



Artifacts and Anchors

A quarterly newsletter for Members, Volunteers, and Friends of the Kittery Historical & Naval Society



From the PRESIDENT

Season's Greetings—

Yes, it's that time of year again already. The clocks have been turned back, the leaves have turned and fallen, it's getting cold out there and we've already had a dusting of snow. The Museum is closed for the season and we are going into "winter mode."

I am very grateful for the hard work and dedication of our Museum Director, Kim Sanborn, our trustees and all of our volunteers. It takes a lot of work to operate and maintain a museum of our caliber. To staff the museum for our normal hours while we are open takes 9 trustees and 13 volunteers each week.

Winter-mode does not mean we go into hibernation, though. While we are closed, our trustees and volunteers are still very busy. Preparations are already well underway for our holiday open house on December 12-14. When the open house is over and the decorations are taken down, then there are new exhibits to build and others to rearrange. The work of receiving and cataloging new items continues as does the work of scanning the myriad historical photographs and documents in our collection. Our program of digitizing our paper catalog records to make them more easily accessible continues. There is also much research and writing to do for the several historical presentations that are given each year, for our Digital History Portal and for the many questions we receive from members and others.

And last, but not least, there are preparations underway for celebrations for two important historical events. First is Maine's state bicentennial in 2020 and then in 2022, Kittery's 375th anniversary of its incorporation as a town.

If you would like to be involved in any aspect of this interesting and rewarding activity, please let us know. Give us a phone call, or stop by on a Wednesday when the museum office is open from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

We are very thankful for all of the support from our members during the past year, and we are always eager to increase our membership. As you plan your year-end giving, please consider a donation to the Kittery Historical & Naval Society so that we can continue and expand our efforts to highlight and celebrate Kittery's amazing history.

Thank you,

Bob

Bob Gray

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From the DIRECTOR

Hello Friends,

As another year comes to a close, I am truly grateful for the support and dedication of our volunteers and community in our efforts to preserve Kittery's history for future generations. As I ponder 2019, a few of them come to mind.

Doug Cole, of D.S. Cole Growers, who generously for the past several years has supplied the beautiful flowers in our window boxes, as well as donated the flowers for our booth at the Kittery Block Party. Dennis Estes, who has put together a coffee table book called "Reflections of the Past" which reads like a guided tour on a trolley ride through Kittery. Dennis is donating the profits from this book to the Museum. I would also like to mention D. Alan Kerr, who organized Kittery's first Independence Day Celebration in nearly 100 years. His effort to highlight one of Kittery's native sons, William Whipple, is to be commended. We were happy to participate in this event along with the Town of Kittery to recognize Whipple's contribution as a signer of the Declaration of Independence.

I also want to acknowledge our dedicated volunteers. I am amazed how much we accomplish with each passing season. Whether it is someone to greet our visitors, keep our Museum looking shipshape or work on digitizing and cataloging our collections, these enthusiastic folks continue to keep the Museum running smoothly.

Lastly, thank you to our members. Your support throughout the year proves that history should not be forgotten.

Looking ahead to 2020, we are already planning new exhibits which will lead us into the Maine Bicentennial and continue to Kittery's 375th Anniversary happening in 2022. There are some significant changes that are generating much excitement within our walls. We will be partnering again with Kittery Adult Education to bring you more of our past and we will continue to use technology to preserve our history for future generations.

I wish you all happiness, good health and a prosperous New Year!

See you in the Spring,

Kim

Kim Sanborn, Director

From our library:

MANNERS

Culture and Dress

IN THE
Best American Society

by Richard A. Wells, A.M.,
King, Richardson & Co., Publishers,
1890

INTERJECTIONS

The interjection of such phrases as, 'You know,' 'You see,' 'Don't you see?' 'Do you understand?' and similar ones that stimulate the attention, and demand an answer, ought to be avoided. Make your observations in a calm and sedate way, which your companion may attend to or not, as he pleases, and let them go for what they ARE WORTH."

News and Events

Independence Day Celebration

On June 29th the Museum participated in the Town's Independence Day Celebrations. A reading was held at Town Hall of the Declaration of Independence by a General William Whipple re-enactor. (General Whipple was a merchant sea captain, a General in the N.H. militia, a member of the Continental Congress, and the only native Mainer to sign the Declaration of Independence.) This was followed by a presentation by the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard Color Guard and the Piscataqua Rangers Jr. Fife and Drum Corps. The Museum then opened its doors to everyone for a reception and refreshments.

