

Kennebec Current

Discovering, preserving, and disseminating Kennebec County history since 1891

Volume 30 Issue 4

KENNEBEC HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

July–August 2020

KHS Receives Approval for Carriage House Expansion

The Kennebec Historical Society received unanimous approval July 14 of its application for a permit to construct a building addition and for additional parking from the Augusta Planning Board.

The public hearing brought out many supporters of the project and a few people who were opposed. The board listened to all interested parties, deliberated, and then voted in favor of the KHS plan for expansion, according to a news release from Scott Wood, Kennebec Historical Society administrative director.

In January 2018, the KHS Board of Directors formed the Carriage House Expansion Committee to address the shortage of archive space because of the numerous recent donations to the society's collection. The committee met numerous times and explored many options, including the possibility of buying a house next door. Ultimately, the committee concluded that expanding the current building is the best way to proceed, and KHS engaged E.S. Coffin Engineering & Surveying to develop the plans for the proposed addition to KHS headquarters, the Henry Weld Fuller Jr. House.



The Augusta Planning Board votes unanimously July 14 in favor of the carriage house expansion of the KHS building.

Photo by Rich Eastman



KHS President Patsy Crockett addresses the Augusta Planning Board.

Photo by Rich Eastman

within the archive, there are rolling carts filled with collection material that stands between the shelving. “We really need more space to house the history of Kennebec County,” Schroeder said.

Many community members and neighbors spoke in favor of the project and expressed support for the society's goal of preserving Kennebec County's history. The few who spoke in opposition to the plan were concerned about the amount of parking and the sheer size of the addition. They questioned the need for so much space when the popular trend is to digitize paper records.

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President's Message



The Kennebec Historical Society has been working on its expansion project for a number of years, and it's an expansion that we desperately need.

We have had months of planning meetings, met with members of the community, talked with experts on historic buildings, and gone to the Augusta Historic District Review Board and adopted its suggestions. We hired a local engineering firm, E.S. Coffin Engineering & Surveying, to guide us through this project.

Also, we met with the West Side Neighbors group, and after listening to those folks' concerns, we worked with Coffin to reduce the number of parking spaces we had planned originally. With these changes to our design, we have been able to keep a large section of green space and have included gardens with flowers that would have been planted during the era when the house was built for a newly married couple, Henry Weld Fuller Jr. and his bride, in 1835.

Finally, as the society's president, I presented the carriage house expansion plan to the Augusta Planning Board on July 14 with a request for a building permit. It received unanimous board approval.

We are excited about this project because it will provide us with the added space we desperately need, and we are proud that it will be in the same footprint as the carriage house that was behind the original 1835 home that we occupy now.

We strongly believe we are a good fit for any neighborhood, just as a library, a church, a home day care center, and other businesses are good to have in a neighborhood. We do not create traffic, noise, or anything that will harm the environment. We are good neighbors. We keep our yard well maintained and are proud of our historic Henry Weld Fuller Jr. House.

Jessica Couture, our Building & Grounds Committee chairwoman, who has a degree in natural resource management from Sterling College in Vermont, is the person designated to work with Coffin on the plan for our gardens. The committee also sees to it that everything is well maintained and that our colors, windows and shutters are historically correct.

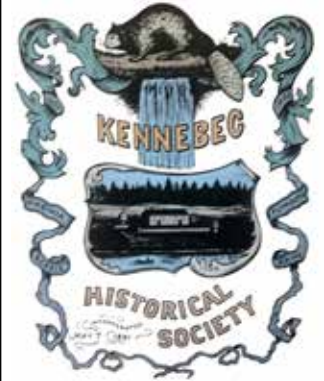
I told the Planning Board a little about what we do at 107 Winthrop St. The society was founded in 1891 to preserve, protect, and interpret documents, photographs, and other artifacts relating to Kennebec County. We are not a museum, so we do not attract large groups of people to view objects. We are a nonprofit historical society and have an archive. Our collection includes over 60,000 records of families. We have a library of books on local history and genealogy and annual municipal reports from all over Kennebec County. We have bound volumes of Kennebec County newspapers 1825 to 1919. We have thousands of photographs of local people, places, and events. We have high school and college yearbooks from schools in Augusta, Gardiner, China, Waterville, and elsewhere. We want to preserve documents of the present so that 100 years from now, folks will understand what we did today and why we did it.

