



# Artifacts and Anchors

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



## MUSEUM TO OPEN FOR MEMBERS ONLY

By appointment, beginning Wednesday, September 9

*A Special Invitation for our Members*

Because of concerns for the health and safety of Museum volunteers and visitors, the Board of Trustees voted not to open the Museum to the public for the 2020 season. However, the Museum and the Board would like to offer an opportunity to members only to view new exhibits and a new gallery showcasing artwork from the Museum's collections, and perhaps find new treasures throughout in re-imagined and re-displayed exhibits and collections.

Beginning Wednesday, September 9, 2020, the Museum will take advance reservations for tours of the Museum, limited to no more than 8 people in

the building at a time. Tours will be limited to 1-1/2 hours, and are available on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday of each week from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. To make a reservation for a tour, phone (207) 439-3080 Mon., Wed., or Fri. between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. or email: [kitterymuseum@netzero.net](mailto:kitterymuseum@netzero.net).

The building will be wiped down with sanitizers before and after each opening session, including all common and public surfaces and objects (doors, desks, knobs, counters, etc.). All visitors and staff are required to wear a mask at all times while in the building. Each person entering the Museum will be required to use hand sanitizer upon entrance. Rest rooms will not be open. Visitors will be requested to maintain social distance from other visitors and

## Fall 2020

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to follow traffic patterns through the Museum.

The gift shop will be open but visitors will be asked not to touch inventory, but to let a Museum staff member retrieve and bag purchases for pick up as they leave the Museum.

## Moving Cannon from Navy Yard to Fort McClary took many men and 50 yoke of oxen

During the Civil War, the rebel ship *Alabama* was reported seen off Portland, Maine. Fearing the local forts were unprepared to defend Portsmouth harbor, Captain Bellamy of the First Brigade of the Militia of Maine called upon the commodore of the navy yard and asked for the use of cannon that were kept in the park there. Bellamy assured the commodore he could organize enough men to move the guns to Fort McClary. He called upon Robert F. Gerrish to go to the local farmers, and in a short time drivers and 50 yoke of oxen were recruited to haul the

4 gun carriages. Captain Bellamy, thinking the Kittery Point Bridge couldn't withstand the immense weight, decided to go around Spruce Creek through what is now Haley Road to Fort McClary. After the four 32-pound guns were mounted, they were fired to prove the Fort was ready, but the *Alabama* did not make her appearance off the harbor and the guns remained unused at the Fort for the duration of the war.

*From notes taken from the diary of Charles G. Bellamy, born 1811 in Kittery Point, who at 22 years old was the Captain of the First Company of the First Regiment of the First Brigade of the Militia of Maine.*





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## From the PRESIDENT

“These are the times that try men’s souls.” – When these words appeared in Thomas Paine’s *The American Crisis* in December of 1776, they were an apt description of those times. The Declaration of Independence had been adopted just six months previous and our new nation was fighting for its life. While the things that try us today are very different from those in 1776, Paine’s words are also a good description of the year 2020 so far. The Covid-19 pandemic with its resulting economic effects, racial tensions, demonstrations, riots, the political wrangling leading up to the upcoming elections and countless other things all have made this year particularly trying.

But, trying times are also historic times. It’s been said that “Today’s news is tomorrow’s history.” So, what we are dealing with now will be studied in history classes in the future. History is more than just what appears in the news media. While the “big picture” part of history is important, it is often the more personal part that is more interesting and more compelling. We have been fortunate to receive many items, photographs and writings from Kittery residents that have enriched our view of Kittery’s history. So, as we deal with our present trying times, think about what you want to keep, or photograph, or write about that will tell the story of these times, and your place in them, to future generations.

In that regard, a big thank you to those of you who have gifted artifacts of your or your family’s history to the Museum. All those items from so many Kittery people contribute to the telling of the story or our remarkable little town.

Finally, I would like especially to thank all of our members both new and renewing for your support. We’ve seen an increase in the number of members as well as in the amounts many of you have donated, and for that we are very grateful.

