

Kennebec Current

Discovering, preserving, and disseminating Kennebec County history since 1891

Volume 30 Issue 3

KENNEBEC HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

May-June 2020

KHS Receives \$5,000 Grant from the CARES Act

The Kennebec Historical Society has received a \$5,000 grant provided by the Maine Humanities Council and the National Endowment for the Humanities as part of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act economic stabilization plan 2020. The society will use the funds to help cover day-to-day operating expenses such as utilities, office supplies, postage, bookkeeping, and other necessities. Earlier this year, KHS qualified for an emergency Payroll Protection Program loan for nonprofits and for-profit entities to secure funds to pay staff and cover operating costs for two months, and secure full loan forgiveness.

The Maine Humanities Council was responsible for quickly distributing \$424,000 of funding to nonprofit humanities and cultural organizations facing financial hardship as a result of the coronavirus (COVID-19). The grant funding was a part of the \$2.2 trillion CARES Act economic stabilization plan, provided by the National Endowment for the Humanities.

The society's administrative director, Scott Wood said, "We are grateful to the Maine Humanities Council for recognizing the need for operating support. Most grants do not provide funding for regular operating expenses, but due to the coronavirus and the uncertainty of what may come, these funds will help KHS focus on its mission to preserve the county's history."

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Texas-bound Bruce Kirkham Leaving Fruitful Legacy to KHS



E. Bruce Kirkham says farewell at a recent KHS board meeting.

Photo by Scott Wood

The Kennebec Historical Society has been fortunate to benefit from the services of E. Bruce Kirkham, the society's longtime librarian, who brought to his volunteer position a distinguished academic background in American literature, expertise in transcription and organizing data, and a new joke each day he walked through the door.

But Kirkham says it's the other way around. "The most rewarding thing is what it's done for me," he said.

Kirkham, who joined KHS in 2000 after moving to Maine, is stepping down now that he and his wife, Kathy, have sold their Augusta home and are building a new one near Dallas, Texas, near one of their sons.

His KHS service started with a knock on his door by longtime society booster Joseph Owen, "and before I knew it, I bought a life membership."

"They really didn't know what to do with me, so they set me to work cataloging (*Kennebec Journal*) clippings," Kirkham said. With his extensive research and data organizing skills, however, he was soon helping to build a database to make it easier for researchers to use a growing mass of loosely categorized archival material.

In addition to his work as KHS librarian, Kirkham has served many years on the Board of Directors, where he was a master at rules of order; has led the Collections Committee (as "a kind of gatekeeper" for donations); and has written regularly for the *Kennebec Current*.

Former KHS President Ernie Plummer remembers the superb job Kirkham did in any of his assignments. After attending a Maine State Archives workshop on archival procedures with Plummer, Kirkham stepped into the role of librarian, in which he tackled, with Plummer's help, the challenge of sorting out a roomful of donations that had accumulated.

"Bruce took on a major project of updating the library, converting hundreds of books to the Dewey Decimal System and entering the new labels on the books and in the database," Plummer said. "Bruce became the society's go-to person on all aspects of books, including scanning the Internet for books to expand our library of Kennebec County books."

Kirkham's team of volunteers put together a periodic book sale that became popular with many people, Plummer said. "He could be found many days, all year long, sorting and shelving donated books for sale. When sale day came, his team would regularly show up and work at the sale."

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President's Message



Happy summer 2020 from all of us at KHS. I hope you and your family are safe and well during the COVID-19 pandemic. This note is to stay in touch and update you on how KHS plans to proceed over the summer and into the fall.

These last few months have been difficult for everyone at KHS. Now we are looking forward to seeing all of you again, but we also are making changes to help keep you all safe.

Now that our headquarters is open, some things are not the same as they were before we closed, but the welcoming by the KHS team has not changed, and we are determined as ever to deliver a fun environment with the same level of friendly service you've come to expect from us.

The well-being of society members, guests and the community is important to us. That is why we have implemented new KHS health and safety protocols at the Henry Weld Fuller Jr. House, KHS headquarters:

- Masks must be worn.
- Hand sanitizer use is required and hand washing is encouraged.
- Social distancing must be practiced.

Our popular monthly Wednesday night programs, with usually over 100 in attendance, remain postponed until we can meet in large groups safely. Hopefully, these programs will return in the late fall. Additionally, we will try to have our book sale – usually held in the spring – in the fall, if permissible.

