



# Artifacts and Anchors

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



*Members of the garden tour committee met outside May 25, 2022 in a bright sun and brisk wind. Members shown are (l to r) Jeanne Voorhees, Lauren Gallant, Pauli Rines, Janice Farmer, Jean Treacy, and Lorene Ulrich. Missing from the photograph are Shea Gray and Susan Pendery (who took the picture).*



## Celebrating Kittery's 375th anniversary Society's Garden Tour Almost Here!



It doesn't seem possible that the "Kittery Seaside Gardens Through the Centuries" committee has been meeting for over a year! Our first meeting was on April 22, 2021 (Earth Day!) over Zoom. Through monthly, then

bi-weekly meetings we met throughout the pandemic, finally meeting in person Lauren Gallant's beautiful patio at the 1798 house overlooking Pepperrell Cove. The hard-working committee includes Jeanne Voorhees, Pauli Rines, Lorene Ulrich, Shea Gray, Jean Treacy, Susan Pendery, Lauren Gallant, and Janice Farmer.

The committee stayed on task by issuing agendas for each meeting, the list of things to discuss being considerable. Besides picking a date in 2022 and deciding which homeowners' gardens we

would ask to participate, one of our first decisions was to apply for a grant from the Rosamond Thaxter Foundation, which we received, to help fund the pre-tour expenses. Our application detailed the reasons for holding such an ambitious fund-raiser. We would like to move closer to our goal of making the Museum's collections available to students, home-bound citizens, researchers, and historians from around the country, by upgrading our equipment and software and by accessing professional help in determining best practices. Today it is increasingly expected to be able to access historical information and view historical artifacts via the internet. The Museum can display only a small fraction of its collections; they contain so much that we want to make available—documents, photographs, artifacts, textiles, books, ephemera, etc.—to the public via the internet.

It takes many people to run a successful fund-raiser—from advance planning (contacting homeowners, finding locations for attendees to park, getting out

Summer 2022	
INSIDE	
From the President	2
From the Director	3
News and Events	3
Howells Garden on Tour	4
Volunteer Spotlight	6
Who, What, Where?	6
1863 Letter from Kittery	7

our message, creating a website for ticket sales, applying for a grant) to logistics on the day of the tour (finding docents to be at each garden, getting people to register attendees and sell tickets, enlisting parking attendants and many numerous small details.)



Tickets are on sale online at [kitterygardens.ticketleap.com](http://kitterygardens.ticketleap.com) and at the **Museum**

(Wed. thru Sat. 10 to 2, Sun. 1 to 4)

We will also be selling tickets at the **Kittery Block Party on June 18.**

**Cost: \$20 (20% discount for Museum members)**

Tour will be held rain or shine!



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## From the PRESIDENT

Greetings Members,

As you will read in her letter in this edition of our newsletter, the Director of the Kittery Historical & Naval Museum, Kim Sanborn, is moving on at the end of this season. It's been my pleasure to work closely with her for over 5 years now, first as a trustee and presently as president of the board of trustees. Under her direction, the museum has constantly improved. She has worked tirelessly to enhance and promote the museum and to encourage others to be involved. As our only paid staff member Kim has always gone above and beyond what would normally be expected of someone in her position. If something needed doing, and no one else was doing it, she would take it on.

Kim's departure leaves a huge void. The Board of Trustees is working through hiring someone to do a portion of what Kim does — the rest will have to be cared for by trustees and other volunteers. Kim will be helping us through the transition during her final season at the Museum. There are a myriad of little details that she cares for that may not be obvious to the casual observer.

This change provides even more opportunities for our members to be more involved in the day-to-day activities at the Museum. If you would like to be a part of carrying on our mission of preserving and presenting Kittery's history, please contact us at the Museum.

I'm sure all of you will join me in wishing Kim all the best in her future endeavors.