*Bob*

Bob Gray

### CONDUCT WHILE SHOPPING.

From our library:

## MANNERS

### Culture and Dress

IN THE

### Best American Society

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

In inquiring for goods at a store, do not say, I want so and so, but say to the clerk—show me such or such an article, if you please—or use some other polite form of address. If you are obliged to examine a number of articles before you are suited, apologize to him for the trouble you give him. If, after all, you cannot suit yourself, renew your apologies when you go away. If you make only small purchase, say to him—I am sorry for having troubled you for so trifling a thing.

# News and Events

## Membership Levels Rising

Proving that Mainers (and other New England neighbors) rally when the times demand it, membership levels have risen this year by nearly 50% over last year's, including an increase in higher level memberships, at a time when the Museum's income from visitors is zero and expenses continue. Our only sources of income this year will be memberships, sales from our gift shop (online only until September 9), gifts to the KHNS, and (we hope) small grants. A focused outreach to "lapsed" members, friends, and local visitors to the Museum over the past year has resulted in new and renewed memberships and most of our "old" members have renewed. With thanks to all for helping in these difficult times.



Greg Drobich is pictured with the ship model he beautifully restored. The model was donated to benefit the Museum and was in serious need of cleaning and repair. It is believed to be the *Le Superbe*, a French man-o'-war, circa 1790.

## Museum Publications

This year, we celebrate the Bicentennial of Maine statehood in 1820. Now is also a good time to learn about Kittery's history, with a town anniversary coming in 2022.

Our Society will recognize these events with several publications. The first, *A Brief History of Kittery*, is available today as a free, 16-page booklet. In honor of the Bicentennial, the story of Maine statehood is included in the book.

As town offices re-open, we hope to make this booklet widely available. Until then, you can get a copy at the Museum or find it on our website: [kitterymuseum.com](http://kitterymuseum.com) by clicking on



the History tab. We know of nothing else quite like this booklet, either here or among other museums. Please share it to broaden the understanding of our town's history. And watch for more Society publications in the future!

## Calendar

### "Kittery's Grand Hotels"

**Monday, October 26, 6-8 pm**  
**Lecture by Kim Sanborn**

**Class is scheduled to meet in person at Traip Academy, but if circumstances change, you will be notified and sent a link to attend virtually using Zoom meetings online.**

Kim Sanborn, Director of the Museum, will present this PowerPoint program through Kittery Adult Ed.

Around the turn of the 20th century, Kittery was a booming tourist destination boasting 5 Grand Hotels. This presentation will take you back to the romance of spending the summer on the breezy banks of the Piscataqua River in Victorian style. Discover what made these hotels different from each other. The presentation will also examine what caused the demise of this "Grand" era in our town's history.

Register online at [Kittery Adult Ed](http://Kittery Adult Ed).  
Course Fee: \$15



# Fort McClary: A Strong Defense, But Never Attacked

FORT McCLARY was described by Jefferson Davis, when he visited as U.S. Secretary of War (before he took on the other job as President of the Confederacy), as “the best-located fort on the Atlantic Coast for defense.” So successful at presenting a strong defense was Fort McClary that since the 18th century there is no record of the fort ever having been attacked. Between it and Fort Constitution on the New Hampshire side of the Piscataqua, it would be a brave and probably foolhardy foe who would enter Portsmouth Harbor between two armed forts.

Fort McClary is now a beautiful state park and museum, used for recreation, historical re-enactments, musical events, picnics, and just watching the maritime activities at the mouth of the Piscataqua and out to the Isles of Shoals. The Fort is owned and maintained by Maine’s Bureau of Parks and Recreation. But the Fort is



Blockhouse, Fort McClary, Kittery Point, Maine. (Stereo card, Davis Bros., Portsmouth, N.H.)

really Kittery’s fort. Kittery men built the first fort, its citizens have certainly manned the fort throughout three and a quarter centuries and seven wars, and the town itself is responsible for the layout of the current park. The town of Kittery and Fort McClary “go back a long way” together.