The KHS Development Committee has been working steadily on the Moira H. Fuller Annual Fund appeal, securing the money necessary to keep the society open. To date, the committee has raised a little over \$30,000 toward the goal of \$70,000 needed for the operating budget. If you have not donated and are able to do so, please consider helping us reach this goal.

KHS headquarters is open to the public for research by appointment only. The staff and researching public will be expected to wear their own masks and use hand sanitizer as they enter the building. If you are unable to visit, KHS always can be reached by email, phone, Facebook and Instagram. Our archivist and our volunteers are ready to help you tackle your questions and historical inquiries.

So when you're ready, know that our doors are now open. Each of us at KHS looks forward to welcoming you back.

Lastly, on behalf of the KHS Board of Directors, I hope you and your families stay healthy and safe and I look forward to a time where we can celebrate history together!

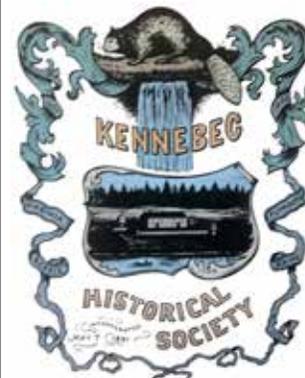
— Patsy Garside Crockett, president

KHS Receives \$5,000 Grant

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Every year the cost of operating continues to increase. The society has been able to continue to pay these costs in part by grant income, but most of the funding is provided through generous donations from its members and the public. Having these costs covered allows the society's volunteers to enjoy a functional, comfortable, weather-tight headquarters in which to scan, transcribe and catalog collection materials for Kennebec County researchers.

For more information, contact Wood by email at kennhis1891@gmail.com or by phone at (207) 622-7718.



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Total membership:

773 on June 17

Life members: 202

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.

Kirkham Leaving Fruitful Legacy to KHS

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Kirkham's wife, Kathy, also has served in a number of Kennebec Historical Society roles, including treasurer, cataloger of Kennebec Journal photos and inaugurator of the KHS gift shop. She took the lead role in putting together the museum store after KHS purchased its present headquarters in 2007, Plummer said.

"She set up and painted the display shelves in the foyer and then populated them with materials we had available and new items," Plummer said. "The new items included ones she solicited for on-consignment sales. At programs, Kathy, with Bruce's help, would carry sale items to the venue and sell to the attendees."

Plummer said Bruce Kirkham has been aggressive about procuring items for the society's collection. Kirkham regularly scanned the Internet for Kennebec County-related letters, photographs, postcards, manuscripts, and 19th-century newspapers.

"But he did not stop there. I remember going, on Bruce's initiative, to the Nicholson and Ryan jewelry store, which was closing, to see what we could get them to donate. As was so often the case, they were surprised at our interest in these old records; but Bruce was enthusiastic and they were willing, so another case of one man's trash is an archivist's treasure provided the society with a significant new collection."

Hundreds of handwritten letters that Kirkham procured for KHS over the years had to be transcribed for entry into our database so they would be available to the public.

"Bruce is an expert at transcription and as a teacher, so he arranged to teach volunteers transcription skills," Plummer said.

In 2011, KHS was given a major donation by the Kennebec Journal – around 170 ledgers and journals and over 8,000 news photographs and linked news stories, Plummer said.

"This was a major project to get into the database, but Bruce and Kathy stepped up to the challenge, organizing volunteers and working with them for weeks to get file folders labeled and photos sorted in preparation for our data input intern to catalog them," Plummer said.

KHS President Patsy Crockett said she appreciates Kirkham's "quiet, unwavering support."

"I always knew I could pick up the phone and ask for his opinion on any situation. I will miss all he has done for KHS, the book sales, chair of the Collections Committee, locating wonderful treasures for our collection, and most of all (his) quiet wit," Crockett said.

Before coming to Maine, Kirkham was a professor of English from 1968 to 2000 at Ball State University in Muncie, Indiana, where he taught 18th- and 19th-century American literature. Much of his scholarly work has a strong Maine connection, as it delves into the work of Harriet Beecher Stowe, a serious and prolific author known best for the anti-slavery novel *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. Stowe lived in Maine from 1851 to 1853 and penned the history-changing American classic while living in Brunswick. Altogether, she wrote 40 books, Kirkham said.