Our membership and the folks who come to do research at our society are for the most part over 65, so many come with canes or walkers. In fact, most of our research inquiries come to us by email or through phone calls to KHS. We would love to attract younger folks, but it's just a fact that, much like us when we were young with small children and busy making a living, they don't have a great deal of time for historical research.

The next step in our expansion project will be presenting the plan to the Augusta Historic District Review Board for a Historic Preservation Certificate.

If you would like to stop in at KHS and see the plan, we would be happy to show the details of the project. If you would like to help with the fundraising for this addition, we'd love to have you join us.

— Patsy Garside Crockett, president



KHS Board of Directors

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Patsy Garside Crockett

Executive Vice President

Kent London

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Doreen Harvey

Secretary

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Thomas Johnson

Mark Johnston

John O'Connor

Earle G. Shettleworth Jr.

William Sprague Jr.

Newsletter Staff

Rich Eastman/editor

Sally Joy/adviser

Total membership:

764 on August 10

Life members: 203

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 17

The society's annual business meeting and election of directors will begin at 5:30 p.m. September 17 at the Kennebec Historical Society headquarters located at 107 Winthrop Street in Augusta. Because of restrictions related to the coronavirus pandemic, the meeting will be held outside, rain or shine. There will not be a potluck dinner or a program speaker, and those planning on attending must RSVP to the society by calling (207) 622-7718, or by email at kennhis1891@gmail.com.

Please note that changes to the society's bylaws in Article III, Meetings of the Society, Section 5; Article V, Board of Directors, Section 8; Article XIII, Amendment of Bylaws; and Article VIII, Committees of the Society, Sections 5, 8, and 10, will be proposed.

The board proposes to amend the following sections to allow for conference telephone or similar means:

Article III

Meetings of the Society

5. Voting. Decisions at annual and special meetings of the Society shall be made by a majority of the members in good standing, ~~present and voting~~ **either in person or by means of a conference telephone or similar communications equipment by means of which all persons participating in the meeting can hear each other.**

Article V

Board of Directors

8. Voting. Decisions at regular and special meetings of the Board of Directors shall be made by a majority of the members ~~present and voting~~ **either in person or by means of a conference telephone or similar communications equipment by means of which all persons participating in the meeting can hear each other.**

Article XIII

Amendment of Bylaws

These Bylaws may be amended at any meeting of the Society by an affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of those ~~present and voting~~ **either in person or by means of a conference telephone or similar communications equipment by means of which all persons participating in the meeting can hear each other**, provided written notice of the proposed amendment shall have been given in the call for said meeting.

The Board proposes to eliminate Paragraph 10, Facilities Management Committee, from Article VIII, Committees of the Society, and redistribute those duties to Paragraph 5, Collections Committee, and to Paragraph 8, Buildings and Grounds Committee:

~~10. Facilities Management Committee. The 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.~~

5. Collections Committee. The Collections Committee shall oversee the proper maintenance and care of the Society's collection and is responsible for accessioning items to and deaccessioning items from the collection. **The committee is responsible for planning and the execution of exhibits and tours.**

8. Buildings and Grounds Committee. The Buildings and Grounds Committee shall recommend policies for the maintenance, repair, and occupancy of the physical facilities and grounds of the Society and shall advise the Executive Director in the execution of these policies. **The committee is responsible for recommending to the Board of Directors policy for use of the Society's House, decorating and furnishing the interior of the house.**

Anyone who has questions about the proposed 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.

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KHS Receives Planning Board Approval

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Rich Eastman, the society's Collection Committee co-chairman, pointed out the necessity for original records when doing research, as the quality of scanners and the transcribing process can be troublesome.

Eastman further said, "The need for original documents in genealogical and historical research is paramount to preserving the past. It is not enough to see the text or image. ... One must feel the material and get a closer look at text styles to do proper transcription, a necessity that is lost in digitization."