## A brief timeline of the history of Fort McClary:

**1689** William Pepperrell buys 12 acres “lying upon Kittery Point between Crodsett’s Creek and the salt water coming in at Piscataqua Harbor’s mouth.” Fort may have been built either by William Pepperrell or the town and may or may not have been called Fort William.

**1715** Province of Massachusetts resolves to establish “a Breast Work of six guns to be erected in some convenient place in the town of Kittery” in order that “the right of the Province in and to the river commonly called Piscataqua River be asserted and maintained.” A Naval Officer to be installed to collect duties and fees and protect commerce of Kittery and Berwick from “unreasonable duties...exacted from the inhabitants of this Province” by “the Government of New Hampshire.”

**1721** Perhaps the 1715 resolution is not implemented, but a similar resolution is again passed and Fort William is built and garrisoned.

**1776–1783** Revolutionary War—Loyalist William Pepperrell’s property is seized and Fort is garrisoned by the New Hampshire militia, who continue to man the fort through 1779. The state of military readiness at this fort and Fort Constitution on the NH shore are such that British ships do not attack Portsmouth or the Kittery.

**1808** State of Massachusetts cedes the Fort to the federal government and Fort is named Fort McClary after patriot Major Andrew McClary, who died in the fighting at Bunker Hill in Boston. The lower and upper batteries are re-built.

**1844** Blockhouse on Upper Battery is built, with a fieldstone foundation, a granite first storey, and second and third storey of squared logs. Powder magazine is located in the first floor, and upper storeys were officer quarters. Newer guns placed on lower battery.

**1846** US government purchases 25 more acres for the fort. Fort McClary is de-activated.

**1861 – 1868** Civil War: Fort McClary is again garrisoned and armed. First military ordered to the fort were a company of the Maine Coast Guard and the “Kittery Artillery,” a 50-man local company captained by Dr. Mark Wentworth. They were replaced by Battery B, 1st New Hampshire artillery, and later by Company A of the Maine State Guards, (out of Bangor and including U.S. Vice President Hannibal Hamlin). Four 32-pounder cannon and carriages are sent to the Fort by the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard. Massive re-ortification project includes a caponniere and a bastion for additional guns, a guardhouse and a hospital.

**1868** All work on the Fort is suspended.

**1890** Nine 15-inch Rodman smoothbore guns and seven carriages are stored at the fort, to be mounted in case of war.

**1898** Spanish American War: three of the Rodman guns are mounted at the Lower Battery. Battery B, 1st Massachusetts, ordered to garrison the fort.

**1898–1910** Fort McClary is again deactivated. The guns that were not mounted become obsolete and are sold off. One unmounted surplus gun is donated to the GAR of Ypsilanti, Michigan, where it stands today in the town park. Fort buildings decline and decay.

**1918** Fort McClary is officially decommissioned by the U.S. Government.

**1924** Fort McClary is sold by the U.S. Government to the State of Maine for \$3,100. Maine takes over the fort as a public park. Town of Kittery takes over maintenance of park and creates a commission to oversee the “management, maintenance, and development of Ft. McClary Park,” including the picnic area on the other side of Rt. 103. Eventually the Bureau of Parks and Recreation of Maine takes over management and maintenance of Ft. McClary as a State Park.

**WWI and WWII** Fort McClary is used by Civil Defense in both wars as an observation post for enemy ships, submarines, and airplanes.

**Between 1900 and WWII** Ft. McClary is used as a local venue for picnics, and for maritime and community events.

## The Summer of 1864

**IN 1864, WHEN THE SOLDIERS MANNING THE CANNONS** at Fort McClary were called to duty in Washington, D.C., the War Department replaced them with Co. A, Maine Coast Guardsmen. These 80-100 men were mostly from the Bangor area.

