



Kennebec Current



Discovering, preserving, and disseminating Kennebec County history since 1891

Volume 29 Issue 5

KENNEBEC HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

September–October 2019

KHS Honors Plummer with Hill Award

The Kennebec Historical Society has made its departing archivist, Ernest L. Plummer, the first recipient of the society's newly established W. Scott Hill Service Award.

Plummer, who stepped down from his post in October, and his wife, Joan, have moved to Holyoke, Massachusetts, to be closer to their daughter and her family. The society presented the award to Ernie Plummer on September 18 in Manchester at its annual meeting.

Volunteering in a variety of positions over 16 years, Plummer has been the driving force in catapulting a society that, in many ways, had been a relic of another era into the 21st century.

"Basically, he made it professional," said Bruce Kirkham, the society's librarian, explaining that Plummer methodically transformed KHS from a gathering place for tea and cookies where information was made available in more or less anecdotal form into a modern, functioning library and archive. "It's a better reference library because of what we've put in the database," Kirkham said.

Ernie and Joan Plummer first moved to Maine in 2000 as retirees. They settled into a log cabin kit home powered entirely by solar energy in East Pittston. Their KHS volunteer work began in 2003. Ernie Plummer's interest in history, genealogy and archaeology led him to the archivist's position, a voluntary post that he took on in 2008. His background in cataloging donated materials and making them available to researchers has been key to expanding the service KHS offers to the public.

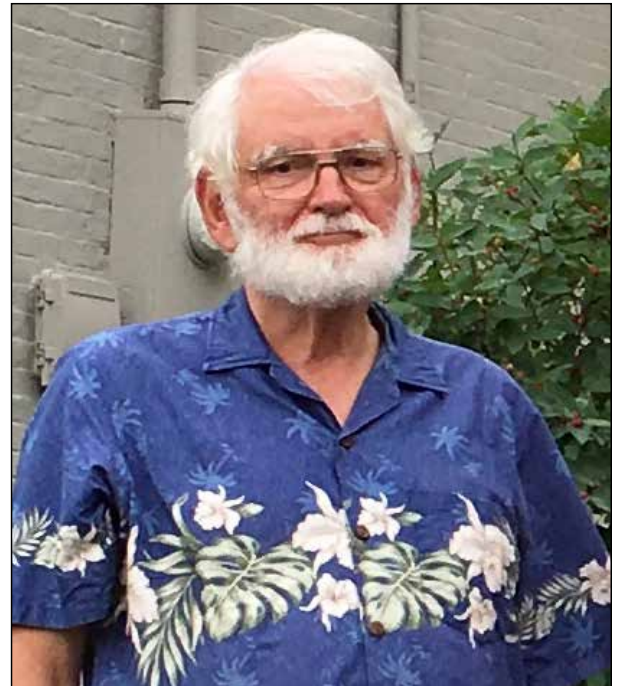
Plummer became KHS vice president in 2007 and was elected president in 2009. Under his leadership, the society pressed forward with efforts to retire the \$190,000 mortgage on its present Augusta home, the Henry Weld Fuller Jr. House, a goal that was achieved less than four years later.

He has served on other occasions as executive director and treasurer, has been a member of three committees, and has been a generous financial contributor to funds that help pay the day-to-day bills and advance the society's basic mission to promote the study of Kennebec County history. His KHS volunteer work, which has ranged from 1,000 to 1,200 hours a year, also included helping researchers, training other volunteers, and fostering partnerships with other historical societies in the county.

Born in 1940 in Buffalo, New York, Plummer attended the University at Buffalo and served in the Air Force from 1962 to 1969, earning his master's degree at the University of Dayton in the process. He later returned to the University of Buffalo, where he earned his doctorate. His work as a chemist for the agricultural sciences company FMC Corporation led to 33 U.S. patents and many more patents internationally, all dealing with herbicides and insecticides.

This might seem a far cry from historical archiving, but there's a connection.