Veterans and Volunteers

On Saturday, September 7, the Museum honored two entities important to us—veterans and volunteers. The annual Salute to Veterans and a dedication ceremony for new granite benches in memory of Milton E. Hall, Jr., long-time Museum volunteer, were held.



Several displays depicted historical military uniforms, weapons, tools, and medical supplies. Historical re-enactors dressed in American Revolution era costumes demonstrated the period crafts of pulled wood-fiber brooms and hand-sewn clothing.



Emily Belanger (top) wears a hand-sewn costume and Jennifer Roy (bottom) demonstrates pulled-fiber broom making.

Society president, Bob Gray, and museum director, Kim Sanborn, spoke appreciatively of the volunteer work Milton Hall did for the Museum, and of his quiet and steady contributions to the upkeep of our building.



Milton Hall memorial bench.

New Book by Dennis Estes in Museum Bookstore

An elegant new book was added to our bookstore recently: **Portsmouth Kittery and York St. Ry Trolley: Reflecting on the Past**, by Dennis Estes. It is an evocative journey via trolley from Badger's Island to Kittery Point experienced through the photos of Wendell and Raymond Tobey. The first printing of the book has sold out, but a second printing may be in the works. Dennis is donating the profits of this book to the Museum.

Cemeteries Talk is SRO

Kittery residents seem to like to hear about spooks and crime! On Oct. 10 Kim Sanborn gave a standing-room-only talk "Stories from Kittery's Cemeteries" at the Museum, offered through Kittery Adult Education.

More Murders Most Foul

President of the society, Bob Gray, gave a sold-out talk, "Murders in Kittery," on Oct. 29. Offered through Kittery Adult Ed and held at the Museum, Bob's talk was given again on Nov. 12 to accommodate those who were unable to reserve a seat for the first lecture due to its popularity.

Director Gives Talk at USM

Kim Sanborn was invited by Richard Tomazin to Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at University of Southern Maine on Oct. 3 as part of their History of Maine program. Kim gave a PowerPoint presentation based on the Museum's booklet "A Brief History of Kittery" as well as showing the video "The History of Kittery" to 42 class participants.



Shrink wrapping the Captain's Gig.

The Captain's Gig

You may have noticed work being done on the Hammondsport captain's gig located just outside the Museum. Volunteers from the PNSY COMSUBLANT Reps Office have scraped, sanded, and cleaned the gig in preparation for winter storage under wraps. Dale Harman, a local boat expert of Harman Marine Surveying, has assessed the state of the gig and you will hear about his report in a later issue of Artifacts and Anchors.

Sixty Years and Over at Kittery Point

(From a talk delivered by the author before the Kittery Historical Society, Friday evening, Aug. 16, 1942)

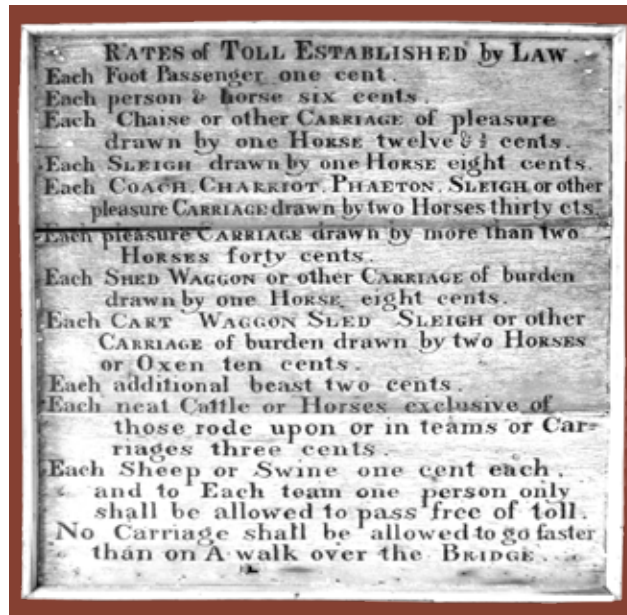
BY MRS. HATTIE
BILLINGS

Mr. President, Members,
and Friends of this Historical
Society:

I fear you have chosen a poor
substitute for the speaker you
had in view. However I will
endeavor to tell a few facts as
I remember them in the past
sixty years and over.

