the Maine200 Bicentennial Commission’s plans for the coming year can be found on the commission’s website, <https://www.maine200.org>.

Kennebec Historical Society officials already are discussing what role the society can play in the festivities. Suggestions from the membership are welcome.



President's Message



I hope all of you are enjoying this beautiful summer. It's a scorcher outside and I can assure you there are many hot ideas being worked to completion inside the society.

Our committees are making plans for their 2020 budget requests. These requests will go to the full membership for approval at the annual meeting, September 18, at the Hope Baptist Church in Manchester.

The Development Committee is working to raise the needed funds to go over the top on the Moira Fuller Fund. The money from this fund keeps the lights and heat on and pays for all the supplies needed to keep items in our archives safe and secure.

The Program Committee is making sure they have interesting historical topics, great presenters, and wonderful locations around Kennebec County in which to hold these programs. The Building and Grounds Committee is taking care of our wonderful Henry Weld Fuller Home. This home was built in 1835-1836. If your home was built many years ago, you know the upkeep that requires. The committee assures that the windows are taken care of, the painting is done, and the yard is maintained. We want always to help preserve the integrity of the neighborhood.

The Membership Committee is working to assure we reach our goal of 1,891 members for the Bicentennial year. The Facilities Management and Collection committees are acquiring interesting items for our collection and assuring that each item is preserved with care for future generations to enjoy. The Ad-hoc Carriage House Expansion Committee is working with Coffin Engineering to plan for a much needed addition to house our ever-expanding archives. This addition will be on the footprint of the original carriage house.

The Publicity Committee is doing a super job getting the message of KHS out on Facebook, in local papers and by word of mouth. The Newsletter Committee helps to keep our members informed on the many interesting activities taking place at the society. The Finance Committee makes sure we keep on track in following our budget. The Personnel Committee assures that staff and volunteers follow the plans set by the Board of Directors of the society.

Now that you have a sample of some of what our committees do, please stop in and see for yourself. Better yet, join one of our committees and be a part of all the fun events. If you are interested, please give me a call. I'd love to chat with you and help you find a committee you might find interesting and rewarding to serve on. I look forward to seeing you at one of our programs, at our First Annual KHS Tennis Tournament, or at our KHS Booth at Windsor Fair. And please consider taking part in our KHS Logo Contest.

— Patsy Garside Crockett, President

KHS Social Media Logo Contest

Kennebec Historical Society is looking for a modern logo design for use primarily across digital media. This logo will not replace the current society logo (see top of masthead, opposite), but is intended to act as a supplement that maintains a connection of some sort to the current logo.

In designing the logo, please note that its final use is for concise and easy-to-identify brand use, representative of KHS and/or Kennebec County. The logo needs to be usable in social media, such as for a Facebook profile image or brand icon. For further details, visit our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/KHS1891, or email us at kennhis1891@gmail.com with subject line "Logo Contest Submission".



KHS Board of Directors

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Rich Eastman/editor

Sally Joy/advisor

Scott Wood/production

Total membership:

552 on August 7

Life members: 191

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 18

The society's annual meeting will begin with a potluck supper at 4:30 p.m. on September 18 at the Hope Baptist Church, located at 726 Western Avenue in Manchester, 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 that changes to the society's bylaws in Article I, General Provisions, Section 3, and Article VIII, Committees of the Society, Section 10, will be proposed.

The board proposes to correct the name of the American Alliance of Museums by striking the word "Association" and replacing it with "Alliance" in Article I, General Provisions, #3 Society Purposes:

Article I

General Provisions

3. Society Purposes. The purpose of the Kennebec Historical Society shall be to promote the study of the history of Kennebec County, Maine, the formation of collections of appropriate materials, and the dissemination of knowledge concerning the same. The buildings, lands, collections and intellectual property of the society are held by the society in public trust. The society shall therefore govern the property according to the American ~~Association~~ **Alliance** of Museums Code of Ethics and the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation, with the guidance of the Maine Historic Preservation Commission.

