



Artifacts and Anchors

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



Kittery Celebrates (1936 style)

As Kittery contemplates festivities for its 375th birthday party, we thought we'd look back at a past celebration.

Trustee Barbara Estes has generously donated a history-lover's collection of documentation of Kittery's past. This treasure trove includes the Program from the 1936 celebration in Kittery of York County's Tercentenary, where the beloved model of the *Ranger*, now on display in the Museum, made its first appearance.

The *Program, York County Tercentenary Celebration, Kittery, Maine, August 29, 30, 1936* promised:

"Three Bands.

Parades of Floats of great historic interest. Historical pantomimes and tableaux in front of historic mansions with appropriate colorful costumes.

Unique Exhibit of rare and ancient relics of old Kittery.

To end with appropriate and impressive Sabbath observances in the Churches of Kittery and Kittery Point.

If prevented by rain on August 29, the same Program will be carried out on Monday, August 31 or the first pleasant day thereafter."

On Saturday morning the party started at 8:30 a.m., when the VFW band marched from Badger's Island to John Paul Jones Park. At 9:15 the streets are filled with a "Parade of historic floats along Government, Wentworth and Whipple Streets to Howells' Square and including an exact reproduction of the Ship *Ranger*, constructed in the Yard for the occasion... the *Kearsarge* of the Civil War Period and the *Porpoise* of the present day — all drawn by bluejackets, dressed according to the respective periods."

From 10 to 11:45 a.m., the floats are on display at Howells' Square with a band concert by the Sanford Maine Band. The VFW Band continues to the Thaxter home at Seapoint (perhaps via trolley) to play in honor of Celia Thaxter and Francis Champernowne, then travels back to the William Whipple birthplace for another concert.

Beginning at 11:40 a.m., the Program promises—

"Pantomimes and tableaux will be presented at several historic places along the route immediately following the Parade of Floats..." Some of the tableaux—with Kittery citizens dressed in appropriate costumes—include:

- 1636 Sir Ferdinando Gorges sells Cutts and Gerrish Island to Arthur Champernowne. Alexander Shapleigh leaves with Francis Champernowne and colonists for Kittery. (Goss Field)
- 1647 Town of Kittery incorporated. (Pettigrew Field)
- 1676 William Pepperrell, owner of boats at the Isles of Shoals, woos Margery Bray. (Bray House)
- 1745 Lt. Gen. Wm. Pepperrell departs with troops to Louisburg. (Wm. Pepperrell Mansion)
- 1749 Sir William Pepperrell is received at Court of George II in England. (Benson Field)
- 1775 Mary Sparhawk charms Capt. Mowat and dissuades him from burning Portsmouth. (Sparhawk Mansion)

Spring 2021

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At 11:45 am, the Parade of Floats, led by the Sanford Band, marches back from Howells' Square to the Navy Yard where "submarines in the process of building and completed will be on exhibition until 4 p.m., but the submarines for military reasons, may not be boarded."

Festivities continued throughout the day with a Traip Academy Band concert at the Community House from 1 to 3 p.m. Several of the historic homes in the area were open to the public. "Rare and ancient relics of old Kittery" were displayed at Community House.

See PARADE page 3



A replica of the USS Ranger, a float entered by the Portsmouth Navy Yard and drawn by twelve sailors in the uniform of the Revolutionary War period. Aboard the float bearing the Ranger model are John Paul Jones himself, enacted by Chief Boatswain F.E. Webber; and the shipbuilder who had charge of the Ranger's construction, represented by Mr. Penny, a quartermaster of the civilian force. (Photo: J. Frank Walker Collection. Caption compiled from Portsmouth Herald information)



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From the PRESIDENT

Spring Greetings,

Spring is a season of rebirth, renewal and regrowth. We hope it will be so for you and for all of us. As the Covid pandemic is hopefully winding down and restrictions on public gatherings are eased, we look forward to being able to open the museum sometime in the not too distant future. But, be assured we will do so within the prescribed guidelines and always with the safety of the public and our volunteers in mind.

Throughout the pandemic and this winter, the Director and volunteers have continued working at the museum, organizing our research library, scanning photos and documents, cataloging our artifacts, arranging displays and maintaining our facility - all with a view to making more of all of them available to our members and the public, both in person and online.

We will be having our annual member's meeting on March 23, 2021 at 6:30 via Zoom. You will be receiving an email with a link. I encourage all members who are able to attend. The Director and the Board of Trustees are always looking for both content and methods to more effectively present Kittery's long and fascinating history. We want to hear from you, our members, about how we're doing and what we might do better.