*Bob*

Bob Gray

President

### NEGLECT OF DRESS.

From our library:

## MANNERS

Culture and Dress

IN THE

Best American Society

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

There are occasionally to be found among both sexes, persons who neglect their dress through a ridiculous affectation of singularity, and who take pride in being thought utterly indifferent to their personal appearance. Millionaires are very apt to manifest this characteristic, but with them it generally arises through a miserly penuriousness of disposition; their imitators, however, are even more deficient than they in common sense.

Artifacts and Anchors is published quarterly by the Kittery Historical and Naval Society, P.O. Box 453, Kittery, ME 03904. Edited by: Lauren Gallant, Janice Farmer, and Dean Gallant. Submission of articles by members for possible publication is encouraged. Please contact the newsletter at [editor@kitterymuseum.com](mailto:editor@kitterymuseum.com) for details.

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

# From the DIRECTOR

Hello Friends,

We are very excited here at the Museum to be open for the 2022 season. We have been welcoming our new volunteers and members. It has been wonderful seeing those friends that have been with us for a while again.

We are eager to get back in the swing of things with some new exhibits and displays in the Museum. Be sure to stop in to check out the updated *USS Constitution* display as well as a tribute to Kittery's schoolhouses.

As we begin this season, it is hard to believe that I have been involved at the Museum for 11 years. First as a volunteer, then on the Board of Trustees as a trustee, treasurer, and President of the Board. I learned about Kittery's history from some of the greatest historians that our town had to offer. Their voices still echo throughout the Museum today.

In 2016, I was honored to be hired as the Director for the Museum. I feel like we have come a long way in the last six years. The goal in 2016 was to keep the doors open, bring our history into the 21st century, and continue to share with the community how much Kittery has impacted the world. There is still much work to be done as we continue to preserve and share our incredible past.

With that said, I am announcing that this will be my last season at the Museum. This has been an extremely difficult decision for me. My roots run deep in Kittery's past. However, new adventures are in store and I am eager to see what the future will hold.

I have met so many interesting people while here. I have enjoyed hearing your stories which are truly Kittery's stories. I invite all of you to visit the Museum, become involved as a visitor, volunteer, member or more. Thank you so much for your support. The Museum is what it is because of you.

I hope to see you this season,

*Kim*

Kim Sanborn  
Director

# News & Events

## John Forti lecture a big success

On April 13 a large crowd attended the free lecture by John Forti on "Four Centuries of New England Garden History." As part of the free lecture series at the Kittery Community Center Star Theater, it was presented by the Museum and sponsored by Kennebunk Savings Bank. It served as a great introduction to our "Kittery Seaside Gardens Through the Centuries" garden tour on July 9.



## Upcoming Events

### June 18 Kittery Block Party

Stop by our booth and say "Hello." Tickets for the Garden Tour will be available, and we will be having a plant sale, as well as books, videos, and souvenirs related to Kittery. If you are not a member yet, it's easy to sign up. You'll benefit in several ways (like free admission). The Museum will be closed this day.

### June 25 Independence Day Observance

This year, Kittery will celebrate Independence Day at 9:00 am in Thresher Memorial Park (beside Town Hall and a short walk from the Museum). A public reception — with refreshments — will be held at the Museum following the event. The Museum will be open that day until 2:00 pm, with free admission for everyone until 12:00 noon.

*June is Membership Month!*

*Don't forget to renew your annual membership — or if you are not yet a member, why not BECOME ONE!*