The board proposes to strike "Museum" and replace it with "Facilities Management" in Article VIII, Committees of the Society, #10 Museum Committee:

Article VIII

Committees of the Society

10. ~~Museum~~ **Facilities Management** Committee. The ~~Museum~~ **Facilities Management** Committee shall be responsible for recommending to the board of directors policy for use of the society's house, scheduling activities in the house, decorating and furnishing the interior of the house, and for planning and execution of exhibits and tours. The committee will be made up of the curator, archivist, librarian and two additional members appointed by the board of directors.

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

2019 Election of Society Directors

Returning Directors:

Ernest Plummer, Pittston • Nancy Merrick, Augusta • Stefanie Barley, Augusta

The nominating committee presents the following slate of officers:

(All terms are two years, unless otherwise noted)

President: Patsy Crockett, Augusta Vice President: Kent London, North Vassalboro

Treasurer: Doreen Harvey, Winthrop Secretary: Emily Schroeder, South China

The nominating committee also presents the following slate of directors:

Bruce Kirkham, Augusta • John Lawrence, Gardiner • Joseph Owen, Augusta • Lockhart Kiermaier, Augusta

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

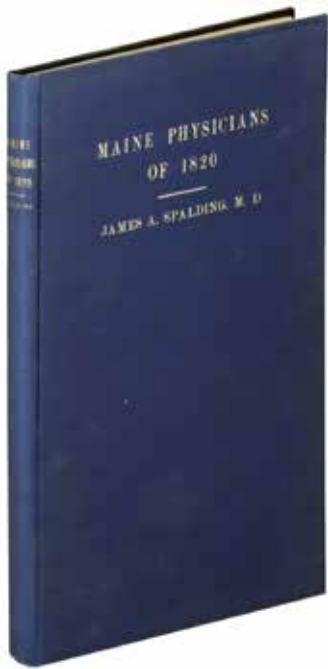
(All terms are one year)

Anne Cough, Gardiner

Billy Noble, Sidney

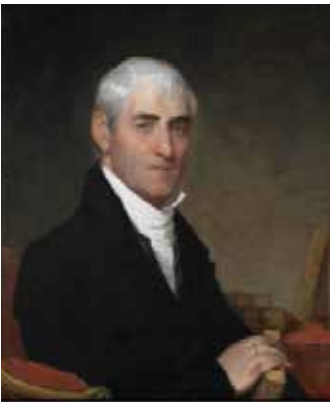
Phyllis vonHerrlich, Augusta

Doctors in 1820: A revisit of a Centennial publication



As we enter the retrospective period of the 200th anniversary of Maine separating from Massachusetts and becoming its own state in the union, there is an awakening of discovery that includes the study of how such events marking time have been recorded in the past. Here we begin to celebrate the bicentennial of Maine, and recall the pomp and circumstance we observed in 1976 for our country's bicentennial and the long-reaching effects of that experience, I expect a renewed excitement over the importance of our history. Will we emblazon the state flag on every surface and have 1820 period wallpaper in our children's bedrooms and family rooms, reproduction furniture in our homes? We shall see.

Kennebec Historical Society is home to copies of varied historical celebrations of time, including the Augusta Centennial souvenir, and Sesquicentennial (150 years), and the Maine Centennial, among others. Now, we historians are all aflutter with what was going on in 1820 and trying to express the reality of the moment we became "Mainers." Thus, working within the process of enhancing collection records in our current library inventory project, I came across a pertinent gem called *Maine Physicians of 1820, A Record of the Members of the Massachusetts Medical Society Practicing in the District of Maine at the Date of the Separation*, written by James A. Spaulding, M.D., Litt.D., Dart. in 1928. So, eight years after Maine's centennial, Spaulding wrote the following: "When I awoke on New Year's morning 1920, I said to myself: 1920 has arrived, the centennial year of Maine as a state, and ere long the newspapers will be filled with eulogies of the famous politicians, lawyers, divines, merchants, lumber-barons, shipmasters, and so on of 1820, but we shall look in vain, I fear, for any account of the lives of the physicians who brought some of these heroes into the world, carried them safely through life toward the end, lengthened their lives so far as they were able...it seems to depend entirely upon me to put it into proper shape or indeed any shape at all." Let's take a moment to recognize a fair selection of these physicians who practiced within Kennebec County, as mentioned in the book. You are likely to be aware of a few already. Here they are with snippets of info and teasers: please stop by to see the book. It is a surprisingly entertaining read!