I look forward to having the museum open as soon as it is allowed and safe, and to being able to welcome our members and the public. It's always a pleasure to see new visitor's reactions when they walk in the door of the museum, look around and realize there is so much more there than they expected. We have an amazing town and museum and the Kittery Historical & Naval Society has a unique role in showing them off.

Spring ahead!

Bob
Bob

SLANG

From our library:

MANNERS
Culture and Dress
IN THE
Best American Society

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

Remember that all "slang" is vulgar. It has become of late unfortunately prevalent, and we have known even ladies pride themselves on the saucy *chique* with which they adopt certain cant phrases of the day. Such habits cannot be too severely reprehended. They lower the tone of society and the standard of thought. It is a great mistake to suppose that slang is in any way a substitute for wit.

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Information about The Kittery Historical and Naval Museum may be found on our website: kitterymuseum.com or on Facebook at [kitteryhistoricalandnavalmuseum](https://www.facebook.com/kitteryhistoricalandnavalmuseum).

From the DIRECTOR

Hello Friends,

Welcome to a new year! Spring is just around the corner. We here at the Museum are looking forward to seeing our volunteers, members and visitors again.

While continuing to preserve the past, we have big plans for the future! Kittery's 375th Anniversary of Incorporation is coming up in 2022. We have already been working with the Town of Kittery on this exciting event. Plans include a year-long celebration starting this Fall 2021. Watch for special events and announcements to commemorate this milestone.

This is a great time to become involved with the Museum. We are looking for volunteers who will help us to promote and share Kittery's history with the community. There are plenty of opportunities to get involved both inside and outside the Museum. Whether you are tech savvy or old school we have something for everyone!

Although last year was especially difficult, we were dedicated to our efforts to share with you Kittery's history. We have learned to Zoom, both meetings and presentations. We also partnered with Kittery's Channel 22 and the KCC's Star Theatre to bring "Stories from Kittery's Cemeteries" right into your home. As we continue to evolve technologically to bring our past into the future, we still strive to bring you the visual displays and exhibits here within our walls.

Thank you for your continued support!

See you soon,

Kim

Kim Sanborn, Director

PARADE from page 1

On Sunday, August 30, "Commemorative services will be held at the usual hour in the several Churches of Kittery. It is expected that historic characters, in Colonial Costumes, will be present at these services."

We hope the weather was splendid for these wonderful festivities. Kittery knows how to throw a birthday party!

—Lauren Gallant



Model of the USS Ranger, which is now on display at the Museum.

News

Quarterly Membership Meeting



March 23, 6:30 p.m.

Meeting on Zoom—Link will be sent to members by email

Trustees of the Kittery Historical & Naval Society invite all current members to attend our regular quarterly meeting.

This is a chance to learn and talk about the Society: what we do all year-round and how we might do it better.

Kim Sanborn, Director, will give her very interesting presentation "**Kittery's Grand Hotels.**" Around the turn of the 20th century Kittery was a booming tourist destination boasting five 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.



Society to Republish Book

COLONIAL VILLAGE, 1647-1947

KITTERY POINT, MAINE

A STUDY OF THE CHANGES THAT HAVE TAKEN PLACE IN CERTAIN TYPICAL BUILDINGS OF A THREE HUNDRED YEAR OLD VILLAGE

By JOHN ELDRIDGE FROST, 1947

This book was first published in 1947.

Thanks to a grant from the Thaxter Foundation, the Kittery Historical and Naval Society is republishing it, with updated annotations by Tom Prince, in conjunction with Kittery's 375th Celebration in 2021-2022.

Looking Ahead to Opening

The Trustees are looking ahead to the possibility of opening the Museum to the public in late May. Stay tuned for details!

Sprucing Up

A company has been hired to do the much-needed repair of the exterior trim on the Museum building.

A Consequential Change: The end of the town meeting tradition in Kittery

The Swett Memorial Gymnasium at R.W. Traip Academy hosted many events over the years: physical education classes, school assemblies, Rangers basketball games, concerts, plays, graduations, Friday night dances, and senior proms.

But, on March 18, 1967 it saw the last annual town meeting to be held in Kittery, Maine. A month later, in April, a new charter for the town was approved by the Maine legislature and 90 days after that Kittery voters approved its adoption, making the town council/town manager form of government the law. The 350-year tradition of the annual town meeting was over.