James Coffin, of E.S. Coffin Engineering & Surveying, reviewed the design with the Planning Board and addressed the size of the addition by pointing out other structures in the neighborhood that are three stories tall and that the proposed addition is only two stories with a daylight basement and a mere 5 inches taller than the current building.

He also noted that the building required by code 19 parking spots, but KHS requested a waiver since five parking spots would satisfy the society's needs, more parking spots would reduce the amount of desired green space, and onsite street parking is available. Coffin noted that the society listened to the neighborhood concerns and that the current design addresses many of those concerns.

Anyone interested in seeing the current KHS plan for expansion or who would like to receive a tour of the society's headquarters is asked to contact Wood at 207-622-7718 or by email at kennhis1891@gmail.com.



Engineer James Coffin reviews the KHS expansion design and answers Augusta Planning Board members' questions.

Photo by Rich Eastman

KHS Annual Meeting - 2020 Election of Society Directors

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Returning Officers:

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

Treasurer: Doreen Harvey, Winthrop • Secretary: Stefanie Barley, Augusta

Returning Directors:

Lockhart Kiermaier, Augusta • John Lawrence, Gardiner • Joseph Owen, Augusta • Emily Schroeder, South China

The nominating committee presents the following slate of directors:

(All terms are two years, unless otherwise noted)

Nancy Merrick, Augusta • Rich Eastman, Augusta • Jan Michaud, 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 • Amelia Clukey, Augusta • Joseph O'Donnell, Monmouth

Does Anybody Know?

The society recently received a query from a local woman who recalls the wonderful aroma of baking bread from Augusta's Hotel North, about 60 years ago. She'd really like to know the name of the baker. Some possible details: She may have been Russian, French, or Hungarian; and she had a son.

I've tried contacting a son of the hotel's manager, Charles Porath, but my letter was returned. Any clues would be most appreciated! Thank so much.

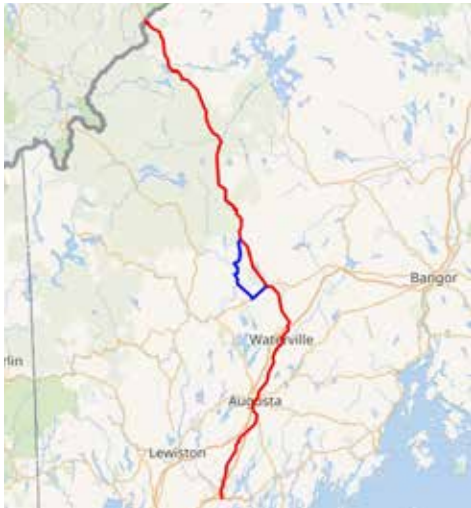
— Emily A. Schroeder, Archivist

Off the Shelf

History really does repeat itself. Volunteer Sally Nelson recently rediscovered one of Anthony Douin's Antiquarian Notebook articles, titled "Augusta's Irish Roots Found Purchase at St. Mary's," which appeared in *Capital Weekly* on March 15, 2001. (Sally is busily cataloging all the articles in this series. Thank you, Sally!)

The account details the Irish immigration to the Augusta area during the early to mid-1800s. What Sally and I found of most interest was one of the main reasons for the Irish to cross the ocean and establish themselves anew: disease. We're not talking about today's influenza, or something with relatively mild symptoms. The pandemic of the time was cholera. There were two waves of it. The first, 1817-24, began near Calcutta and spread through most of Asia, the Middle East, eastern Africa and the Mediterranean coast before relaxing its grip. Hundreds of thousands died, including British soldiers.

The second, called Asiatic cholera, 1826-37, proved a distinct threat to the Kennebec Valley and beyond. Remnants of the first siege may have remained in Indonesia and the Philippines, and started again at the Ganges Delta, spreading farther via trade routes. Russia was hit hard, particularly during the Polish-Russian War in 1830-1. The British government ordered ships coming from Russian ports to quarantine, but these efforts were not enough. By 1832 cholera had reached Quebec, Ontario, Nova Scotia, Detroit and New York City. Within the next two years it travelled to the Pacific Coast.



