

Kennebec Current

Discovering, preserving, and disseminating Kennebec County history since 1891

Volume 30 Issue 5

KENNEBEC HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

September–October 2020

Maine State Archives Awards KHS \$1,500 Preservation Grant

The Kennebec Historical Society has received a \$1,500 New Century Community Grant from the Maine State Archives. The grant provides funding for the preservation of archival collections. During the current Covid-19 pandemic, many organizations are finding their resources strained, including the Kennebec Historical Society. The grant aims to support and provide needed resources to care for and improve access to archival collections.

In April, KHS converted its Access Collections Database to the commercially produced, widely accepted PastPerfect software program. Following the dramatic conversion of over 60,000 records, KHS determined that a complete inventory of its archive was necessary, comparing old records with new and ensuring that the items listed in the software were consistent with the location in the archive. It is estimated that a complete inventory of the archive will take several months and require significant supervision and resources.

KHS plans to stabilize and assess the collections to determine the order in which they should be inventoried. Converted records will need to be verified in the PastPerfect software and the location of the item in the archive confirmed. As items are discovered and inventoried, there may be a need to purchase the proper collection supplies to protect and preserve them.

KHS also plans to hire its current volunteer archivist, Emily Schroeder, to provide volunteers and interns with the proper supervision and necessary training. Schroeder was employed by the Maine State Library for over 35 years, and the society expects to benefit from her archival skills and knowledge of the new software. She already volunteers two days a week for KHS, and the grant allows the society to fund an additional day per week, increasing her overall availability to interns and volunteers.



KHS Archivist Emily Schroeder peruses the society's archival stacks, looking for records in the climate-controlled storage room.

Photos by Scott Wood



Space in the society's record storage area is at a premium.

The society's administrative director, Scott Wood, said, "We are thrilled to receive the New Century Community Grant from the Maine State Archives and to have Emily here three days a week. There is nothing more discouraging than turning away a researcher because an item is either lost or not cataloged properly, especially if we actually have what they were looking for, but just could not find it."

Once collections have been assessed and stabilized, the society will make information about the inventoried collections available through its website, its bimonthly newsletter, social media accounts, and news releases. For more information about the grant project, contact Wood by email at kennhis1891@gmail.com or by phone at (207) 622-7718.

President's Message



Looking back on the past year makes you pause and go, “Wow, we made it.” However, we also took some big steps forward.

When our longtime archivist Ernie Plummer moved out of state to live near his family, Emily Schroeder stepped up and became the new archivist. In her roughly 20 years with KHS, Emily has been board secretary; chairwoman of the Collection, Facility Management, and Personnel committees; and a Carriage House Expansion Committee member.

In March, with the coronavirus pandemic spreading, we closed our doors to all except Scott Wood, our administrative director. We applied to the state for an exemption to allow us to stay open as a necessary business. We needed to have Scott there to monitor our climate-controlled archive and pay our bills. The state gave us that exemption.

The federal government then announced Payroll Protection Program grants, which were forgivable loans available to nonprofits and small businesses during the pandemic. The Executive Committee met in the snow-covered KHS driveway and voted to apply. We received a grant that paid for Scott's salary and some utilities. The grant gave Scott time to research the purchase and installation of a new database system for membership records and the archive. The user-friendly system, funded by 2019 grants awarded for that purpose, helps staff members, volunteers, and the public find items more efficiently.

The Publicity Committee, consisting of Chairwoman Jamie Logan and members Billy Noble and Rich Eastman, held a successful trivia night and a successful second annual tennis tournament, the latter under Billy's leadership.

Newsletter Committee Chairman Rich Eastman and members Sally Joy and Joe Owen provided us with newsletters in color for the first time.

The Membership Committee, led by Glenn Adams and Nancy Merrick, has called lapsed members and written to ask them to renew. Glenn also was instrumental in arranging complimentary memberships for all Maine Legislature members and Gov. Janet Mills.

Advised by E.S. Coffin Engineering, the Carriage House Expansion Committee obtained the Augusta Planning Board's unanimous approval for expanding KHS headquarters. The committee is working with the Development Committee on ways to proceed with fundraising for the project, and it welcomes suggestions, assistance, or donations from any and all.

KHS hosted two interns from Thomas College this year, Audrey Kimball and Lyta Mitchell. Also, the society hired Nicki Nolton, who is working as Scott's assistant and is paid by the U.S. Department of Labor through the Senior Community Service Employment Program.