The letter below from “Thomas Cod” sent to the *Bangor Daily Whig and Courier* informs the residents of Bangor about the soldiers’ experience. It appears they enjoyed their duty at Fort McClary and after a 3-month assignment, left for home in September, even as savage fighting raged elsewhere.

**FROM BANGOR DAILY WHIG AND COURIER,  
JULY 19, 1864**

**Letter from Company A, State Guards  
Headquarters Co. A., State Guards  
Fort McClary, July 14, 1864**

*To the Editor of the Whig and Courier:*

Knowing that the good people of Bangor feel a deep interest in Co. A. and believing they will be glad to learn of their condition, I am induced to communicate to you. Well, they are on duty here at Fort McClary, situate at or near the mouth of Piscataqua River, on the Maine side, about three miles below the Navy Yard. It is one of the most lovely spots to be found along our coast, and none more healthy or desirable can be found for a summer residence. The country is rich in incidents connected with the early history of our State, Kittery being the oldest incorporated town in Maine. It was settled as early as 1623, only three years after the landing of the Pilgrims at Plymouth, and was incorporated into a town in 1647, and is therefore 217 years old.

On the opposite side of the river is the town of New Castle and on the point is situated Fort Constitution, now garrisoned by two companies of men from New Hampshire. On either side of the river

there is a village, but that upon the New Hampshire side is much the larger of the two. The Forts are about one mile distant from each other...

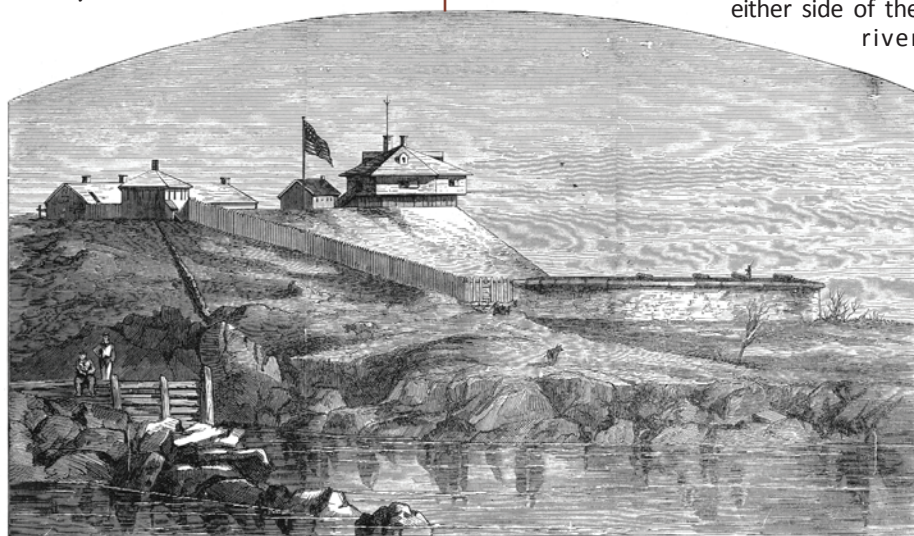
...At Fort Constitution on the New Hampshire side, and at Fort McClary on the Maine side, Government is now rebuilding or constructing new works, which, when completed, will be very strong, first class forts.

So much for our location and its surroundings this time...We ought not, however, to omit now to state that this was the residence of Sir William Pepperrell. His residence, reduced at either end by modern vandalism, still remains in quite a good state of preservation (what is left of it) though it is over two hundred years old. Sir William Pepperrell was born here, and Sir W. Phips born in Woolwich, it is believed, are the only persons born in Maine, who were ever knighted by the King. But we are devoting too much of this letter to our location and its incidents.

Co. A. is well quartered in the barracks, and while it is not home life, they are comfortable. Capt. Morse and his Lieutenants, as well as non-commissioned officers, are industrious in their efforts to provide for the wants of the company and their welfare is promoted in all things. The Captain is incessant in his labors. What belongs to the soldiers in quantity and quality he is determined they shall have, and by his exertions they will have it.