Between Solon and its northern terminus, U.S. Route 201 is known as the Old Canada Road National Scenic Byway.

Courtesy Wikipedia/© OpenStreetMap contributors

News of the disease's devastation in Canada spread rapidly. It was clear to town officials in Maine that action must be taken. Augusta citizens met June 23 and agreed that introduction by immigrants had to be prevented, and any "predisposing causes" (James North's *History of Augusta*, p. 542) must be eliminated as well. Contact on the matter was established. The committee appointed was made up of Henry W. Fuller, Asa Redington Jr., Issachar Snell, Luther Severance, and William A. Drew. The *Kennebec Journal* reported (July 13, 1832, p. 2) on another meeting in Milburn, now Skowhegan, June 25, composed of selectmen from several towns in Somerset County and Waterville. Members wrote resolutions, in part: "Whereas, the Cholera which for several years has prevailed and been spreading through Asia and Europe, has recently been introduced into Quebec, and now prevails in that place, and to several other places in the Province of Lower Canada, and there is great reason to fear that it will be communicated to and spread in this State, by travellers on the Canada road, unless effectual measures are immediately adopted to prevent it." Twenty men were to guard the Canada Road — fifteen at Moose River and five at the Canadian boundary — "to stop all travellers and to prevent all intercourse between this state and the inhabitants of Lower Canada." Sound eerily familiar? As of this writing, non-essential travel to Canada is banned until August 21 because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Back to 1832: James North stated that Maine averted a health crisis by living on granite, not limestone, by having water without lime. (North's *History*, p. 543.) If anyone has more knowledge of cholera, please let me know if this theory has some validity.

Thankfully, history and science co-exist and provide valuable lessons. Let's hope for an answer to COVID sooner rather than later. Until next time, stay safe and well!

Historically yours ...



The year 1832 is of particular interest to us. The Irish were arriving in droves, many stopping initially in eastern Canada and Quebec, intending to travel south to Boston and west from there. The ideal route was the Canada Road, known today as U. S. Route 201; it had just been completed in 1830. From Quebec, you may cross the border at Sandy Bay Township (in disease-free times), go south to Jackman and The Forks, then follow the Kennebec River more closely by Caratunk, Bingham, Solon, Skowhegan, Waterville, Vassalboro, and Augusta. It continues to Topsham, ending at the river's mouth.

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— Emily A. Schroeder, KHS archivist

Maine Military Museum Finds New Home

The Maine Military Historical Society has moved its museum into its new home and is inviting visitors to tour the site, not far from the Kennebec Historical Society's headquarters in Augusta.

The museum's previous building, also at Camp Keyes, has been demolished and the contents were removed starting in July 2019. The new museum houses uniforms worn during major wars, weaponry dating back to the Revolutionary War, and a new collection of 4,000 volumes of books dealing with war history as well as numerous other records and artifacts.

The museum is located in a refurbished former cold storage building, said museum Curator Peter Ogden, chairman of the Maine Military Historical Society's board. "We still have 30 boxes of books in storage," Ogden said in early July as the museum was in latter stages of being organized.

"We got the key on July 15, 2019, then started moving things over," Ogden said. But the bulk of the materials were brought to the new site by a moving company over a two-day period. It opened in June 2020.

Visitors will see a painting of a Revolutionary War-era militiaman, by Army National Guard Col. John Sapp, as soon as they walk through the main entrance. Once inside the brick building, they will see a brighter, more open site, well-lit by windows lining the wall near the roof; and freshly painted white walls, a contrast to the darker, more cut-up interior of the former site.



The entrance to the new location of the Maine Military Historical Society Museum can be seen near its previous site at Camp Keyes.

Photo by Rich Eastman



An 1872 Gatling gun is shown on display at the museum.

Photo by Glenn Adams

"It's kind of open now," Ogden said. Many of the exhibits are housed in a dozen glass cabinets donated by Colby College, which had kept them in storage but decided to give them to the museum, he said. Those and other displays are supported on wheels so they can be moved easily.

"We opened (the first museum) in October 1988. We wanted to open (the new one) last October, but we are hoping to have a re-dedication ceremony in October," Ogden said.