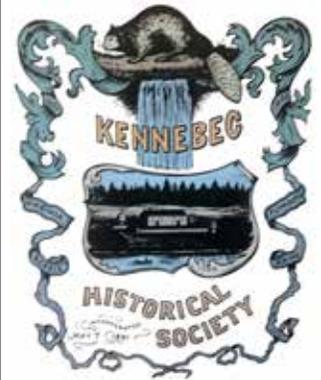
The KHS board and committees now meet mostly online on Zoom. Monthly lectures are done on Facebook, and we are getting over 340 views per lecture, with some viewers as far away as California. When the governor told nonprofits it was OK to open the doors again, we did so under strict pandemic guidelines. The society is open by appointment only for visitors and in-person researchers.

The Development Committee, led by Roger Pomerleau, is making its way to the goal of raising \$70,000 for this year to keep the lights and heat on, pay for one staff person, and cover other operating expenses. The society also has received a total of \$18,267 in grants for 2020.

Thank you to the Nominating Committee for a great slate of board officers. The new board members are Jan Michaud and Amelia Clukey. Stefanie Barley has been elected board secretary, and Archivist Emily Schroeder is co-chairwoman of the Collection Committee with Rich Eastman. I look forward to working with both new and returning board members.

Thank you all for allowing me the privilege of serving as president of this board.

— Patsy Garside Crockett, president



KHS Board of Directors

President

Patsy Garside Crockett

Executive Vice President

Kent London

Treasurer

Doreen Harvey

Secretary

Stefanie Barley

Directors

Amelia Clukey

Anne Cough

Rich Eastman

Lock Kiermaier

John Lawrence

Nancy Merrick

Jan Michaud

Billy Noble

Joseph O'Donnell

Joseph Owen

Emily Schroeder

Administrative Director

Scott Wood

Advisory Committee

Thomas Johnson

Mark Johnston

John O'Connor

Earle G. Shettleworth Jr.

William Sprague Jr.

Newsletter Staff

Rich Eastman/editor

Sally Joy/adviser

Total membership:

773 on October 15

Life members: 207

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: The Last Outdoor Affair?

On September 17, the Kennebec Historical Society held its annual meeting, although this year looked much different from years past. The society traditionally has a potluck dinner, followed by the usual business meeting and a program in which the presenter would talk about some aspect of Kennebec County history. Due to the pandemic and large gathering restrictions, the annual meeting extravaganza was reduced to just the business of KHS, with a twist: The meeting was held outside.

The meeting began with the society's president, Patsy Crockett, welcoming the gathering of about 16 people, and then she proceeded to talk about the past year. She mentioned the difficulties and disappointment of not having in-person programs but noted that the society has adapted and begun online Facebook Live presentations. Crockett also pointed out that the society's administrative director, Scott Wood, was able to continue working throughout the pandemic once KHS was deemed essential. Lastly, she thanked all who attended and their willingness to meet in the society's driveway and turnaround.

Doreen Harvey, the society's treasurer, followed with an update on the financial affairs of the society and presented a budget for 2021. Harvey highlighted some of the grants KHS received in 2020 and reported that expenses were being met by some of the grant money received late last year. Those attending then



The KHS Board of Directors practices social distancing at the recent annual meeting.

Photos by Rich Eastman



Society President Patsy Crockett addresses the board.



unanimously voted on the three nominees for the KHS Board of Directors, Nancy Merrick and Rich Eastman, both returning directors, and welcomed newcomer Jan Michaud. At-large members later appointed at the October board meeting are Anne Cough, Billy Noble, Joseph O'Donnell, and Amelia Clukey.

The pandemic also had an effect on the KHS bylaws. The bylaws required that decisions at all board meetings or special meetings needed to be made by members "present and voting." Since early restrictions by the state government did not allow large groups to gather indoors, the board suggested amending the bylaws to allow voting to occur either in person or by conference telephone or similar communications equipment. In fact, to accommodate the previous bylaws, the executive committee met outside in the month of April. The proposed changes were approved by those in attendance, essentially eliminating the need for any future outdoor business meetings.

The Collections Box

Several years ago, a good friend told me that history is like a jigsaw puzzle and time has scattered the pieces. It is the goal of the Kennebec Historical Society to look for the pieces and find their proper places in the puzzle of the history of Kennebec County.