"What I did as a chemist was research, and that involved all the things we do here at KHS," he said. In 1980, he became heavily involved in database work at FMC, involving chemicals. Later, his work involved artificial intelligence, and research at the National Center for Supercomputing Applications at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. He credits his interest in databases to his wife, who has maintained and updated the society's membership database for the past several years.



Ernest L. Plummer, recipient of KHS's first W. Scott Hill service award.

Photo by Scott Wood

Continued on page 5

President's Message



The annual meeting in September was a time to look back on the past year at the Kennebec Historical Society. I'm pleased with and excited about new first steps we have taken together.

KHS had its first tennis tournament, thanks to the Publicity Committee, under the leadership of Jamie Logan and Billy Noble.

Also for the first time, the society had a display at the Windsor Fair. We thank the Windsor Historical Society for allowing us to share space in its Cole House. We had the opportunity to chat about what we have at KHS, as well as talk with people who are interested in becoming society members and volunteers.

Another first is our collaboration with the University of Maine at Augusta. After we talked with UMA President Rebecca Wyke, the university agreed to let us to hold some programs in UMA's Jewett Hall. The university will advertise the programs on its electric billboard on Civic Center Drive and in its flyers.

A wine-tasting event included an auction, piano music and a tribute to our longtime supporter John Bridge, who died in April. We thank his wife, Charlene, for sharing John with us and for her continued support.

We had two wonderful college students as summer interns, Maria Gregor and Catherine Rudnicki. They worked on an inventory of our collection. I was delighted to have collaboration with our area colleges and give these students an opportunity to add to their résumés.

The Carriage House Expansion Committee, under the guidance of Ben Murray, with E.S. Coffin Engineering, took more steps this year in the long process of expanding KHS' headquarters. Committee representatives went to Augusta's Historic District Review Board for a first planning meeting. We also met with Augusta's West Side Neighbors and spoke to the Augusta Planning Board. In addition, we received a \$25,000 Thompson Foundation grant and a matching grant from a descendant of the Henry Weld Fuller family, a longtime KHS supporter. This money will help fund the expansion planning and engineering.

Also, the KHS board expanded the hours of our capable administrative director, Scott Wood, from part-time to full-time, with paid holidays and vacation. This will assure that we have someone here to greet folks, answer questions and provide the face of KHS to all who come in or call to do research.

All standing committees and ad-hoc committees are working hard to fulfill their mission and, I believe, with great success. Each of the committee chairpeople and members has done a fantastic job this year. If you are interested in serving on a committee, please let me know.

Thank you to all our volunteers who have helped keep KHS operating. To all our donors large and small, thank you. We could not do what we do without you.

Ernie Plummer's last day as KHS archivist was celebrated with a pizza party enjoyed by board members, staff, volunteers, and friends. I thank Ernie and his wife, Joan, for their years of dedication and service. Ernie has showed us what it means to have a top-notch archive and has spent many hours making KHS the best. Joan has been the membership secretary. We will miss both but are pleased they will be moving near their family.

We have welcomed Emily Schroder as our interim archivist. All board members are pleased that she has agreed to serve, and everyone praises not only her dedication to KHS and all she has done, but also her positive attitude. We look forward to working with Emily.

Thank you to the nominating committee for providing a capable slate of board candidates, who have been elected and will serve in 2020. I look forward to working with returning and new members. We welcome new members Rich Eastman, Joe O'Donnell and Lock Kiermaier.

Also, thank you all for electing me to serve as president for 2020. It is a privilege.

— Patsy Garside Crockett, President



KHS Board of Directors

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Patsy Garside Crockett

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Secretary

Emily Schroeder

Directors

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Joseph Owen

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John O'Connor

Earle G. Shettleworth Jr.

William Sprague Jr.

Newsletter Staff

Rich Eastman/editor

Sally Joy/advisor

Total membership:

577 on October 15

Life members: 195

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.