Portrait of Daniel Cony.

Photo courtesy of KHS

Dr. Joel R. Ellis (1779–1828) Augusta. Lived "in a brick house near the gas works and close beside a sand bank...called Ellis Mountain," mentioned in Martha Ballard's diary, *A Midwife's Tale*. Delivered her daughter-in-law's eighth child, Sunday, June 25, 1809. Son, Dr. Joseph Willard Ellis (1825-1863) Augusta, served as city physician 1850-1856, his 1855 Greek Revival house at 62 State Street is on the National Register of Historic Places.

Dr. Daniel Cony/Judge Cony (1752-1842) Hallowell/Augusta. Began practice in Maine 1789, first president of Kennebec Medical Society in 1797, judge of probate for Kennebec County 1820, founder of Cony Female Academy 1816

Dr. James Cochrane (1777-1860) Monmouth. Practice began c1806. Town Clerk, then a trial justice. Reared grandson Harry Hayman Cochrane (1860-1946), architect of Cumston Hall (c.1900) in Monmouth, muralist, hence called "The Michelangelo of Maine", also published "The History of Monmouth and Wales" (1894).

Dr. Elisha Jones Ford (1787-1858) Gardiner. Member of Legislature, was greatly shaken after his son Cephas died in 1826, only a year after having graduated from Bowdoin Medical School.

Dr. Enoch Hale, Jr. (1790-1848) Gardiner. Wrote papers on local epidemics: "On Spotted Fever", "On Cold Fever" and "Cyache Maligna" (Diphtheria). Known for "his curious chemical experiments", one of which mentioned carrying a flask of mercury to the masthead of a vessel at the wharf in Gardiner to expose it to 50 degree below zero temperatures, the "very lowest temperature known on the Kennebec" to see if it would congeal.

Dr. John Hubbard, Sr. (1759-1838) Readfield. Practice began well before 1808. His home was on Monk's Hill, Route 17 in Readfield, recently lost to fire (my husband lived in the house for a few years as a child). His famous son is: Dr. John Hubbard, Jr. (1795-1869) of Hallowell. Began practice here c.1829, state senator (elected 1843), Governor (1849, 1850) Dr. Hubbard Museum and Hubbard Free Library in Hallowell.

Dr. David Neal (1789–1839) Pittston/Gardiner. Practice began in Pittston 1811, (Pittston divided into two parishes 1810), “preferred wit to drugs in his practice”, known for telling good stories, attended 1816 convention on separation of Maine as a state and at town meeting that year vote was: 52 yea 34 nay, in 1819 vote was: 64 yea 18 nay.

Dr. Amos Nourse (1794-1877) Hallowell. Practiced 1817-1846, some in partnership with Dr. Ariel Mann. U. S. Senator for less than 2 months (Jan-March 1857), Hallowell Postmaster 1822-1841

Dr. Benjamin Page, Jr. (1770-1844) Hallowell. Began practice there 1791. Father was Dr. Benjamin Page, Sr. (1746-1824). Martha Ballard was not a fan. Administered the first smallpox vaccine to a patient c1800, which he received from Dr. Benjamin Vaughan. His home is on the corner of Second and Lincoln Streets, facing the Kennebec.

Dr. James Parker (1768-1837) Gardiner, A “strict Jeffersonian Democrat”, U.S. Representative two terms, “pre-empted land on Bowman’s Point, which jutted out into the Kennebec at its junction with the Cobbosseecontee River” (Stream).

Dr. Issachar Snell (1775-1847) Hallowell (settled there c.1800)/Winthrop (1806-1808), Augusta (1828 on). State representative 1812-1813, studied medicine under Dr. Ephraim Wales of Randolph, celebrated lithotomist (one who surgically removes stones from organs), died when carriage overturned by hitting a stone “ ...he cured many of the stone, but a stone killed him”.