Toll Across Spruce Creek

Commencing with the Toll
Bridge, which was close by,
connecting the two points of
land over the channel which
runs up Spruce Creek. A great
many of the folks living here at
that time had no other way of
getting to Portsmouth but by shanks'
mare and it cost two cents to walk
across. The other fares for vehicles,
horses, cows, oxen, and so forth, I do
not remember as there was quite a list
of them, but the sign board was posted
on the side of the toll house so every
one could see. The toll house was situ-
ated at this end of the bridge, on the
right hand side, of about three rooms
with a flight of steps running up one
side and down the other. This was for
the foot passengers to go up if the toll
keeper did not make an appearance. I
think you will find the old bill of fare
on the residence of Mr. James Walker
at this time. For a great many years the
tolls were taken by a Mrs. Riley and
her family, who occupied the dwell-
ing. Later on the Brooks family came.
Many of our townspeople are famil-
iar with them. I see one in the audi-
ence who has collected toll when Mrs.
Brooks wanted a day off; for it was
mostly the women-folk who had to
stay at home as Mr. Brooks was run-
ning an express in the democrat wagon
to and from Portsmouth. Later on,
through the influence of one of our
public spirited citizens and others,
they got a bill through the Legislature



*Nineteenth century sign at the toll bridge over
Spruce Creek spelling out the particular fares.*

to free the bridge from the State and
grant it to the Town. That was a great
day of rejoicing!

Stage coach

Second was the stage coach, which
was like the one Henry Ford has at his
place in Sudbury. It was captained by
Mr. Theodore Keene. He made two
each way to Portsmouth, sometimes
with two horses, and if bad travelling
with four, as sometimes the mud, due
to a rainy spell of weather would be
up to the hubs of the wheels. There
was not the smooth state road there
is today. There were many Thank-You
Marms, and if you happened to be sit-
ting on top of the stage and a little bit
out of balance you were liable to be
down between the shafts or somewhere
else. I think the fare was twenty-five
cents one way. Of course as there was
another bridge to cross the coach-
man had to make himself whole, but I
think he paid his toll by the year, so he
might have got a little rake off.

Steamers

After quite a few years Mr. Keene pur-
chased a small steamer and named it
the "Fearless." That was another large

event. It plied between Frisbee's
wharf and Portsmouth, touching
at New Castle, so as to afford those
people the same means of travel as
we had, for they had been situated
the same way as on this side of the
river. After a while we had other
steamers which were larger. The
"Sampson," "Undine," "Marie," and
the "Sam Butterfield," which was
somewhat smaller than the others.

Hotels

As most of you know, Kittery Point
has been in the past quite a summer
resort, with four hotels, namely:
Pepperrell, Parkfield, Pocahontas,
and Champernowne, which used
to be filled with summer boarders.
The Pocahontas was the first to go
out of business owing to Fort Fos-

ter, where the guns when fired disturbed
the people and shattered the glass. Finally
it was torn down and the furniture and
lumber were sold at auction. At the time of
the World War the Government took over
the Pepperrell, Parkfield, and Champer-
nowne for housing employees at the Navy
Yard. It did not take but a short time for
the Government to get tired of them, so
after a while they leased them to different
people which did not turn out very well.
All but the Pepperrell have been removed.
The Champernowne site was purchased
by the Howellses. The Parkfield changed
hands quite a few times. But the Pepper-
rell, which is the oldest of all is still being
run by a capable proprietor who redeemed
it from the Government.

Railroads

We have been favored with projects, some
of which have come and gone out of exis-
tence. First was the Steam Railroad. When
it was announced that there was to be a
line constructed from Portsmouth to York
Beach folks fairly went wild. It was a time
of great activity for in the laying out of the
tracks it was nearly all through deep ledges
of rock. People all thought it had come to
stay. In summer excursion trains were fly-
ing through here to York Beach which put

Continued on page 5

Sixty Years —Cont'd. from page 4 that on the map. It was quite a pastime to gather at the station and wait for the trains to come in. The depot was situated at the foot of what is now Coleman Avenue. It was nothing to see five or six buckboards beside carryalls, and so forth, gathered there to convey the passengers to the different hotels and cottages. Also to listen to the tick-tick of the telegraph wire. Errand boys, and sometimes girls, could earn a few cents for delivering despatches for the depot master as there were no telephone lines. They came later. In those times the five cents which the boys and girls got for delivering telegrams looked as large as five dollars does now.