A Day in the Life: Maine



Holman Francis Day (1865-1935) was born in Vassalboro. A prolific writer of over twenty-five books, he began his writing career early while still attending Oak Grove, a Quaker seminary, by writing in *The Weekly Vassalboro News*. Following graduation from Colby College in 1887, he wrote his first column, titled “Evenings in a Country Store,” for the *Fairfield Journal*. Other notable accomplishments were being managing editor of the Union Publishing Company, of Bangor; establishing *The Dexter Gazette*; and writing special pieces for Boston and New York newspapers. He also served Governor John F. Hill as military secretary from 1901 to 1904.

Day and his wife moved to Auburn in 1898, where he became state of Maine correspondent, covering the Maine Legislature, among other things, for the *Lewiston Journal*. The Holman Day House at the corner of Court and Goff streets in Auburn was built in 1895 for them by his father-in-law. It’s on the U.S. National Register of Historic Places and is a stunning example of Queen Anne architecture.

And that’s not all. Day was in motion pictures. He founded the Holman Day Film Company in 1918 in Augusta, partnering with Blaine Viles and William Williamson. Some of the black-and-white film reels were called “My Lady of the Pines,” starring Mary Astor; “Brother of The Bear”; “Knight of the Pines”; and “The Rider of the King Log.” He ended up in California as a screenwriter and even played a Maine deep-sea fisherman on the radio. He is buried in Vassalboro Cemetery.

Up In Maine: Stories of Yankee Life Told In Verse, by Holman F. Day, was published 1901. This collection was assembled from a daily poetry column he wrote that was published in newspapers across the country. One of the great pleasures in experiencing his poetry and prose is the ease with which he shares the special flavor of our true Maine vernacular. The following of his books are free to read online with Project Gutenberg: *Up in Maine*, *Where Your Treasure Is*, *Blow the Man Down*, *Pine Tree Ballads*, *Joan of Arc of the North Woods*, *When Egypt Went Broke*, *The Landloper*, *Squire Phin*, *The Skipper and the Skipped*, *King Spruce*, *The Rainy Day Railroad War*, and *All-Wool Morrison*. I encourage you to delve into some of his works, either again (if you have been so lucky) or for the first time. Here is one poem from *Up in Maine*, titled “Lay of Dried-Apple Pie,” for your enjoyment. Happy fall!

— by Kari Mullen-Mclaughlin

Sunning themselves on the southern porch,
Where the warm fall rays from the towering
torch

Of the great sun flash in the glowing noons,
The drying apples, in long festoons,
Drink the breath of the crisp fall days,
Borrow the blush of the warming rays;
Storing their sweetness, their rich bouquet,
Against that savage and wintry day
When the housewife’s fingers shall by and by
Mould them into dried-apple pie.

There they mellow and there they brown,
Homely enough to a man from town,
Merely strings of some shrunken fruit,
Swung in the sun. And yet they’re mute
Memory-ticklers to those who know
The ways of the farm in the long-ago:
—The kitchen table, the heaping store
Of round, red apples upon the floor.
The purr of the parer, the mellow snip
As the busy knives thro’ the apples slip.
The merry chatter of boys and girls,
The rosy clutter of paring curls,
As hurrying knives and fingers fly
O’er the luscious fruit for dried-apple pie.

Lay of Dried-Apple Pie



I’m idly thinking it sure must be
That the rollicking sport of the apple-bee,
—The sweetness of smiles, the touch of the
white

Hands flashing there in the candle-light,—
Must all in a mystic way be blent
In one grand flavor;—that such was lent
To those mellowing strings, those festoons dun
Swinging there in the late fall sun.
For lo, as I look I seem to see
A dream of the past, a fantasy,
—A laughing, black-eyed roguish girl
Whirling a writhing paring curl;
Chanting the words of the old mock spell
That all we children knew so well:
“Three times round and down you go!
Now who is the one that loves me so?”

Merely a fancy, a passing gleam
Of the old, old days;—a sudden dream
Beguiled by some prank of a blurring eye
And the tricking song of a big, blue fly;
—Merely a fancy, and yet, ah me,
How often I’ve wondered where she can be.