— Bruce Kirkham, former Collections Committee chairman



The Collections Committee is happy to announce that despite lockdowns and the turmoil of Covid-19, donations are still coming in and purchases are still being made. We are so thankful for those folks who are spending spare hours cleaning their houses and giving their historical finds to us. Here are some of the items we've acquired recently.

The contents of a box found under the floorboards of a house on Chapel Street in Augusta; all sorts of goodies, including an Augusta bicentennial souvenir license plate, book and pin; a print of the State House in 1836, done by Charles Codman; some songs from Cony High School, which were scanned for future reference; a business directory of the area dated 1890/91; a graduation certificate for a local doctor; and Memorial Bridge toll tickets, to name a few. This remains a mystery, as we can't connect individuals to most of these items. Another mystery was received in June, when a most interesting collection of letters and personal papers of James Potter, of South Gardiner, was left on our porch. Efforts to find the donor have failed so far.

Books for our library include, in part, *This Day in Maine*, by Joseph Owen (of the society); *Extra! Extra! Read All About It: Memories of Clinton, Maine 1950's & 60's*, by Blair "Buddy" Frost; *The Chief Justiceship of Melville W. Fuller 1888-1910*, by James W. Ely Jr.; 1919-1920 directory of Kennebec County; and *History of the Town of Wayne, Kennebec County, Maine, from Its Settlement to 1898*, published by the *Maine Farmer*. Those interested in legal history will be happy to know that we now possess the 1914 diary of Norman Leslie Bassett, noted attorney in Augusta. Another highlight was the donation, courtesy of the North Haven Historical Society, of Priscilla Sewall Webster Page's personal reminiscences, from 1885-86. Page had a number of Augusta connections and the writing is excellent.

A couple of collections to mention: numerous papers, clippings, record copies and reports regarding the centennial of Nash School in Augusta; there's even a red-and-white felt beanie with "Nash" on it! Our newest intern is busily working on a collection of vital records — births, marriages and obituaries — published in an area newspaper from 1998 to 2005.

Then there is the 1838 Kennebec River Survey, Augusta to Gardiner, with map/chart; an 1824 bank note from the Kennebec Bank of Hallowell; 4 tintypes by Henry Bailey and N.R. Rideout; and a small 20th-century scrapbook containing many news clips about the China area. Newspapers added include issues of *Vickery's Fireside Visitor* and the *Maine Farmer*.

The image you see at right is of an advertising card for the *Kennebec Journal* and its printing services, dated 1900. We are very grateful to the seller on Ebay, who, when removing it from his files to send it to us, found that it was more worn than he had advertised, and so sent it at no cost to us. There are still good people in the world.

Attention Cony High School graduates, relatives and friends: we are missing the following high school yearbooks: 1951, 1952, 1960, 1968, 1969, 2018, 2019, and 2020. If you have any of these editions, we would really appreciate your gift to us!

Well, that's about it for now. Feel free to call us if you'd like to see any of these items, or anything in our collection. We'll make an appointment for you. We'll be smiling underneath our masks, even though you won't be able to see us!

— Emily A. Schroeder, for the Collections Committee



New Cornerstones Reveal Fort Halifax Site's Dimensions

Reprinted with permission from the August 26 edition of the Morning Sentinel

Visitors to Winslow's Fort Halifax will now have a better idea of how the structure appeared when it was built in 1754. Supporters of the historical site want those visitors to know it was more than just the one blockhouse that stands on the grounds today.

Detailed marking stones for the original corners of Fort Halifax were placed in the ground Wednesday, completing a collaborative effort by the town of Winslow, Winslow Parks and Recreation, Broken Stone Surveyors, Provost Monuments, and the Friends of Fort Halifax.

Elery Keene, vice president and secretary of the Friends of Fort Halifax, said the project cost \$2,652.

"It's going to make it possible for people who visit the location to see that Fort Halifax was more than just one blockhouse, and I think that's important," Keene said. "We've been wanting to have something like this happen for a long time."

A National Historic Landmark listed on the National Register of Historic Places and the oldest blockhouse in the United States, Fort Halifax, just off U.S. Route 201, was built by English settlers in 1754. It formerly served as a Massachusetts Bay Colony outpost along the Kennebec and Sebasticook rivers.

Amanda McCaslin, Winslow's parks and recreation director, is involved with field trips for local schools, often dressing up to educate the kids. Adding the corners, she said, "brings the history alive."

"When you think of Winslow, you think of the blockhouse," McCaslin said. "A group of people over the last 20 years have made that park a beautiful place. By putting these monuments in, it really gives a visual for folks."