Bangor may be proud of Co. A. There is not a man in it who is not determined to do his duty, and to observe and maintain the deportment of a soldier and gentleman. The duties here learned and discipline enforced will be of great use and value hereafter. The Company left their homes with a reputation dear to themselves and friends for integrity and correct deportment. Be sure it will return in no way diminished, but increased. As a guaranty for all that, the doings of the officers and soldiers, in relation to their conduct, will be furnished you, and the officers have full confidence that the promises will be faithfully kept.

Thomas Cod.



FORT McCLARY, KITTERY, MAINE.—SKETCHED BY C. D. ORDIONE.

*Fort McClary, Kittery, Maine—Sketched by C.D. Ordione. Engraving.*  
SOURCE: *Pictorial War Record* [New York, 1881-82]



# VOLUNTEER Spotlight

Visitors to the Museum enjoy each year the colorful and interesting plantings in the window-boxes outside of the Museum. And for the past several years, friends and neighbors at the Kittery Block Party have delighted to be able to purchase healthy and vibrant annuals from the KHNS Museum booth. What members and friends may not know is that all these lovely flowers and plants come to the Museum through the generosity of volunteer Doug Cole, proprietor of D.S. Cole Growers in Concord, N.H.

Doug became interested in the Museum through Milton Hall, his neighbor in Kittery Point, who was a mainstay of the Museum for over 25 years as a Trustee and volunteer. Doug learned what a ‘gem’ the Museum was and was surprised that many people didn’t know about it. “There is so much cool ‘stuff’ inside, along with the knowledge that the volunteers have.” Doug also saw how much work Milton did for the Museum (Milton did most of the building maintenance) and wanted to help out. As Doug says, “filling window boxes fit my skillset!” His

goal for the window boxes has been to plant vibrant new flowering plants to intrigue visitors who might then be drawn inside the Museum. Doug grows all the plants for the boxes in his year round wholesale greenhouses.

Doug has once again planted our window boxes this year, for which we are all very grateful since the outside is all that visitors have been able to see of the Museum (until September 9). This year the boxes are planted with a dazzling popular petunia, ‘Amore, Queen of Hearts.’

Doug has been extremely generous in growing and donating beautiful and vibrant annuals to the Museum for sale at the annual Kittery Block Party in past years. He hopes to donate again next year! A project he enjoyed several years ago was to grow the same species of annuals that Celia Thaxter lists as growing in her Island Garden on Appledore. All proceeds from the sales of these



*Doug Cole, KHNM Volunteer*

plants are a gift from Doug to the Museum.

Doug would like in the future to help the Museum by changing some of the foundation plantings to suit the difficult site (direct sun, heat, lack of water). While very few visitors see Doug around the Museum, we are all very grateful for his generous gifts of time, expertise, plants, and enthusiasm for the KHNM.



## Spotlight on Collections

### What’s Going On?

This picture from our Armsden collection is from 1954 and appears to have been taken at night or early in the morning before the sun came up. Do you know what the men are doing and why? Answer on page 8.



Three 15-inch Rodman guns and two 10-inch Parrott Rifles at Fort McClary, dismounted, circa 1900. (*Kittery Historical and Naval Museum*)

“FORT MCCLARY is being put in condition to protect this harbor in case of an emergency. Engineer Walker is at the fort and a large amount of lumber was hauled there yesterday and the guns which are of the same improved type and landed just at the close of the civil war are 8 inch rifles and 15 inch Rodman guns which are capable of throwing a 500 pound shot and would be capable of keeping a foreign fleet several miles from our coast. It is understood that four 8 inch modern guns are now on the way here and will be mounted at Gerrish’s island.”

PORTSMOUTH HERALD, MARCH 25, 1898

## From the DIRECTOR

Hello Friends,

What an interesting year 2020 has been so far! With our optimism of opening in the Summer, our decision to remain closed to the public was a difficult and disappointing one. The health and safety of our volunteers, trustees, members and visitors are a top priority. We thank you for understanding. As we looked back to the pandemic of 1918, so will people be looking back at this year as it enters into the history books.