Trolley To Portsmouth

The electric railroad, which first operated between Portsmouth and Sea Point, then extended to York Beach, and later farther on made it very handy for patrons to step from their own doorways into cars. Fares were divided in limit. Five cents for each limit or zone. Leaving the car at Badger's Island in Kittery, taking the ferry across, landing at Spring Market, so called, at the foot of Bow Street, was the way most people got to Portsmouth in those days. That was the first connection Badger's Island had with the Kit-

tery side except by boat was when the trestle was built for the electrics to run over. The trestle was where the temporary bridge was located when the new bridge between Cookson's and the main land was building within the past two years.

Water system

A few of the spirited town-folk put their heads together and thought it would be a good idea to have town water. So they founded the Kittery water company. Stock was purchased by different individuals and the project came through. Previous to that they all depended on the old fashioned well. Some had sweepstakes, others just the common pole with a hook on it. Many of the wells were half filled up by losing buckets down them and during dry seasons many wells went dry. One would go dry then everybody would flock to the next one with tubs and buckets, till they were all dry. It was a common occurrence to see mothers and children starting out after supper with all the utensils to get a supply of water for the next



Car No. 35 crosses the bridge from Kittery to Badger's Island. (vintagemaineimages.com)

“That was the first connection Badger's Island had with the Kittery side except by boat was when the trestle was built for the electrics to run over.”

—Hattie Billings

day. So you see it was a great advantage when the water question was settled. From time to time the pipes have been extended so now they are in nearly every house in town, of which there are a great many. Folly Pond, which is situated in York, must have an unusually large supply of water.

Mrs. Billings's talk will be continued in our next issue. It includes the topics “The Harbor & Its Ships,” “Village Stores,” “For Fun,” “Schools and Skylarking,” and “A Modern Crime.”



View of Pepperrell Cove from the Pepperrell Hotel. Published in “Nooks and Corners of the New England Coast” by Samuel A. Drake (1875).

I HAVE KNOWN A HUNDRED SAIL RIDING AT ANCHOR IN FULL VIEW FROM THE PEPPERRELL HOUSE, the haven being the usual refuge for coasters caught along-shore in a northeaster. It is a sight worth seeing when the whole fleet gets under way with a fair wind. The sharp click of the windlasses, the rattling chains, and the creaking of blocks, together with the cheery refrains of the crews, make the harbor all alive with animation. The sailors' “shanty,” as they heave away at the windlass, is borne to your ears with a sonorous rounding off of the refrain. Here it is, rhyme being of little consequence on the forecastle:

“Then heave away, my bully boys,
Heave away, my Johnnies!”

Or, this:

“Then heave up the anchor, boys,
Brace round the main-yard;
Haul taut your port bow-line,
And let the good ship fly!”

You watch the convoy as one by one the vessels spread their sails and go bowling over the waves on their several destinations, until the very last clears the harbor's mouth, and the surface of the river is become as placid as if it had never been disturbed by the plash of a hundred anchors.

by Samuel A. Drake, published in “Appletons' Journal” (Jan. 17, 1874)

VOLUNTEER Spotlight

Ed Racicot is the fellow to know at the Kittery Museum if the door sticks, if the roof needs attention, if a display needs some carpentry, if the boiler needs servicing, if a mousetrap needs emptying, or any of dozens of other things that keep the Museum working, safe, and attractive.

Ed is a Massachusetts transplant but a long-time Maine vacationer. When he retired, he and his wife, Pam, thought it might be time to move to Maine. They'd seen and liked Kittery, so in 2014 they rented an apartment in the Victorian Frisbee house in Kittery Point, and soon agreed Kittery was the place for them.

Ed began his community volunteer work at the Kittery Lions Club. At a benefit breakfast he met Kim Sanborn, who told him about our wonderful Museum and encouraged Ed to visit. He did, was impressed, and volunteered to help out the Museum. For two seasons, Ed was a welcoming and gracious front desk docent to visitors.