After the decision to hire a town manager in 1965, Kittery continued examining its operating structure. The town knew it had to modernize, but selectmen, department heads, and residents disagreed on how to do it.

William A. White, Kittery's first town manager, suffered from the inexperience of the town and its struggle to define just what a town manager's duties were supposed to be. The selectmen asked White to "coordinate" the activities of public works, police, and fire departments, but changing old ways proved difficult. After several disagreements with selectmen over who was in charge, and being given even further responsibilities as treasurer and tax collector, things came to a head for White when the voters at the March annual town meeting refused to increase his

pay and car allowance, even after voting a record budget increase of nearly 13%. White left his position in September, after 15 months on the job.

White was replaced by Cecil O. Lancaster who, within two weeks on the job, drew up a list of what he thought his powers and duties should be—essentially giving the town manager administrative supervision over all offices, boards, commissions, and committees under the selectmen's jurisdiction. The selectmen approved all his suggestions as presented. According to *The Portsmouth Herald*, Oct. 1, 1966, "The selectmen's delegation of such full authority...is, in effect, a vote of confidence not only in Lancaster but in the town manager plan. Also, their action should serve to quell the criticism, voiced throughout the town and area, of their refusal to give enough authority to the first town manager..."



Cecil O. Lancaster, Kittery's second town manager, and his dog Shofa, 1970.

At that same March 1966 town meeting, voters authorized selectmen to appoint a "Town Council-Manager Commission" to draft a charter for the town of Kittery. A seven-member commission was asked to draft a charter to submit to the Maine Legislature in 1967. A charter-mandated town council form of government had been talked about in Kittery for a number of years as some residents began to believe Kittery was getting too large, and the issues were becoming too complex, to be dealt with by an annual town meeting and three selectmen. Public apathy toward attending day-long annual meetings was felt responsible for hampering well-planned programs that were regularly voted down by a small number of citizens. Plus, numerous special town meetings were called to decide on unexpected matters that needed a town-wide vote. These meetings were poorly attended, and sometimes unable to continue because of Kittery's "anti-rump" law. This quorum count law, established by the



Nineteen Candidates ran for Kittery's First Town Council, (L to R) Edward Fremeau, Frank Kauffman, Joseph Langton, Earl Johnson, Sheldon Doady, Cushman Phillips, William Morris, Charles Cutten, George Millett, John Goss, Howard Patten, Robert Young, Zacharias Kagiliery, John Chaney and Donald Lamont. Not pictured are Kevin Adams, Leon Albert, John Grover, and Dr. Joseph Roncskevitz.. (Portsmouth Herald)

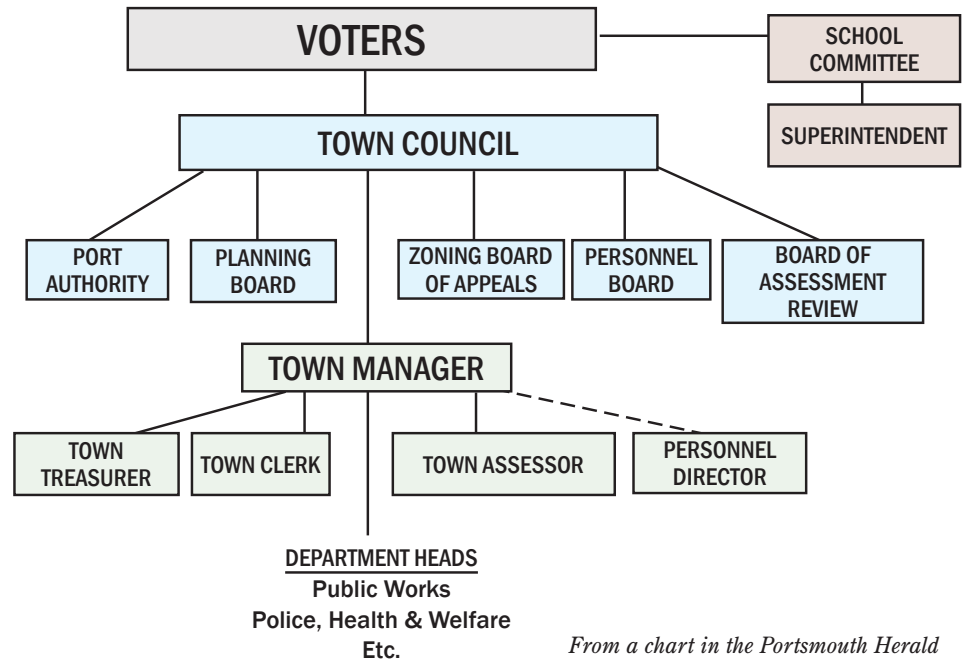
Maine Legislature in 1959 for Kittery alone, required that at least 10 per cent of the town's vote in the preceding gubernatorial election be present to hold a meeting. Additionally, a confusing mixture of appointed and elected positions ran the town, from Town Clerk, Tax Collector, Treasurer, and Budget and Finance Board (elected) to Police Chief and Public Works Director (appointed).