Last fall, Linda Lambert and the members of the Friends of Fort Halifax brought the idea to the town's attention. Information for the exact placement of the corners came from historical sources, including three maps of the structure from different times. Lambert, a seventh-grade teacher at Winslow Junior High School, said that she and others bring kids to the fort to measure it and try to recreate it. Without the corners marked, that was hard to do.

"At one point, the Friends of Fort Halifax had a dream of making it an educational site," Lambert said. "I mentioned that I do that with the students and would love to have the corners, and Ray Caron took it from there."

Caron, chairman of the Winslow Town Council, deflected praise, wanting others to speak for the story.

The project, financed by the Friends of Fort Halifax, was completed Wednesday. Provost Monuments dug the holes for the stones Monday. The stones were engraved Tuesday and were placed Wednesday morning by town employees and group members.

With no Fort Halifax Days this year because of the coronavirus pandemic, the project offered a different but positive experience.

"It's what founded this community," Winslow interim Town Manager Paul Fongemie said. "Fort Halifax was here long before the town of Winslow was. It's the history of the town."

Bob Knowlton, of Broken Stone Surveyors, conducted research for the stone placement. He worked with archaeologist Leon Crammer. The maps used include a recent project by Winslow resident Ernie Baker, developed in 2019. Another oft-referenced map is one by Timothy Paine from 1852.

Knowlton and surveyor Frank Siviski worked on the project together. The site was flooded in 1987, and Crammer worked on the repairs. He determined where the corners were onsite with Knowlton and Siviski.

"We went out and surveyed everything that was there, all the utilities, building railroads, parking, whatever was there," Knowlton said. "In the course of doing that, we found some granite monuments that appeared to be close to where the original corners were."

Ernie Baker, a longtime member of the Friends of Fort Halifax, provided the maps to help determine where the corners were.

"We just wanted to outline the fort with some permanent markers, just an outline of the original fort," Baker said. "The whole outline of the layout there of the fort, to give some idea of what it looked like."



Stones laid at original corners of Fort Halifax in Winslow provide truer perspective.

Morning Sentinel photo by Rich Abrahamson

North Monmouth Church Built for Immigrant Polish Catholics Sold

St. Stanislaus Roman Catholic Chapel, which was built in 1955 in North Monmouth to serve Polish Catholic families who were recruited to work in the local textile mill, has been sold, and its steeple has been removed.

According to Dave Guthro, a spokesman for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Portland, the vacant church was sold June 15 to Allison Michaud, a North Monmouth resident, for \$80,000. Michaud indicated that she hasn't decided what to do with the property. The church stopped holding regular services several years ago, but it was still available for weddings and funerals.

The Rev. John Skehan, administrative director of St. Michael Parish in Augusta, which encompasses Winthrop and Monmouth, said he understands the buyer of the St. Stanislaus Chapel wants to preserve the property at the corner of U.S. Route 202 and North Main Street from development. The prominent site, across U.S. 202 from Phil's Super Variety store, could be a prime site for another retail store.

"The people just wanted it for the land," Skehan said. "To avoid development pressure, I think they're going to keep it and not develop it. It's a private owner, I understand."

Guthro said that in 1913, the Rev. Edward Henry was named pastor of St. Francis Xavier Parish in Winthrop. During his pastorate, a mission church was established in North Monmouth. A brick schoolhouse on Wilson Pond Road was purchased and converted into a chapel. It was named for St. Stanislaus because the first person baptized there was named Stanislaus Horzempa. In ensuing years, St. Stanislaus Chapel parishioners met in Fireman's Hall on Wilson Pond Road.

Winthrop Mills, now Tex-Tech, needed to recruit workers more than a century ago to run its looms. The mill turned to Poland, where there was a population of willing immigrants. The mill built sturdy wooden houses for the workers' families to rent when they arrived from Europe. Those lookalike houses, which were made available later for sale to their tenants, form the backbone of North Monmouth's neighborhoods today.

On September 18, 1955, the new church in North Monmouth, St. Stanislaus, was blessed by the Rev. J.R. McGowan. It was built by local men and was fully paid for in advance of its opening. The building measured 36 feet by 60 feet. The name of St. Stanislaus was retained for the new building.

When the chapel closed its doors in recent years, parishioners had to go about 5 miles east to Winthrop, where they could worship at St. Francis Xavier Church.

Peter Mars, a former pastor of North Monmouth Community Church, said of the sale and the removal of the steeple, "It's too bad in a way, because that was a pretty little church."