As the museum looks to the future in its new home, it is also looking at ways to reach out to more young visitors, including school groups, to teach them more about the experiences of those who served in a way that does not glorify war but illustrates the realities of what service members experienced.

"We want to be able to tell the story of what they were, what they ate, and where they went," Ogden said. Youths may be able to try on some of the donated clothing as a hands-on experience.

Also among its possessions are pre-Revolutionary War artifacts such as militia flags and drill materials, uniforms, and items brought back from the Iraq war zone. It also houses photographs, medals, a Korean War-era Jeep and documents such as handwritten mobilization forms from the Spanish-American War and certificates for mobilization for the Pancho Villa expedition in Mexico in 1916. Small cannons and a fully operational Gatling gun are among the arms on display. Another interesting item on display is a World War II-era dog tag-making machine.

The museum is open the first Sundays of the month from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Visits may also be arranged by appointment. Admission is free. Like KHS, the military museum relies heavily on donations and memberships. It is located several blocks from KHS at the top of Winthrop Street near the Augusta State Airport.

— Glenn Adams

KHS Holds First Facebook Seminar



Publicity Committee Chairperson Jamie Logan live-streams Glenn Adams July 22 at KHS' first Facebook Seminar at the society's headquarters in Augusta.

Photo by Emily Schroeder

With the COVID-19 pandemic crisis continuing, the Kennebec Historical Society resumed its monthly lecture series via social media during the summer to preserve the momentum of this popular series.

On July 22, KHS presented a lecture by former Maine State House correspondent Glenn Adams on his three decades covering state politics, government, and general news from the Capitol.

Adams' lecture, presented via Facebook Live, focused on the rich but often overlooked history of Maine's most public building. Adams also told stories that didn't make the headlines about the governors he's covered, retraced the steps of those who walked the same halls decades earlier, and touched on some of the unsolved mysteries surrounding the State House.

The talk drew a real-time audience of more than 40 — a third to half of the number who usually attend live lectures — prompted many interactive comments, and drew 324 views by the next day.

As with this initial presentation, lectures to follow on the third Wednesday of the month until live lectures can resume will be available on Facebook, either live or in retrievable form.

The next one (August 19) will feature mystery author Gerry Boyle in a presentation titled "The Mystery of History," with a focus on Benedict Arnold's ill-fated expedition up the Kennebec River in 1775 (See details on page 9).

Instrumental in making these lectures possible is volunteer Jamie Logan, our KHS technical wizard.

Patsy Crockett, president of the KHS Board of Directors, said the society in the past has held the lectures at beautiful area churches, historic buildings, and University of Maine at Augusta's Jewett Hall, in addition to the Maine State Library.

Because of social distancing recommendations, KHS has switched many of its functions, including committee meetings, to social media.

"We sincerely hope you'll find these presentations informative and we look forward to seeing you all again when in-person meetings can safely resume," said Crockett.

— Glenn Adams

KHS Finds Mystery Donation Dropped on Doorstep

The Kennebec Historical Society is looking for some help in connection with a recent donation made for its collection of Kennebec County materials.

The society received a large donation of letters and other documents in a plastic Ziploc bag that was left by the front door of its headquarters, the Henry Weld Fuller Jr. House, at 107 Winthrop St., in Augusta.

The materials are a welcome addition to the collection of manuscripts, letters, and other documents from Kennebec County, according to a news release from the society.

In order to catalog these items accurately, the society is looking for the individual who donated them to discover where the items came from so that information can be added to the society's records. Having knowledge of who wrote the letters or who they were written to provides the society with the background information it needs to catalog items properly and make them searchable to researchers.

If you are the person who donated these items, or have information about who dropped off the donation, please contact the society.

Those who would like more information about these items, please contact Emily Schroeder, archivist, at 207-622-7718 or by email at kennhis1891@gmail.com.

Reflections on the Loss of Camp Bomazeen

Editor's note: The Kennebec Journal reported in July that the Pine Tree Council of the Boy Scouts of America, which supervises Scouting activities in 10 of Maine's 16 counties, has decided to sell Camp Bomazeen in North Belgrade.