Meanwhile, the Charter Commission continued its work. Appointed to the commission were Edward Fremeau, Nancy Coates, Charles Rodis, Robert Young, Rita Perry, Raymond Pettigrew, and Harold Durgin. Among the proposals they envisioned were: classification of all town jobs; the manager to be personnel director with a board to handle grievances; an appointed assessor to take over the job of property assessment from the selectmen; and the town manager to prepare the annual budget.

One area of contention proved to be the commission's plan that councilmen should be elected on a staggered basis, so that not all seats came up for election at the same time, believing it would be easier to find two or three well-qualified candidates each year. "Ernest C. Maby disagreed ... and argued that the electorate would be better protected if the entire council came up for election at the same time. ...He said that staggered council terms would give members the opportunity to play high, wide and handsome on a subject without regard to the public, since they can't be gotten at by the electorate in that year." (*Portsmouth Herald*, March 28, 1967)

Kittery's plan won praise from the chairman of the Legal Affairs Committee at a public hearing in Augusta, and on April 4, 1967 it was approved by both houses of the Maine Legislature and signed by Gov. Kenneth

1967 Charter-Proposed Organization Chart Town of Kittery



*From a chart in the Portsmouth Herald
Oct. 6, 1967.*

M. Curtis. It would become effective 90 days after the legislature adjourned, then would be submitted to the town voters for approval.

A three-part series of articles by the Charter Commission appeared in the Portsmouth Herald explaining the points in the charter with the hope that an informed town would turn out in force to approve the charter. On October 10, 1967, 989 voters (out of 4,000-plus registered voters) turned out to approve the charter 683 to 306.

Less than a month later, nineteen people had taken out papers seeking the seven seats on the new council, and seven people for the five seats on the school committee—all men. 1900 residents voted on November 7th in a heavy turnout, ballot counting going on until 4:30 a.m. Two candidates asked for recounts, so it was not until November 20th

the results were known. Elected to Kittery's first town council were Charles Cutten, Frank Kauffman, and Zacharias Kagiliery (3 year terms); Robert Young and Edward Fremeau (2 year terms); and Donald Lamont and Cushman Phillips Jr. (1 year terms).

The new councilors would replace the last Board of Selectmen, which consisted of Edward Fremeau, Joseph Langton, and Burgess Dorr.

—Janice Farmer



Kittery's first town council, (L to R) Edward Fremeau, Frank Kauffman, Zacharias Kagiliery, Robert Young, Cushman Phillips, Donald Lamont, and Charles Cutten. (Portsmouth Herald)

VOLUNTEER Spotlight



Volunteer Jerry Robock

Not all of our volunteers do their volunteer work at the Museum, and many find a path to membership in the Kittery Historical and Naval Society in unanticipated ways. Jerry Robock worked as a systems analyst and computer programmer for a New York energy company for many years. He and his wife Stephie were familiar with, and fond of, this part of New England, having taken summer trips to Maine with their children. In 2009 he started a successful solar installation company with two partners and later, in anticipation of retirement, the Robocks began to look for a home in the Seacoast area. A For Sale sign in front of a house on Gerrish

Island caught their eye one weekend in 2014....

After they settled in, Jerry was curious about how Gerrish Island's Pocahontas Road got its name. This led him to the book *Kittery—Gateway to Maine* and other books on the history of Kittery at Rice Library. Library staff suggested he speak to Kim Sanborn, our Director, who helped him find some original references to how Pocahontas Road came to be.

Jerry is an avid kayaker and outdoorsman, and is a steward for Seapoint, one of the Kittery Land Trust properties. While researching

the Kittery Land Trust properties he discovered the Mitchell-Grant history of the Brave Boat Headwaters, and came to the Museum to see our installation of the 18th century Andrews-Mitchell garrison and to learn more from the Museum's collections.