There they mellow and there they brown,
Homely objects to folks from town;
Only some apples hung to dry
And doomed to be finally tumbled in a pie.

The Collections Box

Books, manuscripts, scrapbooks: it's been a busy late summertime at the society.

Among the books purchased or donated were; Harvey Ardman, *The LaVerdiere Story*; Edmund Gillon and Clay Lancaster, *Victorian Homes: A Treasury of Lesser-Known Examples*; *A Poem in Granite: The History of St. Mary of the Assumption*; Randall Cummings, *Elementary School History of Alna, Dresden, Edgecomb, Pittston, Wiscasset, State of Maine*; *The Red Book - The 1898 Official Hotel Directory of the United States*; Joseph Beck, *Historical Notes on Augusta*, a volume about the city's west side; William D. Williamson, *History of the State of Maine from 1602 to 1820*; *Gardiner Maine Vital Records*; Earl H. Smith, *Water Village: The Story of Waterville Maine*; Linwood Lowden, *Balltown-West: The Story of Whitefield 1765-1809*; and Brenda Sullivan, *Ancestors of Joseph and Brenda (LaMond) Sullivan, Book II*.



Manuscript accessions included copies of four letters written by Lot Morrill, together with a print of him; C. E. Ellis in Waterville to Henry H. Ellis in San Francisco, December 18, 1853, discussing family matters; and John Brown in Gardiner to Joseph P. Hodgson in New Portland, October 14, 1855. Hodgson is the postmaster and Brown asks him to investigate persons removing his mother's furniture without her permission. Caleb Clapp in Montgomery, Vermont, wrote to Joel Clapp, his brother, in Gardiner on July 17, 1837, with family news. The Reverend Titcomb, a Methodist circuit rider, wrote from Nacoochee, Georgia, to his wife in Augusta, saying he will go to Hiawassee, Georgia, after preaching on Sunday. He misses her very much and has no idea when they will be reunited.

Three scrapbooks were received last month: a collection of newspaper clippings from 1939-40, two volumes to be added to the Korol Collection and a circa 1894 volume of poetry and other clippings collected by Ethel Bear Smith.

Collections of a mixture of materials included photos and clippings of the Rich, Howard, and Robie families; diaries, letters, certificates, and ephemera owned by the late Otis and Frances S. Littlefield; articles, programs and ephemera owned by Marjorie Tribou; clippings and ephemera from the estate of Marjorie Bean Scott; materials related to the LaSalle family of Gardiner; and personal letters and papers of Dolores Burgess.

For the Collections Committee
— Bruce Kirkham

Fuller Fund Assured of Reaching Amount Budgeted for 2019

With the arrival of a few key checks in mid-October, the Kennebec Historical Society's Development Committee has raised \$54,758 in this year's Moira H. Fuller Annual Fund campaign. The committee also is expecting another \$2,520 as a result of recent pledges.

Those figures combined will provide more than the amount – \$55,000 – that the society budgeted for this year's Fuller fund income. The committee plans to continue soliciting contributions, however, given that it would take less than another \$5,000 to break the campaign's fundraising record of a few years ago. The committee also is bearing in mind the importance of strengthening the society's financial condition as much as possible in preparation for a proposed major expansion of the society's Augusta headquarters building, the Henry Weld Fuller Jr. House.

The Fuller fund was established in 2008 to provide money to pay for office staff, heat, utilities, supplies, groundskeeping, supplies, printing, postage, and other day-to-day expenses incurred in running the society. The fund was named in honor of Moira H. Fuller, formerly of Winthrop and now of Potomac, Maryland, at the request of her friend Elsie Viles, of Augusta, who provided the key donation to the fund's first campaign.