A widely respected scholar of the author, Kirkham has written several articles and books on the subject, including *The Building of Uncle Tom's Cabin*, published in 1977. He has donated 31 cartons of research material, such as copies of correspondence and transcriptions of his notes, to the Harriet Beecher Stowe Center in Hartford, Connecticut (<https://www.harrietbeecherstowecenter.org/>).

During his time at Ball State, Kirkham organized an association of people dedicated to enhancing the university's library system through contributions of materials and financial donations. For 25 years he ran the Friends of Bracken Library, which has raised a quarter-million dollars and at least that value in donated materials, Kirkham said.

After retiring from Ball State, Kirkham and his wife moved to Maine, where he opened an antiquarian book search and appraisal service called The Melancholy Lobster. But his introduction to Maine came well before that.

A native of White Plains, New York, Kirkham grew up in an atmosphere in which history was understood and appreciated. White Plains was the scene of a 1776 Revolutionary War battle, an event that captured young Bruce's interest.

"In third grade, I took it upon myself to take pictures of all the monuments," said Kirkham, who is 82. At home, he frequently was reminded of the historical stories attached to family furniture. "I've been surrounded by history all of my life."

In 1946, after World War II, Kirkham and his family traveled to Maine at the invitation of one of his dad's co-workers, who owned a camp in the state. His parents wound up buying another cabin, which had no water or electricity, after it became available in 1950. A couple of additions through the years have made the place more livable.

He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1961 and master's degree in 1963, both at Lehigh University, in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania; and he completed his doctorate in English in 1968 at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill. He started his teaching career at Ball State the same year.

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KHS Available to Researchers by Appointment; Programs Postponed

The Kennebec Historical Society, which closed on March 18 to the public because of the coronavirus, is now open for in-person research by appointment. In order to comply with state government regulations, KHS respectfully asks that researchers and volunteer staff wear their own masks, use hand sanitizer as they enter the building, and practice 6-foot social distancing. The society encourages researchers to contact KHS for an appointment by calling (207) 622-7718 or emailing their request for an appointment to kennhis1891@gmail.com. The society will also answer research requests by email, phone, and postal mail, as well as inquiries received through its social media accounts, Facebook and Instagram.

KHS President Patsy Crockett said, “The wellbeing of society members, guests and the community is important to all of us, and therefore we have implemented new KHS health and safety protocols. We are determined to deliver a fun environment with the same level of friendly service you’ve come to expect from us.”

The society’s free monthly historical programs and lectures, hosted at a variety of venues in Augusta and nearby communities, remain postponed until further notice. These programs were generally held on the third Wednesday of the month and would frequently draw over 100 attendees. Programs have been postponed since March and many of them were in celebration of Maine’s bicentennial and have been rescheduled to future dates. KHS hopes to resume programming by September, when it also holds its annual meeting. A list of upcoming programs can be found on the society’s website, www.kennebechistorical.org.

KHS is primarily a volunteer-run organization, with only one full-time employee. Its clientele includes the residents and former residents of Kennebec County’s 30 municipalities who are interested in local or Maine history, people researching the history of their homes or families, and students doing research for high school or college assignments. Additionally, the society answers many requests for genealogical and historical information from all over the United States. KHS collects documents, photographs, manuscripts, books, ephemera, maps, and scrapbooks related to all Kennebec County communities and their history in a state-of-the-art, climate-controlled archive, which is recognized by the state of Maine as an alternative government archive repository.

The Kennebec Historical Society Welcomes the Following New Members

Lee Amalfitano — Augusta
Elizabeth Fogg — Augusta
Richard Howard — Augusta
Debi Hunt — Driggs, Idaho

Janet Weymouth — Augusta
Bob & Pam Willette — Sidney
Winthrop Area Federal Credit Union — Winthrop

and continues to recognize ...

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

G & E Roofing
Kennebec Savings Bank
Meadow Park Development

Sponsoring Business Members (\$500+ annual)

J. S. McCarthy Printing
O’Connor GMC

Kirkham Leaving Fruitful Legacy to KHS

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The move back to Maine after his retirement required no big adjustment, as the Kirkhams, who raised three children, were familiar with the Augusta area. Besides the son near Dallas, they have a daughter in Indiana and a son now in Tokyo as he completes U.S. State Department service.

The decision to move to a new home has a lot to do with two concerns: snow and stairs. Kirkham doesn’t mind the cold winters, but shoveling snow is no longer the pure joy Mainers relish or endure. And climbing the flight of stairs each day has presented new challenges.