He serves on the board of Fuel & More, and has helped that organization update its web presence and facilitate online donations. When he and Stephie wanted to make a donation to the Kittery Historical and Naval Museum, he discovered there was no way to do it from our website. This felt like an obvious and helpful contribution so he worked with KHNS treasurer Ken Schoman to add a Donate button to the Museum's site. Thanks to Jerry's expertise, it is now possible to [renew your membership, become a member, or donate](#) to the Museum online through our website.

Curiosity—and serendipity—brought Jerry to the Museum, and we are delighted that he found us!

—Dean Gallant



Spotlight on Collections

Who, What, Where

Do you know what Kittery event these elaborately dressed people are taking part in, who they are, and where it took place?

Answer on page 8.

Treasurer's Report

These are unusual times. In the face of the epidemic, last year we decided to remain closed for the season. That meant no admissions and minimal gift shop sales. We took several steps to ride out the “storm” of corona virus:

- First, our members and donors contributed very generously. Thank you! We hope you are enjoying our newsletters and booklet.
- Next, we received two remarkable bequests a few years ago. Back then, we set the funds aside. This year, we withdrew the earned interest as income.
- Early this year, we received a grant from the Rosamond Thaxter Foundation, which we were able to use for operating funds.
- We have carried some Maine Bicentennial items in our gift shop and sold a few along the way.
- Finally, we trimmed our costs as much as possible. Our usual budget of about \$25,000 was reduced to \$18,000. Thanks go to Kim, our Museum Director, who volunteered to stay on a winter schedule all year.

Thanks also to volunteers who maintained the building and worked on our collections throughout the year. We've stayed busy!

It's worth noting that all our efforts have enabled the Society and its Museum to remain healthy. We are especially grateful for bequests, which we have kept as reserved funds.

Here's to a better year ahead, and to gathering again at the Museum!

– Ken Schoman, Treasurer

Was There Really a Monument to Pocahontas on Gerrish Island?

This article by I.P. Miller from the *Boston Sunday Transcript*, October 20, 1900 explains how a monument to Pocahontas came to be on Gerrish Island—

“The monument stood on what is now known as Pocahontas Point (previously called ‘Little Bar Point’ by rivermen and campers-out) about on the site of the present Hotel Pocahontas; this point is the southwesterly point of Gerrish Island on the Maine side of the harbor and at its entrance. The monument was dedicated [in July of 1876] by the ‘Piscataquatico Chowderheads,’ a small party of Portsmouth gentlemen, who provided the monument, and paid for having a grove set out around it (two men with an axe and a crowbar ‘set out’ the grove in half a day) and invited some four hundred ladies and gentlemen to assist at the dedication, nearly all of whom attended. It was a great time—historical oration, original poem, dedicatory address, balloon ascension (toy balloon), tub races, music and mammoth chowder and cunner fry. The monument was a handsome affair twenty feet high, with ‘Pocahontas’ on it in raised block letters, and when unveiled looked likely to last for all time; and it would no doubt have lasted longer than it did had it been made of granite, as its appearance indicated, instead of pine boards painted and sanded to resemble stone. But soon vagrant cows knocked over all the trees of the grove (the place was a cow pasture then), rubbing against them, and one day a party of vandals from one of the up-river towns, with no poetry in their souls, came down river on a boat ex-

ursion, landed on Pocahontas Point, and smashed Pocahontas’s monument into firewood to cook chowder with. The only thing that was left as a reminder of the great Piscataquatico Chowderhead ceremony was the name, Pocahontas point, that stuck. The point has been known by that name ever since, and probably always will be. And that was the only monument to Pocahontas there ever was anywhere around Portsmouth. As to the facts in this matter I am personally cognizant, for I made the dedicatory address myself. I.P.M.”

As to why Pocahontas needed a monument in Kittery Point, it seems a monument was installed on the Isles of Shoals in 1864 to commemorate the 250th anniversary of John Smith’s visit to the islands. Owing to the storied connection between Pocahontas and John Smith, the Piscataquatico Chowderheads thought a monument to Pocahontas, looking out toward the Isles and Smith’s monument, was deserved.

Thanks to Tom Prince for this and other information about the Pocahontas Hotel.



The Pocahontas Hotel on Gerrish Island, on the grounds of today's Fort Foster.



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Answer to Who, What, Where (p. 6): Passing the collection box at the First Congregational Church of Kittery during the 1947 celebration of Kittery's 300th Anniversary. In period costumes (as identified on the back of the photo) are Farnsworth Woods, Dorothy Woods, Mrs. Mitchell and an unidentified woman. (From the Douglas Armsden Collection)