Research Assistance Available by Appointment Only

Because of the recent adjustments in KHS staffing, research assistance will be provided in the Reading Room at the Henry Weld Fuller, Jr. house by appointment only. To accommodate the public and our valuable members, the Kennebec Historical Society will remain open to the public to do unassisted research from Wednesday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. If you would like to schedule a research appointment, you can call the society at 622-7718 or you can submit your research inquiry by email to kennhis1891@gmail.com.

Did You See KHS at the Windsor Fair?

At the end of August, the Kennebec Historical Society had volunteers attend the Windsor Fair to promote the importance of preserving Kennebec County history, encourage new memberships, and simply provide fairgoers with an awareness that the society exists. Earlier this year, KHS Publicity Committee Chairwoman Jamie Logan contacted Bob Brann, of the Windsor Historical Society, and Tom and Karen Foster, Windsor Fair department heads, as a part of the society's effort to find ways to collaborate with similar organizations in Kennebec County. The society was given a corner of the historic Cole House for the duration of the fair where KHS volunteers talked with people as they toured the antique home.

KHS volunteers passed out membership brochures and back issues of the society's newsletter and handed out flyers about the remaining free 2019 KHS programs.



KHS display booth in the parlor room of the Cole House.

Photos courtesy of KHS volunteer staff



Volunteer Nancy Merrick shows Serenity Fournier how to use the Perfecscope.

Society volunteers encouraged young and old fair participants to use a handheld "Perfecscope," or stereo viewer, which allows one to view stereo cards. Some Windsor Fair volunteers shared the Cole House with KHS and they demonstrated the timeless art of rug hooking.

The collaboration with the Windsor Fair allowed KHS to speak with hundreds of people about volunteer opportunities at the society and talk about the importance of preserving Kennebec County documents, books, photographs, manuscripts, maps, and scrapbooks in the climate-controlled KHS archive at the Henry Weld Fuller Jr. House in Augusta. The opportunity would not have materialized without the contributions of society volunteers who participated in the event, who included Glenn Adams, Sandra Barringer, Richard Coffin, Patsy Crockett, Rich Eastman, Doreen Harvey, Jamie Logan, Gianine Lupo, Nancy Merrick, Judy Paradis, Michele Paradis, Emily Schroeder, and Denis Thoet.

— Scott Wood, Administrative Director

Continued from page 1

Plummer Receives Hill Award

At KHS, Plummer has upgraded and maintained the collections database, enabling catalogers to embed photographs and scanned images or original written documents into the record. The improvement in quality and quantity of society holdings has effectively opened KHS files to many more researchers. This has been reflected in computer search hits as well as increases in inquiries locally and nationally. Plummer also raised funds to install a climate-controlled archive, hire interns to help catalog materials, and purchase technology and archival supplies to do that work.

The W. Scott Hill Service Award given to Plummer is named for the man who became the society's president in 1891. Hill, an Augusta physician, also was one of the society's founders, and he remained one of its most ardent supporters until his death in 1923. As a token of its esteem, the society also gave the Plummers an engraved desk clock at the annual meeting.

The Kennebec Historical Society Welcomes the Following New Members

Margie Anderson — Columbia, South Carolina

Rosalind Benton — Bath

Robert Bernier — Manchester

Owen and Donna Buck — Winthrop

Lorraine A. Fellows — Chantilly, Virginia

Claudia Fujinaga — Somerville

Carolyn Goggin — West Gardiner

Terry and Lee Gray — Augusta

Nancy Young — Bethlehem, Pennsylvania

Steven Gross — Waterville

Amy Heiderscheidt — Augusta

Lock Kiermaier — Augusta

Thomas Last — Decatur, Georgia

Mary Jayne Monroe — Randolph

Roberta Morin — Albion

David Strohl — Sidney

Ruth Tondreau — Augusta

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❁ In Memoriam ❁

Patricia “Pat” Doten, 86, died August 22 at BaySquare at Yarmouth Assisted Living. After growing up in Orono and graduating from the University of Maine with a home economics education degree, she and her husband of 54 years, the late Herbert R. Doten, lived in Kentucky and Germany, where he was a U.S. Army officer. Then they lived for 50 years in Augusta, where they were longtime Kennebec Historical Society members. Pat Doten was a member of South Parish Congregational Church, where she held leadership roles; a seven-year member of Augusta Board of Education; a part-time Augusta School District tutor; a director of St. Mark’s Home for Women in Augusta; and a volunteer in other groups, including KHS. She is survived by five children, 12 grandchildren, and 14 great-grandchildren.