Dr. Enoch Sawyer Tappan (1785-1847) Augusta. Graduated from Harvard at age 16, brother Rev. Benjamin Tappan (1788-1863) ministered in Augusta 1811-1850 at South Parish Congregational Church.

Dr. Stephen Thayer (1783-1852) Vassalboro/China/Waterville. In murder trial of Dr. Valorous Perry Coolidge of Waterville. Dr. Thayer preserved portions of the victim’s organs from autopsy to prove presence of prussic acid used for poisoning, and gave expert testimony at trial to ensure justice.

Dr. Benjamin Vaughan (1751-1835) Hallowell (lived there from 1797 on). Consulted more than practiced, “member of British Parliament who sympathized with the French Revolution”. He had a large medical library that was “scattered” at the time, much had “drifted” to the State Hospital at Augusta. Is it, or any part of it, now at Riverview Psychiatric Center?

Dr. Elias Weld (1772-1863) Hallowell. Known for his white painted chaise as a means of communication and a sense of ease, so all could know where the doctor was or that he was on his way from far across the horizon to heal suffering. Poet John Greenleaf Whittier wrote two poems, “Snowbound” and “The Countess,” with his friend, Dr. Weld, somewhat in mind.

— Kari Mullen-McLaughlin, archival intern

History Revealed in Recent MDOT Work



These stanchions mark all that’s left of the George Macomber farm on Western Avenue in Augusta.

Photo by Rich Eastman

Former Augusta mayor George E. Macomber was a wealthy business leader, banker, philanthropist, and builder of the first electric railway in Maine. In 1895, he purchased roughly 130 acres of land in five parcels that stretched from the northern side of Western Avenue to Winthrop Street and beyond. Though he lived primarily on State Street, he made use of the farm for his livestock to be managed by local farmers he hired.

An article in the Kennebec Journal of July 17, 2019, written by Harvey Lipman and addressing the clear-cutting of the road exchange, spoke of seeing a tree-lined carriage lane with these pillars marking the entrance to the once magnificent “gentleman’s farm.”

We are seeking further historical information and/or pictures of the Macomber Farm to enrich our holdings

here at KHS and encourage all those who have a story they would like to share to contact us at Letters to the Editor, c/o Kennebec Historical Society, P.O. Box 5582, Augusta, ME 04332-5582. Thank you kindly in advance for your submissions.

The Collections Box

Collecting can be something of the primitive: the thrill of the hunt, the capture of the prize, the display of the trophy. Archives and collecting institutions such as KHS are not immune to this element. However, our mission is not self-serving, but one of obtainment for the good of society, the remembrance of community, even the celebration of humanity. Many of the items we share in this column as recent additions come to us through the thoughtful donations of the people of Kennebec County and beyond. Often, these have an added value if a story comes attached, and that can mean the world.



We have recently received a plethora of manuscripts. We will soon start to enjoy deciphering their unique cursive styles. These include: P.O. Vickery, publishing magnate of Augusta, to Edgar Cross in Michigan November 25, 1873, “forward money and we will send outfit.” A Mr. Johnson in Sullivan writes to Reuel Williams in Augusta concerning book sales, September 23, 1829. M. S. Wood of Manchester shares family news to her children, September 21, 1856. W. J. Tuck in Augusta writes to “Sister Lizzie” (Mrs. John L. Pierce) in Chatham, NY, March 19, 1897 on Kennebec Steamboat Company stationery. James Mantor in Anson to William R. Smith in Augusta, April 3, 1826, requesting information about Warren and Warren vs. Ricker. H. G. Lowell of Gardiner states to William R. Smith of Augusta, “I did not wish for a license to sell but only a certificate Administrator of the Estate of my brother,” September 28, 1853; two letters from Ephraim W. Foss to his wife and to his son Edward in West Gardiner, January 18, 1854; Samuel W. Pinkney in Gloucester says “Not going to Boston to ship. Staying here.” to George McIntosh in Hallowell, December 16, 1865.