But Kirkham leaves KHS with some regrets. In retirement every day is free, but service to the society gave him “a marker” – a day to build his week around.

“It gives me a place to go every Wednesday,” said Kirkham. “It gives me a focus and a purpose and a delightful time.”

— Glenn Adams

Off the Shelf

We must count our blessings at KHS, for we have so many interesting and important items in our collection. One is the North papers, stored in eight boxes in our archive. The North family made significant contributions to the Kennebec Valley. Joseph North represented Gardinerstown in the Provincial Congress in 1774 and 1775, moving to Augusta (then Hallowell) in 1780. He was appointed judge of the Court of Common Pleas for Lincoln County by 1788, then held the same office for Kennebec County from 1799 to 1811. He and his wife, Hannah (Flagg), brought five children into the world, the last of whom was James. James died at the young age of 34 in Clinton, but not before marrying Martha Jewett, with whom he shared one child, James William, born February 12, 1810.

In his youth, James William studied at the Gardiner Lyceum and was admitted to a law practice in Augusta in 1831. He returned to Clinton after a year and continued his law career there. In 1845 he came back to Augusta and never left. He served as mayor from 1857 to 1861, then again from 1873 for two more years. He was also a representative to the legislatures of 1849, 1853 and 1874-5. In the meantime he had nurtured an interest in history, and we have him to thank for his substantial tome, *The History of Augusta*, published in 1870.

His papers, acquired by auction in 1994, include handwritten research notes, letters asking for information, individual chapters and correspondence relating to the history's publication. For example, North took it upon himself to send out unsolicited copies, to rave reviews. The response sent by Warren historian Cyrus Eaton is so complimentary that it leaves the reader wondering if the sentiments were genuine: "... (I)t exceeds anything in the line of local history I have yet met with, and is alike honorable to the author and worthy of the metropolis of our great and growing State. ... (T)he work is a perfect treasure, a jewel. ... I anticipate many hours of delight and instruction." (Eaton, January 23, 1872). Perhaps this simply reflects the florid language of the time.

Other boxes contain more personal letters, the family Bible, and genealogy (hand-drawn charts, coats of arms, and correspondence from relatives who knew about allied branches of the North tree). The earliest date I could find went back to the 1400s in Ireland and England. Legal and business documents may be found as well: a few deeds and wills, plus the legislative act that changed Augusta's original name of Harrington to Augusta.



Included with the North papers was this silk wedding dress. No information exists on the dress, but we are soliciting ideas on its history.

Photo by KHS staff

One real treat occupies an entire box: a modest silk wedding gown and veil, with tiny roses still embedded in the headband. We have no information on this other than that it came with the deal. I think it's from the early 20th century, but that's only a guess. We welcome any additional thoughts, of course. It might've been worn by one of James' granddaughters, Martha or Carolina. Their father, James W. Jr., was likewise accomplished, graduating twice from Bowdoin as a doctor, serving as an assistant surgeon in the 107th Regiment of Colored Infantry, and acted as city physician for Augusta in 1867.

On the occasion of James W. Sr.'s death on June 7, 1882, the *Maine Farmer* newspaper described him as "a man of great public spirit, wealth and influence, a gentleman by birth, education and associations; to every trust he was rigidly true, to every friend warm and loyal. ..." He's at rest in Forest Grove Cemetery, just up the hill from the Kennebec Historical Society headquarters.

We would be happy to show you this collection and any other materials, by appointment. Please don't hesitate to ask about a



James William North, author of the 1870 book, *The History of Augusta*.

Photo from KHS archive

— Emily Schroeder, KHS archivist

Manchester to Receive Replacement for Lost Boston Post Cane

A time-honored tradition suffered an interruption nearly seven decades ago in Manchester, and seasonal resident Harvey Lipman hopes to end that drought.

Sometime in the early 1950s, according to Lipman, the town's Boston Post cane – a honor usually passed to the town's oldest living resident when the previous recipient dies – became lost.

Lipman has acquired a new cane, and a local committee hopes to identify the town's oldest resident soon and honor that person with the cane. This time, however, the awardee will receive a certificate or a similar token, and the town will hold on to the cane, Lipman said.