Victor Michaud, 73, died August 4 in Augusta, where he had been born and raised. He was a mathematics and science teacher for 29 years at O.C. Woodman Middle School in Gardiner. A woodworker who designed and built his family’s homes and boats, he also was a videographer for the Friends of Heritage Center at Mill Park, a Club Calumet volunteer, and a Kennebec Historical Society member since 2009. His survivors include his wife, KHS life member Jeannette Michaud; two children; and three grandchildren.

Mary Jane O’Connor, 96, died October 7 in Augusta. A former state worker and WFAU radio station staffer, she also was a Cub Scout den mother, an American Legion Auxiliary secretary and a Kennebec Historical Society life member since 2007. She lived in Augusta until 14 years ago, when she moved to Granite Hill Estates, just over the city line in Hallowell. Her husband, the late Thomas A. O’Connor, was a retired Maine Army National Guard master sergeant and former Augusta City Council member. Among her survivors are five children, including former KHS board member John O’Connor; four grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

Howard “Allen” Ryan, of Manchester, Maine, and Marco Island, Florida, died Sept. 21. A Kennebec Historical Society life member since 2005 and major donor to the organization, the Massachusetts native was the founder of the NorthCenter Foodservice Corporation in Augusta and a philanthropist who served as a trustee on the boards of Thomas College in Waterville and Bowdoin College, his alma mater, in Brunswick. Allen also supported educating children of Latin American migrant workers through his association with The Guadalupe Center of Immokalee, Florida, and was a major backer of the United Way of Kennebec Valley. His survivors include his wife of 56 years, Dianne Ryan, of Manchester, who also is a KHS member; four children; and six grandchildren.

Letters TO THE Editor

MDOT Mystery Solved

In response to our request in the July-August 2019 *Kennebec Current* for information regarding the exposure of two old stanchions by the Maine Department of Transportation at the southernmost Interstate 95 interchange in Augusta, we received this letter from Harvey Lipman, of Manchester:

Dear Sir:

I am honored that the Kennebec Historical Society has recognized my recent op-ed article in the *Kennebec Journal* about the Maine Department of Transportation clear-cut of trees around the Western Avenue I-95 interchange. The work order included the felling of the trees that originally lined the carriage path to the George Macomber Farm, located just north of the turnpike ramp on Old Winthrop Road. My article answered the curiosity raised when the clear-cut exposed the weather-worn stone pillars that marked the original entrance to the Macomber property.

I am responding to the most recent issue of the *Kennebec Current*, which encouraged readers to forward further information about George Macomber's "gentleman's farm."



George E. Macomber

While the area around the farm was subdivided after World War II into a neighborhood of homes, the farmhouse, ell, stonewalls and the long line of tall fir trees Macomber planted to mark the southern property line still exist.

Records indicate that George E. Macomber began purchasing land on Old Winthrop Road in 1895. In 1907, he purchased two lots, a combined total of 135 acres both north and south of Old Winthrop Road. This comprised the farm property itself. Run by a manager and hired hands, the Macomber Farm bred registered Guernsey cow stock. Typical of anything associated with this man, the Herd Register of the American Guernsey Cattle Club ranked Macomber Farm's prized bull "Dick" a national champion. In 1927, Macomber sold the farm operation to the president and founder of Central Maine Power, Walter S. Wyman. The property was supposedly known afterward as Avenue Farm.