The good news is that the Museum will survive the Covid-19 virus! With the overwhelming support of our members, the Museum will continue to educate and preserve our local history. We hope that you enjoyed “A Brief History of Kittery” that you received with your membership this year.

We are truly thankful for your patience as we navigate these uncharted waters. Starting in September members only will be able to visit the Museum by appointment with safety measures in place. Look for more information on this in the newsletter. As members, you will have an exclusive look at the new exhibits and displays that have been ready and waiting since March.

We have much to look forward to in the future. Maine’s Bicentennial events have been rescheduled for 2021. Kittery’s 375 Anniversary in coming up in 2022. And we will be there to celebrate.

In closing, I would like to express a heartfelt “Thank You” to everyone who became members of the Kittery Historical & Naval Museum/Society. As always, I am looking to the future to preserve the past. I look forward to sharing it with you.

Sincerely,

*Kim*

Kim Sanborn, Director

## Ft. McClary Played a Part in Many Wars – Even the Cold War

### Kittery GOC Seeks 800 Volunteers

KITTERY POINT—An appeal for volunteer aircraft spotters was sounded today by Leland L. Riley Sr. chief of Kittery’s Ground Observer Corps.

Riley seeks 800 volunteers to man the Kittery spotting tower in connection with the Air Force-Air Warning Service “Operation Skywatch.” The tower is located at Fort McClary.



*Civilian 1950s Skywatch recruitment sticker. (Wikipedia)*

With an 800-member organization, Riley said, individual volunteers would have to stand watch for only three hours a month.

Since “Operation Skywatch” commenced July 14, the Kittery Point tower has been manned about 65% of the time, according to Riley. He said members of Kittery Point’s Boy Scout troop under Frederick Perry, scoutmaster, have handled most day-time duty.

Only 50 persons are enrolled at present in the Kittery GOC.

PORTSMOUTH HERALD, 24 JULY 1952



Kittery Historical and Naval Museum  
 P.O. Box 453  
 Kittery, ME 03904

 <p><b>D. PRATT FRAMER LLC</b></p> <p><b>David Pratt, MCPF</b></p> <p>50 State Road, Unit E        Kittery, ME 03904        Tel 207-439-1192        david@dprattframer.com        www.dprattframer.com</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fine Custom Framing</li> <li>• Gilding &amp; Restoration</li> <li>• Antique Maps &amp; Nautica</li> </ul>	 <p><b>Hillside Flowers and Gifts</b>        kitteryflowers.com        207-439-9230</p> <p>Owner: Carley O'Brien</p> <p>151 State Rd., Kittery, Maine        03904</p>
<p><b>TIME TO SPRUCE UP YOUR HOME?</b></p>  <p><b>Gutters        Windows        Awnings</b></p> <p>Established in 1947</p> <p><b>99 State Rd., Kittery, ME        207-439-5868 • ronbet.com</b></p>	 <p><b>Kennebunk Savings</b>        BANKING · INSURANCE</p> <p>800.339.6573 • <a href="http://kennebunksavings.com">kennebunksavings.com</a>        Member FDIC</p> <p><b>Proud to support        the Kittery        Historical &amp;        Naval Society!</b></p>

**Answer to What are they doing?** (p. 6): Unfortunately, the only information we have about this photograph is written on the negative envelope. It says: "1954, Loading seine, Dana Knights." Seine fishing is a method of fishing that employs a net, called a seine, that hangs vertically in the water with its bottom edge held down by weights and its top edge buoyed by floats. A purse seine which can be pulled closed at the bottom is used for fish which school, such as sardines, mackerel or herring. If anyone has additional information about the names of the men or where the photo was taken, we would love to hear from you! Email [editor@kitterymuseum.org](mailto:editor@kitterymuseum.org)