Dennis Cripps, a North Main Street resident, was an altar boy at St. Stanislaus Church. He said the church's location on U.S. Route 202 attracted some worshipers right from the highway in those days.

"It would be full and people would stand along the sides and the back of the church when I was young," Cripps said.



This is how the former St. Stanislaus Roman Catholic Chapel looked in August with its steeple removed. Allison Michaud, a North Monmouth resident, bought the church in June for \$80,000. Originally built in 1955 to serve the Polish immigrant families who were recruited to work in the village's textile mill, the building has been vacant for a number of years.

Photo by Valerie Enos

23 Players Help KHS Net \$634 at Kennebec Classic Tennis Tourney

Ross Munn, of Brunswick, and Inga Zimba, of Waterville, won the men’s singles and women’s singles championships, respectively, in the 2020 Kennebec Classic tennis tournament, which the Kennebec Historical Society held August 15 at the North Street tennis courts in Waterville.

Teddy Faugno and Rob Disch, both of Waterville, won the doubles competition.

The event attracted 23 players. McKee Law, of Augusta, and Quality Copy, Hallowell, sponsored the event again, as they had done last year. A-1 Seamless Gutters, of Greene, became a sponsor for the first time.

KHS board member Billy Noble and Publicity Committee Chairwoman Jamie Logan organized the Kennebec Classic, a society fundraising event. Volunteers Glenn Adams, Rich Eastman, and Denis Thoet helped set up the event, which raised \$634 after expenses were paid. The first Kennebec Classic, held in 2019, added \$361 to the KHS coffers.

Noble said the society probably will host another tournament in 2021.



Men’s singles winner Ross Munn serves to Jason Tardif in the championship game.

Photo by Rich Eastman



At left, men’s singles winner Ross Munn.

Photo by Rich Eastman

At center, women’s singles winner Inga Zimba.

Photo by Rich Eastman

Rob Disch, left, and Teddy Faugno, winners of the doubles competition.

Photo by Billy Noble

The Kennebec Historical Society Welcomes the Following New Members

The Breathable Home — Augusta
Amelia Clukey — Augusta

Jody Harris — Augusta
Patricia Helm — Waterville

Scott Morrison — Brookfield, Vermont

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

❁ In Memoriam ❁

Gerald T. “Gerry” Mahoney, 78, a longtime life member of the Kennebec Historical Society, died September 1 in Augusta after an extended illness. The Michigan native and retired Federal Bureau of Investigation agent taught seminars on local history at the University of Maine at Augusta, and in 2003 he published the book *Ardent Spirits*, a history of the Franklin Debating Society, a group of young men based in Hallowell in the early 1800s. He was active in the Row House preservation group, Vaughn Woods & Historic Homestead, and other Hallowell organizations. His survivors include his wife, Wendy, a former KHS treasurer; and two children.

F. Lloyd McCabe, 96, of Monmouth, a longtime Kennebec Historical Society life member, died September 10 in Readfield. A farmer at the McCabe Farm in Monmouth, he also was a member of the Monmouth Historical Society. His survivors include a stepson, eight stepgrandchildren and 14 stepgreat-grandchildren.

KHS to Hold October Facebook Seminar “Introduction to the First Amendment Museum”



Christian Cotz, CEO of the First Amendment Museum in Augusta.

Photo courtesy of the First Amendment Museum

In 1789, James Madison penned the First Amendment – protecting our freedoms of religion, speech, press, assembly and petition. A century later, W. H. Gannett of Augusta used those freedoms to publish *Comfort* magazine, the first American magazine to reach 1 million paid subscriptions. His son, Guy Gannett, expanded the business to become Gannett Communications and became Maine’s most celebrated publisher, establishing newspaper, radio, and TV brands we still recognize today. Now, a century after Gannett published his first newspaper, his granddaughters are building a museum in his former home on State Street. Join new CEO Christian Cotz as he explores the history of Madison, the First Amendment, and the Gannett family and shares the latest developments in the evolution of the First Amendment Museum.

Cotz was hired to be the CEO at the First Amendment Museum in January. Before that, he spent 20 years managing public programming at James Madison’s estate, Montpelier, in central Virginia. Cotz was deeply involved in Montpelier’s relationship-building work with the descendant community and was the project director for the celebrated exhibition, “The Mere Distinction of Colour,” which won six national museum awards.