The writer, John J. O'Connor, was a camper and later a staff member at the facility

For 75 years Camp Bomazeen has been a symbol of Scouting in central Maine, offering camping, swimming, hiking, and general fellowship to Scouts of all ages.

The camp, located on Horse Point in North Belgrade and situated on the shores of Great Pond, originally was donated to the Pine Tree Council BSA in 1945 by Dr. George Averill. His intention was to provide a summer camp where Scouts from central Maine could gather and have a great outdoor experience. The name "Camp Bomazeen" was taken in honor of an Indian chief from the Norridgewock area who had been friendly to the early settlers of this state.

Since 1945 generations of young men have experienced what Scouting exemplifies via their summer visits. During this same time period, the camp continued to grow and change so that it became more a family experience. However, the decline in Scouting and the cost of running a camp have placed a financial burden on the Pine Tree Council. Starting in the mid-1970s, the council began to sell off sections of land in order to keep the movement going. The first to go was the log cabin at Snake Point, which had a 360-degree view of the lake. During the next financial crisis, the council sent loggers in, and they took all the saleable trees they could harvest. Slowly, more land was sold. Of what once was 398 acres, now only 100 acres remain; but the camp still has one of the prettiest waterfronts that you will see anywhere.

This was a year to celebrate the camp on its 75th anniversary. However, because of COVID-19, the camp did not open in 2020. The executive council has decided to place this property up for sale in order to keep Pine Tree Council financially viable.

I feel this is a real calamity, as now my grandchildren and their friends will not experience the pleasure of being a camper at Camp Bomazeen.

My love affair with the camp started in the summer of 1962. That was the first year I was sent off to camp. My troop, 225, of Augusta, was assigned the Hillside campsite, which housed four large army tents (eight Scouts to each), a common ground and, of course, our own outhouse. We were served three meals a day at the camp dining hall, which was located right on the beach of one of the best lakes in Maine. Total cost for one week: \$18. Our scoutmaster at the time, Paul True, had us pay a little each week so that every Scout in the unit attended camp. In 1963 our troop moved to the Baxter site, which was pure luxury, as we were now in two-men tents on a wooden platform and had much more sun than we did at our previous campsite. This was also my last year as a camper.

In 1964 I became a staff member at the camp. D. Francis Ryan and I manned the kitchen staff at the camp. Our days started at 5 in the morning and lasted until 7 at night for 10 weeks. We made the big bucks, as we received \$100 for the summer. The side benefits were that we could work on various merit badges toward our advancement in Scouting. Francis and I were the first Eagle Scouts from St. Mary's Troop 225 in the 25-year history of the troop.

In 1965 I went back to camp to serve as the assistant director of woodlands. We instructed on nature and forestry, and we managed to get in several hikes, both in the bogs at the end of Snake Point and up to Tukey's store on Route 8. Also, in 1965 the camp opened a new campsite called "The Pines." This was done to accommodate the larger Scout troops. That year Troop 625 (formerly 225) came to camp with more than 100 Scouts and several leaders. The leaders included Paul True, Eldon Lizotte, Thomas O'Connor (my father), Buzz Toman, and Mr. Gardner. Troop 625 was served separately at the dining hall because of its size. The Pines also was one of the places where trees were cut later to finance projects at the other council-owned camps.

In 1967 I began working on the waterfront as the assistant waterfront director. I taught swimming, canoeing, rowing and a Scout favorite — the 1-mile swim. As I mentioned before, we had the best waterfront of any Scout camp, and I had visited all of them in northern New England.

In the mid-1960s, Ron Cross, from Augusta, was the waterfront director. He built a watchtower so that the staff could always keep an eye on the swimmers. That tower was a beacon to the camp for many years. During this timeframe, we filled the camp for eight weeks a year with 200 to 250 campers each week.

In 1969 I was still greatly involved in Scouting and was serving under Ron as the assistant waterfront director, with three other waterfront staff members. From dawn to dusk we had Scouts either in the water, on canoe trips or in some form of instruction. We had one day off a week and never on a Saturday or Sunday, because that was the time when we would rearrange the camp for the next wave of Scouts coming to camp, lugging platforms and tents from one site to another based on the size of the troop.