The Wyman mansion house was located at 47 Western Avenue (now the Augusta U-Haul Center). Around the same time that he purchased Avenue Farm, Wyman arranged for the famous architectural landscape firm, Olmsted Brothers, of Brookline, Massachusetts, to design the grounds to his large Western Avenue estate. The blueprint to this work is still on file in the Olmsted Archives. It appears the Olmsted recommendation was never implemented at 47 Western Avenue. However, the plan includes an elaborate garden arrangement with circular paths and pergola that do coincidentally appear at the newly acquired farm on Old Winthrop Road. As the elaborate plantings took root, the barnyard, where animals and tractors passed to and fro, took on a refined appearance.

In addition to Macomber Farm, Walter Wyman in the ensuing years purchased six additional parcels of land along Old Winthrop Road from Macomber, one of these now the large Central Maine Power maintenance facility.

Macomber's idea, the gentleman's farm, sparked a greater imagination in Wyman. Purchasing tracts of land that straddled the borders of three towns, Manchester, Readfield and Winthrop, a portion of which became the Augusta Country Club, Wyman created from scratch the much-larger Lakeside Farm. This property included an apple house for the orchard, a milk barn for cows, a breeding barn for bulls and stable for the work and riding horses. The bungalow manor house was built from fieldstone in the arts-and-crafts style. It overlooked a dam and man-made pond that Wyman stocked with trout for fishing.

As operations transferred to Lakeside, the fields around Macomber Farm were subdivided into house lots and the property ceased to be a working farm. The memory of George Macomber, however, proved too popular. Wyman's name for the place, Avenue Farm, never stuck. The property is remembered to this day as the Macomber Farm.

While the attached barn was torn down years ago, the house, which dates to 1817, and its attached ell remain intact. Cement footings on the lawn mark where the pergola once stood. Old stands of lilac grace the yard. There are still traces of the garden and circular paths on the lawn. The carriage path, cut in two by the Turnpike ramp in 1955, extended in a straight line through the property from Western Avenue to Old Winthrop Road.

I report with some satisfaction that the automobile, safety issues and the Maine Department of Transportation did not erase it entirely.

That portion north of the ramp is still intact, out of reach of the MDOT chain saws, and, very much as Macomber originally intended, tree-lined.



Old photo of the Macomber Farm with Olmsted-influenced garden.

Photos supplied by Mr. Lipman

Harvey A. Lipman, Manchester, Maine

Letters TO THE Editor

Maine Words for “No” and “Yes”

Dear Kennebec Historical Society,

My name is Stephen Howe. I am an associate professor of historical linguistics in Japan but was born in England. I am researching special words for “no” and “yes” in Maine. Colonists from the east of England, where I grew up, may have brought “dow” and “jess” to New England in the seventeenth century. Four hundred years later, these special words still survive.

Gerald E. Lewis gives an example of “daow” in *How to Talk Yankee*:

Did you get your deer yet?
Daow, I can't even see one.

And an informant from New Hampshire gives an example of “jearse” or “jess,” stating that “I totally just thought this was a weird NH thing:”

Hey, have you seen where the muffin tins went?
HmMMM, jearse, in the oven I think.

In the east of England, we still use “dow” and “jearse” today. However, these words for “no” and “yes” are not recorded in the *Oxford English Dictionary* or the *Survey of English Dialects*. Nor were they recorded by the *Linguistic Atlas of New England*; but the *Dictionary of American Regional English* cites “daow,” “daowd,” “dow,” “doh” or “day-oh” in Maine, Vermont, Massachusetts and Rhode Island as well as New York State. There is also “daow” in New Hampshire. For “jearse” or “jess,” informants in my survey cited “jass” in Upstate New York and possibly Vermont, “jearse” in New Hampshire, and “jyes” or “djess” in Maine and Massachusetts.”

I am writing a book on “jess” and “dow” and wonder whether it might be possible to ask your members whether they know either of these words. I would be most grateful for any information you may have.

I have more information about my research plus a survey that readers can complete online at <http://yesandno.info/>.