The tradition began in 1909 when the now-defunct Boston Post newspaper sent gold-headed ebony canes to 700 New England towns, including Manchester, for distribution to the oldest man in each town. Later, women were included as awardees. Some canes eventually were lost. Historians in Maynard, Massachusetts, reported in 2016 that at that time, about 517 canes were still in circulation, and 227 of them were in Maine.

The new Manchester cane is being dedicated to Manchester native Stephanie Daggett Nichols, who died in January at the age of 69, Lipman said. Nichols was a former elementary school teacher and a member of several local organizations, including the Manchester Historical Society and the Manchester Grange. Her father, longtime Selectman John Daggett, operated Daggett's Market, an iconic grocery store where Nichols often worked behind the cash register, just as she did later at Mulligan's, the business that replaced Daggett's. Her mother, Ruth Banks Daggett, was a stalwart Grange participant and a member of the Kennebec Historical Society.

"I knew her whole family," Lipman said of Nichols. "I knew her mother and father very well. I was in the store all the time."

He said he acquired the new cane from the town of Peterborough, New Hampshire, which had several replica canes manufactured, but with brass heads and less exotic wood. Peterborough offers its extra canes for sale for about \$150 each. The town ordered them in batches for the same reason – its Boston Post Cane also had disappeared.



Shown above is the head of Manchester's new Boston Post Cane.



Harvey Lipman displays the new Boston Post Cane for Manchester.

Photos by Joseph Owen

The previous Peterborough town administrator worked for years to locate the town's original cane and finally tracked it down and reclaimed it, according to Deputy Town Administrator Nicole MacStay. To prevent it from being lost again, the town keeps it and awards one of the inexpensive replicas when the occasion calls for it, and it has no expectation of getting the replica back when the recipient dies or moves away.

In the meantime, MacStay said, Peterborough has developed a cottage industry of supplying other New England towns with replica canes. She said she has placed three orders for the manufacture of 200 canes since she began working for the town in 2006, and at least one other 200-cane order was placed before she arrived. Over that period, interest in the canes hasn't abated.

"We get at least an inquiry every couple of weeks," MacStay said.

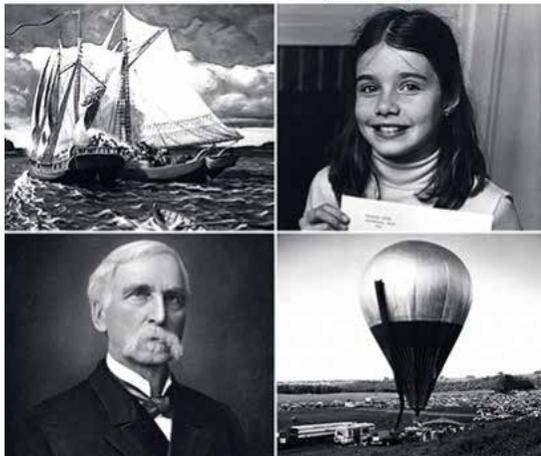
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KHS Board Member Publishes *This Day in Maine*



This Day in Maine

By Joseph Owen



Cover of *This Day in Maine*

Photo courtesy of Islandport Press

The society is pleased to announce that long-time board member Joseph Owen (and vice president for community relations) has just published a book, titled *This Day in Maine*. It is a delightful compilation of historical tidbits covering politics, weather, business, education, the military, maritime events, publishing and numerous other items of interest. Arrangement by month and day makes the book easy to explore; you can pick a date or browse from January on. For example, I chose my birthday and found out that the ship Gift of God arrived at the mouth of the Kennebec River on August 13, 1607. It was carrying about 120 colonists who were to build Fort St. George in what is now Phippsburg.

This one volume notes the 1998 ice storm (January 4), Martha Ballard's last diary entry (May 7, 1812), the day Fort Halifax washed away (April 1, 1987), the sinking of the steamship Cambridge off Port Clyde (February 10, 1886), and the first gathering to discuss the separation of Maine from Massachusetts (October 5, 1785). Even coronavirus gets a spot. The reader can't help but learn something new about the state!

This Day in Maine is the result of a brainstorm shared by the author and editors of the Kennebec Journal, Waterville's Morning Sentinel and allied Maine newspapers to commemorate the state's bicentennial. Request your copy today from the publisher, Islandport Press, at www.islandportpress.com.

Congratulations, Joe!

— Emily Schroeder, KHS archivist

Manchester's Boston Post Cane

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In the case of Manchester's new cane, Lipman arranged to have Anderson's Jewelers, of Wellesley, Massachusetts, engrave the town's name on the knob.