In 2019, the Trustees asked Ed if he might take on Buildings and

Grounds responsibilities following the sad passing of Trustee Milton Hall, who had kept the Museum fabric together for years. An accomplished and careful workman, Ed was happy to agree. His current project is to remove as much salt-water-induced rust as possible from the wheels of B&M RR Engine 3666, rescued from the Piscataqua and displayed in front of the Museum. The Engine plunged into the Piscataqua River in 1939, when the wooden bridge it was traveling on collapsed. Ed has chipped, sanded, ground, and hammered 80 years of rust from the wheels, applied a serious "rust-reformer," and coated the wheels with rust-resistant outdoor paint.

Ed says the best thing about working at the Museum is meeting people. He describes himself as a "people person" and our visitors would certainly agree. Ed says he especially enjoys meeting and talking with other veterans (Ed is a US Army Vietnam Veteran, 1968 – 1971). He thinks



Ed Racicot, KH&NS volunteer.

visitors are amazed at how much history is displayed in the Museum—he's never seen anyone look bored or leave disappointed. Children love finding answers to the "scavenger hunt" quiz. He shares the excitement of visitors who come looking for ancestors and find them through the Museum's resources and staff.

The Museum and the community are very fortunate that Ed and Pam decided to "give Kittery a try."



Spotlight on Collections Where Is It?

This photograph by Douglas Armsden is from the Museum's recently acquired Armsden collection. It is a scene in Kittery, and judging by the automobiles, was taken in the 1950s. Do you know where this rather stately building stood? Answer on page 8.

Please consider making an end-of-the-year gift to the Kittery Historical and Naval Society so that we may continue our work of preserving Kittery's history for everyone to enjoy now and in the future. Any amount is appreciated.



Kittery Historical and Naval Society

P. O. Box 453, Kittery, Maine 03904-0453

Here is my end-of-the-year gift ... keep up the good work!

Name _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Amount Enclosed _____

Thank You!



(The Kittery Historical & Naval Society is a registered 501(c)3 non-profit organization ... donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.)

Calendar

Quarterly Membership Meeting

The Trustees will forgo their December meeting, planning to meet next in January, 2020.

Holiday Open House

December 12, 13, and 14
Thurs– Sat, 10am–4pm

This year the Museum will host “A Candy Cane Christmas.” Come see the Museum in its festive holiday attire. The three-day event includes a silent auction, raffle, and a bake sale each day (just in time for holiday guests). The gift shop will be open with great books, gifts, and hand-made ornaments and decorations. On Saturday, local authors



will be present to sign copies of their books. A delightful beginning to the holidays. Admission is free.

Kittery through the lens of Douglas Armsden

Wednesday, February 12, 2020, 7pm
Star Theater, Kittery Community Center

Kim Sanborn will explore Kittery through the eyes of photographer Douglas Armsden (1918–2009), who lived in Kittery and photographed the town and the area from the 1940s to the 1970s. The Armsden family has generously given the Museum a treasure trove of his photographs. Come see the town evolve over the middle years of the 20th century.

Volunteer Opportunities

Although the Museum may be closed for the season, opportunities still exist for volunteers.

EVENTS/PROGRAM COORDINATOR:

Needed to organize and manage Society and Museum events, including annual Veterans' Salute, Holiday Open House, lectures, book-signings, and social occasions.

DIGITIZING RECORDS:

Enter data from paper accession logs using museum software. Training will be provided.

These positions would require a minimum commitment of two hours per week at the Museum.

If interested, contact
Kim Sanborn at
kitterymuseum@netzero.net



Kittery Historical and Naval Museum
 200 Rogers Road
 Kittery, ME 03904



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KITTERY HISTORICAL & NAVAL SOCIETY

Contact Kim at 207-439-3080 or kitterymuseum@netzero.net

Answer to Where Is It? (p. 6): The Maine Information Center was built in Kittery shortly after the opening of the Maine Turnpike. Described as an “attractive colonial structure” at the junction of Rte. 1 and the Maine Turnpike, it opened in 1951 and had access to its parking lot from both roads. In 1971 it was demolished due to road construction for I-95 and the new Piscataqua River Bridge. A new information center opened in 1972 further north on the turnpike. The location of the long-gone building is now a nondescript grassy area at the junction of the same roads, containing the overpass from I-95 Exit 3 to Rte. 1 N in Kittery. (*Portsmouth Herald and maineturnpike.com*)