Two local cookbooks have come to us: a copy of *Cooking Down East* by Marjorie Standish, a well-known Gardiner native, and *St. Barnabas Episcopal Church Cuisine Suggestions*. In addition, our yearbook collection has expanded with two additional Coniads, a selection of *The Venture* (combo literary/commencement) for 1941-1945 and 1948 for Hallowell/Hall-Dale, and Gardiner Quill yearbooks for 1990, 1991, 1992, 1994, and 1999. Other school related items have come in as well including graduation exercise ephemera for Cony, Williams, and Lincoln schools, an 1887-88 Catalogue of Students of Dirigo Business College and Telegraphic Institute, and 45 pages of blueprints regarding the expansion of Lincoln School. In response to the current history from the *Kennebec Current* article last issue on “Wayne’s Best Kept Secret”, we now have a copy of *The Adventures of Alice in Wonderland* in Wayne, Maine, by Jann Haynes Gilmore.

Continuing our effort to expand photographic images of all the towns in Kennebec County through real photo postcards, we’ve purchased a “View of Cabin, Alden’s Camps, Oakland, ME” by Eastern Illustrating and Publishing. Also new is a photo of an unidentified woman by McIntosh on the corner of Bridge and Water Streets in Gardiner, an 1899 photo of the Capital Café food cart in Waterville, and a CDV of an unknown gentleman, by Hende. Hende’s address at the time: “First floor opposite the new Post Office, Water Street.” Lastly, we have a selection of three press photos of Governor James Longley, 69th governor 1975-1979, including one of him playing tennis.

Many other interesting items have arrived such as county maps, periodicals, newspapers, documents of events, advertising cards, select articles, and even a couple of worse-for-wear glass plate negatives of what appear to be school groups.

For the Collections Committee — *Kari Mullen-McLaughlin*

KHS July Program at Jewett Hall a Success!

On Wednesday, July 17, the Kennebec Historical Society held its program at the University of Maine at Augusta’s Jewett Hall Auditorium. The program was listed on the university’s events calendar. Speaker Peggy Konitzky explained what life was like and how ordinary people in Midcoast Maine handled food shortages, blackouts and rationing during World War II. The KHS faithful enjoyed the slides and the presentation in the spacious auditorium and as they exited the program were treated to a beautiful rainbow.

KHS President, Patsy Crockett, said “I had so many folks tell me how great the room is, accessible and just beautiful. We are so pleased with how easy UMA made it to bring a KHS event to the community.” The society and the university hope that the July program will be the first step in a long relationship between the two. KHS hopes to hold future programs at the Jewett Hall Auditorium to further strengthen the partnership.

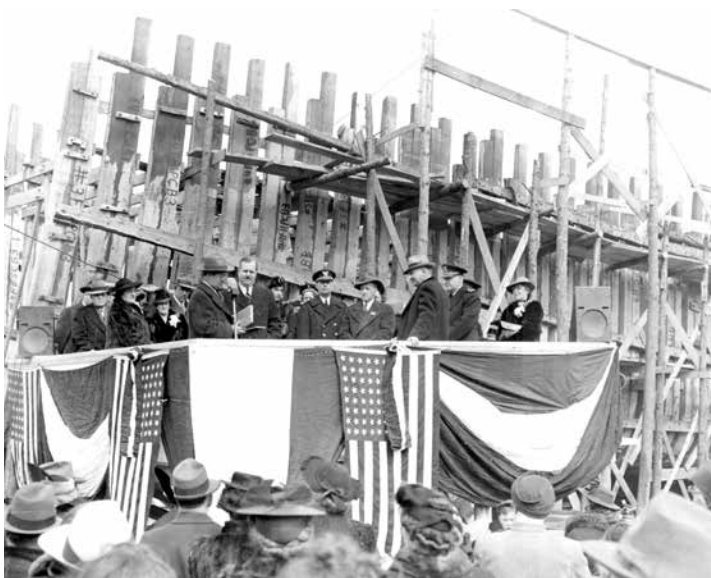
Research-ready: A Fine Collection, but Not as Reported

In March of this year, the Pejepscot Historical Society (PHS) donated 72 photographs taken by Harry G. Schulman (1908-1988), a photographer for the *Gannett/New Sun Journal* in the mid-20th century. They were part of a much larger collection of Schulman's work that had been donated to the PHS. Sometime in the 1980s, after they were donated, PHS volunteers sorted them into the likely locations in Maine where they had been taken. The volunteers concluded that these 72 photographs were taken in Gardiner, and thus, 40 years later they were offered to KHS.