By coincidence, the Anderson's employee who did the engraving, goldsmith Jim Hamilton, spent a year in 1981 living on Pond Road in Manchester while attending the University of Maine at Augusta to study music.

"I really enjoyed it," Hamilton said in a telephone interview, referring to his stay in Manchester. "The people I lived with had a sailboat, and we used to go out on the lake once in a while." He added that he remembers patronizing Daggett's Market as well.

A committee consisting of Lipman, Miles Whitlock, Elizabeth "Bambi" Neale, and Diana Worthing has formed to move the Manchester cane project forward.

"Now we're trying to build a case for it and figure out how to present it," Whitlock said of the cane when called at his Hollowell office. He added that the committee also wants to make sure the cane doesn't go astray the way the previous one did, and committee members must do the research needed to determine who the town's oldest citizen is.

Lipman, whose Manchester roots date to the 1950s, also plans to deliver a lecture on the subject to the Manchester Historical Society.

He said he paid for the new cane and the engraving.

"This is my gift to the town of Manchester," he said.

— Joseph Owen

Letters TO THE Editor

Who Were Franklin's Uncles, Aaron and Eli Young? (And What Do They Have to Do with Maine's Bicentennial?)

In response to Bruce Kirkham's Collector's Corner article in the March-April 2018 issue of the *Kennebec Current*, we received this letter from KHS life member Pamela Roby.



Tintype of Franklin Scammon.

Photo courtesy of Pamela Roby

In *The Collections Box*, Bruce Kirkham announced in March 2018 an accession of "a ledger or diary kept by Franklin Scammon (1810-1864)" (*Kennebec Current*, page 3). In "What does Franklin Say?" in the same issue, Kari Mullen-McLaughlin told about transcribing the copy book with entries from 1831 to 1843, KHS's then-archivist Ernie Plummer's connecting Franklin and his well-known brothers, and her own research findings about Franklin (*Kennebec Current*, page 5). In a letter to the editor, I later commented on Franklin's parents Joanna Young and Eliakim Scammon, and grandparents Eliza Clark and David Young, of Pittston (*Kennebec Current*, May 2018, page 6).

Let's now ask about Franklin's uncles, also sons of Kennebec County, Aaron (1783-1875) and Eli Young (1787-1839). Who were they? And what is their relevance to Maine's bicentennial?

Aaron and Eli were two of Eliza and David Young's 12 children, and the second- and third-oldest brothers of Franklin's mother Joanna Young Scammon. In 1803, Aaron, of East Pittston, married Mary (Polly) Colburn, of West Pittston. Aaron and Polly were the parents of nine of Franklin's cousins. Eli and Eleanor Blinn, who married in Dresden in 1813, were the parents of eight others.

This year Aaron Young's saddle bags, which were made around 1800, will be on display in the Maine State Museum's bicentennial exhibit, "Regional Struggle, National Story: Maine's Path to Statehood" until the end of December. Aaron used them in the early 1800s when he was an itinerant Methodist minister (Maine State Museum catalog record 77.18.22). He later moved to Bangor, where he was a lawyer and lived until a month shy of age 92.

When Maine was in the process of becoming a state, Aaron's brother Eli was Pittston's only delegate to Maine's 1819 Constitutional Convention, which was held from October 11 to 29 in Portland. Kennebec County, of which Pittston was and is a part, sent 44 delegates to the convention, which had 210 delegates from Maine's eight counties. As a young, inexperienced delegate, Eli, age 32, contributed to the convention through his presence and conferring informally with others rather than by speaking in a way that was recorded.

Prior to being Pittston's delegate to the convention, Eli, who was a farmer, served as a Pittston moderator for three years, a selectman for seven years, its town clerk for three years and its treasurer for five years. Following the convention, he again served as a moderator, selectman, town clerk, and treasurer.

Above is a picture of Eli and Aaron's nephew Franklin as a young man. Together we are all learning more about Franklin, who graduated from the University of Pennsylvania's School of Medicine in 1832, practiced medicine in Hallowell, and kept a detailed journal that now resides in KHS's archives.