Dr. Stephen Howe, Fukuoka University, Japan

KHS Announces Logo Design Contest

The Kennebec Historical Society is seeking submissions for a logo design for use primarily across digital media. Any member of the public is welcome to submit a design. The design should keep in mind that its final use is for concise and easy-to-identify brand use, representative of the KHS mission and/or Kennebec County. The logo needs to be usable in social media, such as for a Facebook profile image or brand icon. This logo will not replace the current society logo (at right) but is intended to act as a supplemental logo that maintains a connection of some sort to the current logo.

A KHS committee in conjunction with the KHS Board of Directors will select the top three finalists. These three designs will be put out to the general public for a vote.

The designer of the selected logo will receive:

- \$100
- One-year membership in KHS
- Recognition across platforms such as the *Kennebec Current*, the KHS Facebook page, and news releases sent to local media

Logo designs should be emailed as .JPG, .EPS, and .PDF files to kennhis1891@gmail.com with the subject line “Logo Contest Submission” by 5 p.m. December 1.

For more details about the contest, visit the Kennebec Historical Society Facebook page (@KHS1891), email us at kennhis1891@gmail.com, or call us at 622-7718.



Upcoming Programs

November Public Presentation:

“Foe to Friend: German POWs on Lunn Farm in Littleton, Maine”



POWs picking spuds at Lunn Farm in 1945.

Photo courtesy of Maine Memory Network

In 1944, the U.S. Army Air Base in Houlton, Maine in Aroostook County, became the site of a prisoner-of-war internment camp for German soldiers captured in North Africa and France. The POWs could not be forced to work, but they could volunteer. Those who wanted to work helped the local farmers harvest peas and pick potatoes and cut wood in the forest after harvest time during the winter. In September 1945, Aroostook County farmers decided to take advantage of this opportunity.

Our KHS November speaker, Henry D. “Hank” Lunn, who grew up on one of those Aroostook County farms, has been a resident of Camden since 1958 and a student of Maine history since his birth. He graduated from the University of Maine with a major in history and government and has a Master of Education degree in counseling and school administration. Lunn retired from public education with over 40 years of experience as a teacher, counselor and educational consultant

in the schools of Maine. For the past several years, he has been delivering his “Living History” presentations to schools, historical societies, libraries, and community organizations. Lunn states, “My dad requested some prisoners to help with our potato harvest. When harvest time rolled around, eight young Germans would arrive by truck each morning about 7 o’clock to help us harvest our crop ... with *one* guard. (To) a 13-year-old boy, the arrival of German soldiers was fearsome. My young mind was not too sure it was a good idea to have the enemy right here on our farm.”

This KHS presentation is co-sponsored by the Maine State Library and is free to the public (donations gladly accepted). The presentation will be followed by some light refreshments and will take place at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, November 20, at the Maine State Library, located at 230 State Street in Augusta.

KHS to Host Victorian Tea Party



KHS president Patsy Crockett addresses attendees at last year’s Victorian Tea.

Photo courtesy of KHS

The Kennebec Historical Society will host a Victorian Tea Party at its headquarters, 107 Winthrop Street in Augusta. Please come and join us as we celebrate the holiday season from 2 to 4 p.m. Sunday, December 8. If the weather does not cooperate, we’ll host the tea party the following Sunday, December 15, at the same time. The Victorian Tea replaces our usual December program.

There will be a variety of goodies to sample including cookies, snacks, coffee, and, of course, tea. Enjoy the festive decorations and holiday musical selections by Christopher Faris. Anyone interested in decorating, serving, or bringing some tasty treats is asked to contact Anne Cough, either by email at acough60@aol.com or by phone at 582-2823. In addition, do you have china tea cups with saucers that match or a collection of different sets that you are no longer using? We are looking for permanent donations to use at tea parties and other events. Only sets in good condition will be accepted, not chipped or cracked cups, etc. Contact Anne Cough with any questions or for more information.



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

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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

Business hours: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Wednesday through Friday **Assisted research hours:** By appointment only

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