To view this presentation, head to the KHS Facebook page at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, October 21, and the video will air live. It will also be available to watch later if you prefer. If you have a question about the topic, submit it in the comments field in advance or 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.

KHS Intern Enhances Post Card Collection

College student and summer intern Audrey Kimball worked for nearly three months on improving the KHS postcard collection. Kimball, an English major and a senior at Thomas College, has recently completed her 150-hour internship, which was a collaboration between the society and the college. Internships at KHS are 100 hours long and Thomas College requires 150 hours in order for students to receive academic credit. Through a generous 2019 donation for interns, KHS was able to provide funding for the first 100 hours, then Thomas College was able to secure a grant for the remaining 50 hours. Audrey came to KHS as a recommendation by Wendi Richards, assistant director of professional and career development at Thomas, who recruits students and helps them find placements as interns.

Audrey was responsible for cataloging, documenting the scope and content, creating a description, and identifying names and search terms associated with each postcard. She also noted what collection the postcard belonged to and recorded the publisher, publication date, and whether the postcard had been mailed. Although Kimball spent most of her time working on the postcard collection, she also spent some time cataloging other collection items, making them available to researchers. KHS archivist Emily Schroeder said, “Audrey is just wonderful. She is quick to learn and is quite capable of working independently.”

Kimball’s passion for recording history and her warm personality while at KHS will certainly be missed. She was recognized with an Amazon gift card and a one-year complimentary membership by members of the KHS Personnel Committee on September 17, her last official day at KHS. The society is grateful for her detailed work and wishes her the best of luck in her remaining studies at Thomas.



Thomas College student and KHS summer intern Audrey Kimball.

Photo by Scott Wood

Upcoming Facebook Program

“The Traveling Sisters: Moving Forward”



Sisters Shelley Lance-Fulk and Jackie Amtower, from their recent book, *Dromomainea*.

Photo courtesy of the speakers

Through photographs, videos, and tales of encounters with wildlife and people from Africa to Asia, the “Traveling Sisters” share their experiences as they continue to move forward to share with others the world we call home. Drawing stories from their first three books, *Can I Carry Your Luggage?*, *Upside Down and Backwards*, and *Dromomainea*, Shelley Lance-Fulk and Jacklyn Amtower draw armchair travelers into their world of experiencing unpredictable situations and amazing adventures, especially in times of uncertainty. Their passion for observing, chronicling, and sharing stories reinforces the importance of appreciating the beauty our planet has to offer. From funny through frightening to heartbreaking narratives, others are invited to immerse themselves into the lives of these two sisters who have been traveling, experiencing, and photographing our world since their teens.

Our KHS speakers are sisters living in Beaver Cove, a few miles north of Greenville. They have been traveling and photographing wildlife around the world since their teens. They have visited all seven continents on multiple occasions and their passports have stamps from more than 135 countries. Their experiences of adventure, enlightenment and respect for animals are shared in tales and stories with accompanying photographs in their three books. Their time throughout the year is divided among traveling, sharing their photographs and stories at artisan fairs, and speaking engagements. The sisters enjoy the experience of meeting new people and observing other cultures and wildlife, but their appreciation for the state of Maine always draws them home to the animals and splendor of their beautiful community.

To view this presentation, head to the KHS Facebook page at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, November 18, and the video will air live. It will also be available to watch later if you prefer. If you have a question about the topic, submit it in the comments field in advance or 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.

Letters TO THE Editor

As a volunteer at KHS, I am currently cataloguing the *Antiquarian Notebook*, a series of newspaper articles written by Anthony Douin and published in the *Capital Weekly* from fall 1998 through spring 2009. I recently found one article that seems appropriate for this Thanksgiving season.

On Thanksgiving 1797, Hannah Flagg North baked mince pies for all the inmates at the Augusta jail — two felons and five debtors. She continued this act of kindness throughout most of her life. After her death, her daughter Hannah North Bridge followed her mother’s tradition. Then, her daughter Hannah Bridge Williams did the same until her death in 1905. That’s a lot of mince pies!

Sally Furber Nelson, West Gardiner

(Addressed to KHS Administrative Director Scott Wood and President Patsy Crockett:)

Just a note to say thank you for your excellent 2020 KHS annual report that arrived in today’s mail and that I’ve just read. I appreciate your comprehensive, detailed and hopeful president’s report, Patsy; and your letter and mailing, Scott. Wishing you both my best for a healthy, satisfying autumn.

Pamela Roby, KHS lifetime member, Santa Cruz, California

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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

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