— Pamela Ann Roby, Franklin Scammon's great-great-great niece and KHS life member
Santa Cruz, California

KHS Life Member Pamela Roby Visits from California

KHS life member Professor Pamela Roby, from Orinda, California, was in Maine to participate in the events planned for the state's bicentennial and to visit KHS. Joining her was her cousin Margie Anderson and husband Edward Harter, from South Carolina. Pam hosted a dinner to thank KHS Archivist Emily Schroeder, President Patsy Crockett, board member Anne Cough and Pittston Literary and Historical Society President Dan Warren for all they do to preserve and promote history. A delightful time was had by all and KHS has two new life members.



From left: Dan Warren, Anne Cough, Emily Schroeder, Pam Roby, Patsy Crockett, Margie Anderson, and Edward Harter.

Photo by Scott Wood

Monthly Presentations Postponed

The Kennebec Historical Society had scheduled public lectures for July and August, but it later postponed both of them because of statewide restrictions on the size of public gatherings as a result of the coronavirus pandemic. The society's Programs and Publicity Committee will try to schedule them again after the state restrictions have been lifted, or at least modified in a way that makes the events possible.

In the meantime, here is a description of the lectures.

“Artifacts Found Along Benedict Arnold’s Trail”



Portrait of Benedict Arnold, by Thomas Hart, 1776.

Photo courtesy of Wikipedia

Kenny Wing, a lifelong native of Eustis, was born right after Flagstaff Lake was created. His father, his grandfather, and his great-grandfather were born and lived in Flagstaff village. His grandfather and his parents were some of those who had to move out in 1949 to make way for Flagstaff Lake. Wing's presentation is about Benedict Arnold and, in particular, Arnold's 1775 expedition through Maine and why he was even here in the first place.

Wing claims his interest in Benedict Arnold comes through osmosis from his father, who became a noted expert on Arnold's expedition through the Eustis area. Both Wings have discovered numerous sites where the expedition spent a night while on its way to Quebec City. The Wings' Arnold Expedition artifact collection, the largest in existence, has contributed greatly to what we know about that event.

Wing continues to live in Eustis and is an active board member of four historical organizations: the Flagstaff Memorial Chapel Association, the Maine Archaeological Society, the Arnold Expedition Historical Society, and the Dead River Area Historical Society. He is a co-author of *The Lost Villages of Flagstaff Lake* and has done extensive research for several authors of other books about the area.

Wing's talk had been scheduled for July.

“Inventing Vacationland”

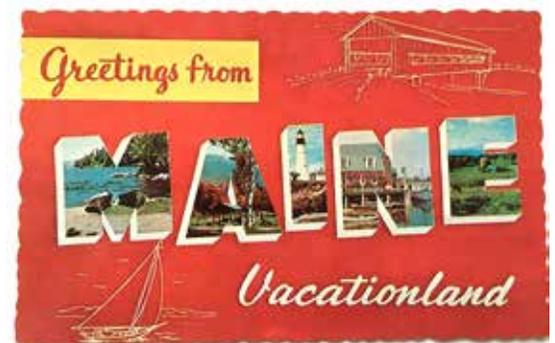
Maine has advertised itself officially as “Vacationland” since 1916. Before then it was touted as “The Nation's Playground” and “Sportsmen's Paradise.” Today Maine tourism and recreation businesses play host to more than 36 million visitors who spend more than \$6 billion each year, making tourism by far Maine's biggest industry.

Maine has been a pre-eminent destination for rusticators, tourists, vacationers and recreational and arts enthusiasts of all stripes and all seasons for nearly two centuries.

How did Maine become a vacation mecca? What were the milestones? Who were the key actors? What did they do and where did they do it? That's the subject of “Inventing Vacationland,” a PowerPoint slideshow and talk by Scott Andrews, a longtime journalist with a lifetime connection to various facets of Maine's vacation and tourism industry.

Andrews earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in history from the University of Chicago, a Master of Business Administration degree from the Chicago Booth School of Business, and an Master of Science degree from the London School of Economics. He has been involved in the Maine tourism industry since his teenage years, when he worked at his family's campground in Oxford County. A longtime journalist, Andrews has written hundreds of articles on recreation, the arts and the industry and history of tourism for a variety of local and national publications.

Andrews had been scheduled as the Kennebec Historical Society's presenter for August.



Vintage Maine post card.

Photo from KHS archive

Kennebec Historical Society, Inc.
PO Box 5582
Augusta, ME 04332-5582
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KENNEBEC HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC. - Application for Membership

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Town/City: _____ State: _____ ZIP code: _____

Telephone number: Home _____ Business _____

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 (2 people) - \$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

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