We were quite excited by the photographs since they depicted the construction and launch of three wooden boats, the Red Oak I, II, and III. They were barges used for moving supplies during World War II. We were also very curious where this might have taken place in Gardiner.

We turned to our Gardiner connection, Ann Cough, to see what she might know about this activity. She promptly came through with a newspaper photograph from November 23, 1943, which was captioned:

Christens White Ash II – Mrs. Minot Conary, wife of the master builder at the Richmond Shipbuilding Co. yard in South Gardiner, as she christens the White Ash II, which struck the water Monday morning in a blinding snowstorm.



Company a subcontractor of the one in California, or was it somehow related to Richmond, Maine? We look forward to hearing from anyone with more information. – “A Happy History Detective.”



Photos courtesy of KHS archives

Okay, now we had something a history detective could chew on. Apparently, the boat yard was in South Gardiner and was called the Richmond Shipbuilding Company. We had done some Internet searches before, but not too successfully. Now, with the name of the company, we obtained a list of all the World War II wooden ships and barges built on the USA. That list shows three barges, White Ash I, II and III, were indeed built by the Richmond Shipbuilding Company in South Gardiner. Not so with the Red Oaks; there were five put out to contract but only four were built by Casco Shipbuilding Company in Freeport, Maine.

We are preparing to send the pictures of the Red Oak off to the Freeport Historical Society but remain curious about where the South Gardiner shipbuilding facility was and exactly who the Richmond Shipbuilding Company was since information available on the Internet suggests it was located in California. So, was the Richmond Shipbuilding

— Ernest L. Plummer, archivist

KHS Explores the Redington Museum of the Waterville Historical Society



The pharmaceutical antiques in the Laverdiere Apothecary at Redington Museum

Photo courtesy of Redington Museum

As KHS continues to connect with and visit Kennebec County historical societies, KHS Building and Grounds Committee member, Jessica Couture, and KHS Administrative Director, Scott Wood, traveled to Waterville to tour the Redington Museum on July 18. Curator/Caretaker Bryan Finnemore led the tour through the Redington House built in 1814 by Asa Redington, a veteran of the Revolutionary War and member of George Washington's Honor Guard. Finnemore explained that the exterior shutters are in the process of being restored and the interior recently had heat pumps installed to help control the temperature and humidity in the house, which was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1978. He further explained the need for a new expanded parking area, construction for which is due to start in September.

The house contains a collection of historic furniture, artifacts, toys, tools, weapons, and many historical papers and diaries spread throughout two floors. As Couture and Wood toured the first floor, Couture recalled visiting the Redington House on a grade school trip and expressed the need for schools to continue to promote the importance and exploration of local history. The three agreed and continued the tour to the second floor, which revealed even more unique artifacts in the collection, including a Sheraton-Field canopy bed and in the Children's Collection, a Victorian dollhouse with detailed furnishings. In addition to the historical artifacts, the second floor also houses many original materials useful in conducting local research, such as books on the Civil War, diaries, newspapers, and numerous maps.

Finnemore finished the tour with one of the principal attractions, a visit to the museum's apothecary. In 1976, Reginald LaVerdiere and LaVerdiere Enterprises, donated a replica apothecary building to house an extensive collection of pharmaceutical antiques. The apothecary is filled with beautiful mahogany, brass and glass cases stocked with early medicines, oils, herbs and medical equipment from a bygone era. The display is a thoroughly comprehensive representation of what a complete working pharmacy would have looked like in the mid-1900's.

The Redington Museum is the permanent home of the Waterville Historical Society and is located at 62 Silver Street. The museum is open Tuesday through Saturday from Memorial Day to Labor Day and gives tours four times a day for a nominal fee. In the future, Wood and Couture hope that KHS can establish a partnership with Bryan Finnemore and the Waterville Historical Society to collaborate on ways to stress the importance of disseminating and preserving Kennebec County history.