I left camp employment in 1970 as the need for college funds pushed me in another direction. However, in 1973, the summer before I graduated from college, I had the opportunity to become the waterfront director at Camp Bomazeen. I had a dedicated staff, and together we provided the best Scouting experience possible.

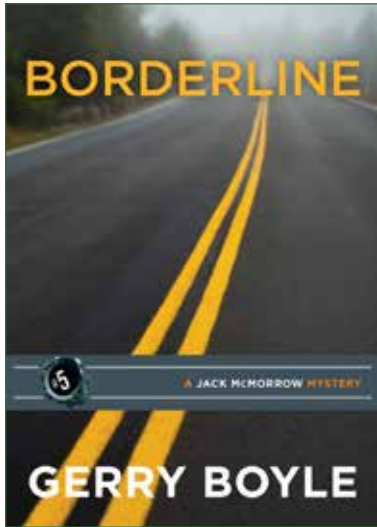
The camp may be sold, but my memories will last. It is a sad that future generations of Scouts will not have the opportunity to have the experiences I had there.



— John J. O'Connor, a former member of the Kennebec Historical Society's Board of Directors, works as a senior bank examiner for the state of Maine. He lives in East Winthrop with his wife, Susan.

Upcoming Facebook Program

“The Mystery of History”



Speaker Gerry Boyle's newest book, *Borderline*.

Photo courtesy of the author.

The history of Maine is always the backdrop of Gerry Boyle's mystery novels, none more so than *Borderline*, in which protagonist and journalist Jack McMorrow sets out to write a story about Benedict Arnold's trek up the Kennebec River. McMorrow does his own research, just as Boyle did — spending hours in the Maine State Archives and the Maine State Museum as he perused primary materials related to Arnold's ill-fated expedition, and traced much of Arnold's route, from Merrymeeting Bay to Quebec City.

Join KHS at 7 p.m. Wednesday, August 19, when Boyle will talk about that experience, how he translated it to crime fiction, and the fertile and mysterious backdrop that Maine provides for those who take the time to explore its past.

The Kennebec Historical Society's presenter, Gerry Boyle, is the author of 15 mystery novels, including the dozen installments in the Jack McMorrow series. A former newspaper reporter and columnist, Boyle draws on his journalist experience as McMorrow leads him down the back roads of Maine. Faded crossroads, small towns, gritty cities — Boyle knows the darkest reaches of his home state. McMorrow novels have garnered critical acclaim and have been translated into a half-dozen languages. Boyle is also the author of the Brandon Blake series, the third of which, *Port City Crossfire*, was recently published. He lives in a small village on a lake in Central Maine.



KHS speaker Gerry Boyle.

All you need to do to view this presentation is head to the KHS Facebook page at 7 p.m. August 19, and the video will air live. It will also be available to watch later if you prefer. If you have a question for the Q&A, submit it in the comments on this event, or comment with it during the live video presentation. Here is the link to the KHS Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/KHS1891>. If you have any questions about the program, please call Scott Wood, the administrative director, at 622-7718.

The Kennebec Historical Society is Seeking New Members

Founded in 1891, the Kennebec Historical Society makes available to the public its resources pertaining to all of Kennebec County's 30 municipalities. Know of someone who would enjoy a membership? Interested in expanding your current membership to family or life member? Become a member for only \$20 annually, or better yet, make a one-time donation of \$200 for a life membership! If you can help us as a volunteer, we would consider it an honor. Note that the Kennebec Historical Society is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, so membership dues and other donations are tax-deductible.

KHS 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

✧ In Memoriam ✧

Dorothy L. Merrick, 96, a longtime Kennebec Historical Society member, supporter, and volunteer, died March 29 in Auburn. She lived most of her life in Augusta. A charter member and founder of the Maine Council of Senior Citizens, she was a vocal public advocate of the needs of Maine's elderly. She is survived by four children, as well as many grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and great-great-grandchildren.

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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E-mail address: kennhis1891@gmail.com

Telephone: (207) 622-7718

Web site: www.kennebechistorical.org