— Scott Wood, KHS Administrative Director

The Kennebec Historical Society Welcomes the Following New Members

and continues to recognize...

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

Kennebec Savings Bank

G & E Roofing

Sponsoring Business Members (\$500+ annual)

Pine State Trading Company, Distributor, Gardiner

Maria Gregor – Augusta

Catherine Rudnicki – Bangor

Sandra Barringer – Farmingdale

E. S. Coffin Engineering and Surveying, Inc. – Augusta

Doretta Shapiro – Gardiner

Dr. and Mrs. Robert and Carol Patenaude – Augusta

Betty Morrell – Readfield

Upcoming Programs

September Public Presentation: “Thomas Holt, Architect and Railroad Builder”



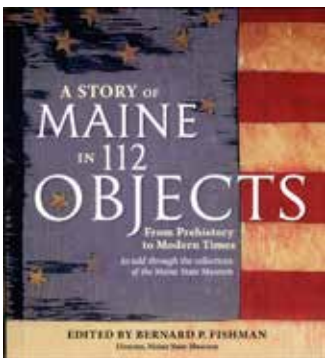
Maine Central Railroad Station in Augusta.
Photo courtesy of KHS archives

Born in Bethel in 1835, Thomas Holt was active as an architect in Central and Western Maine from 1859 to 1870. In 1865 he designed the Portland and Kennebec Railroad Station in Augusta, which burned while under construction in the city’s Great Fire that year. Between 1871 and 1876, Holt served as Chief Engineer of the Maine Central Railroad, designing railroad buildings and bridges as well as conducting surveys for new rail lines. In 1876, he moved to California, where he pursued careers in architecture, railroading, mining, and lumbering. He died in 1889 from pneumonia contracted in a blizzard in Nevada.

Our KHS September speaker, a native of Portland, Maine, 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 thirteen, Shettleworth became interested in historic preservation through the destruction of Portland’s Union Station in 1961. In 1971 he was appointed by Governor 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.

This KHS presentation is free to the public, although donations are accepted gladly. The presentation will take place at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, September 18, at the Hope Baptist Church located at 726 Western Avenue in Manchester. The program will be preceded at 4:30 p.m. by a potluck supper and at 6 p.m. by the society’s annual meeting and election of officers and directors.

October Public Presentation: “A Story of Maine in 112 Objects”



The Maine State Museum is America’s oldest state museum (founded in 1836), and is known as ‘Maine’s Smithsonian’ because of the breadth and diversity of its collections, nearly a million objects representing almost everything about Maine and its cultural, environmental, and natural history. Its collections are the largest and most comprehensive of any museum in Maine. Bernard Fishman, the museum’s director, has recently edited and published a book, *A Story of Maine in 112 Objects*, which tells the story of Maine through a choice selection of 112 objects in the museum’s collections. From a 400 million-year-old fossil, through the only authentic Viking object found in the United States, to a genuine 200-year-old sawmill moved to the museum and rebuilt piece by piece inside it, he’ll tell the fascinating stories of how the museum acquired some of its most compelling objects, and what they have to tell us about the saga of Maine. You won’t want to miss these

tales of how you create a museum and its contents, how these special objects got to the museum, and what they and the characters that made or used them have added to the richness of our state.

Our October KHS speaker, Fishman grew up in New York City and trained as an Egyptologist at the University of Pennsylvania. He worked in Egypt for three years, for the University of Chicago. His family owned several five and ten cent stores in Maine under the name of the M.H. Fishman Company, and he spent 11 years at summer camps in Maine during his early years. He directed history museums in Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Maryland and Rhode Island before coming to the Maine State Museum in 2012.

This Kennebec Historical Society presentation is co-sponsored by the Maine State Library and is free to the public; donations are gladly accepted. The presentation will be followed by some light refreshments and will take place at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, October 16, at the Maine State Library, located at 230 State Street in Augusta.

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

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U.S. Postage
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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 _____

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.)

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Date received: _____

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file 2.8.2

Business hours: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Tuesday through Friday **Assisted research hours:** 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesday and by appointment

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