*Go to our website or click on this link to*

Participate

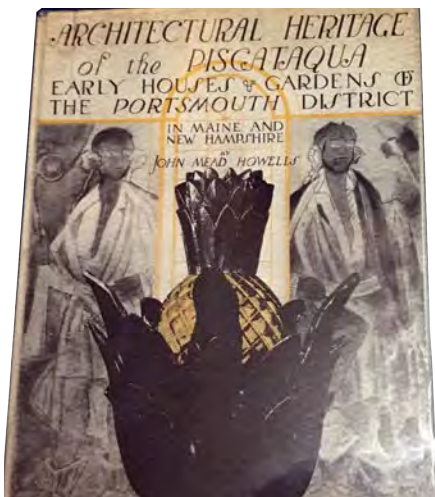


## Elegant gardens at the home of architect *John Mead Howells* — to be featured in Garden Tour, July 9th

A delightful garden on our tour is at the Howells family compound on Lawrence Lane, site of the ‘Follett House’ described in John Frost’s *Colonial Village*. That house, built around 1767, was located on land owned by Horace Mitchell and was part of the Champernowne Hotel complex. The grand hotels of Kittery had declined following World War I and by the mid-1920s the Champernowne Hotel was struggling to survive. In 1926, the hotel and the Follett House were purchased by John Mead Howells, architect, who was then living at 36 Pepperrell Road (the former home of his father, William Dean Howells). The hotel was demolished in 1927, and the Follett House was renovated by John Mead Howells for use by his son, William White Howells. The house is now the private residence of William Dean (W.D.) Howells, grandson of John Mead Howells. Since acquiring the former site of the Champernowne, Howells family members have created beautiful gardens overlooking two lighthouses, Pepperrell Cove, and the mouth of the Piscataqua River.

So who was John Mead Howells, rescuer and restorer of Follett House?

Seacoast museum curators, architectural historians, and historic homeowners looking for images and/or information about the colonial architecture of Portsmouth and Kittery turn to a book published



1937 Edition of John Mead Howells' classic book *Architectural Heritage of the Piscataqua, Early Houses and Gardens of the Portsmouth District*.

in 1937 by John Mead Howells, *The Architectural Heritage of the Piscataqua*.

However not all of those who consult this standard reference are familiar with Mr. Howells's international reputation as an architect of Beaux-Arts skyscrapers in New York, Chicago,



A view of the mouth of the Piscataqua River from the extensive gardens at the Howells family compound.

and Seattle; his service in Europe overseeing the rebuilding of the University of Brussels after WWI; his international awards (Chevalier, French Legion of Honor; Officer of the Order of the Crown, Belgium); or even his authorship of two other standard reference books—*Lost Examples of Colonial Architecture* (1931), and *The Architectural Heritage of the Merrimack* (1941). In his *New York Times* obituary in 1959, Mr. Howells was described as “...a leading exponent of the Gothic spirit of skyscraper design, emphasizing vertical lines in contrast to the horizontal cornices of the classical school of public buildings.”

John Mead Howells, born in 1868 in Cambridge, Massachusetts, was the eldest child and only son of



John Mead Howells at home in Kittery Point, Maine. About 1940.

William Dean Howells. He received his undergraduate degree from Harvard College in 1891 and pursued further studies in architecture at Harvard in 1894. He earned his Diploma at the Ecole des Beaux-Arts, Paris, in 1897, where he met his future architecture partners, I.N. Phelps Stokes and Raymond Hood.

Howells returned to the US and the offices of Howells and Stokes opened in New York City in 1897. In 1907, Howells undertook a custom commission to design Samuel Clemens's (Mark Twain) last home, 'Stormfield,' in Redding, Connecticut—which Clemens stipulated should be built in the style of a Tuscan villa. Clemens lived in the home from 1908 until his death in 1910. Howells's partnership with Raymond Hood began in 1917. With Hood, he submitted and won a significant international competition for the design of the Chicago Tribune Tower in 1922. Important New York City buildings include the Daily News Building, the American Radiator Building, and the Beekman Towers. Hood was senior architect for Rockefeller Center and Howells was a collaborator. In 1923, after appointment by Herbert Hoover (then US Commerce Secretary), Howells travelled to Brussels, Belgium, to oversee the re-building of the University of Brussels after the World War.

Howells's interests and abilities were not limited to 20th century design. During the 1920s, he began a study of Colonial and early American architecture of

the Atlantic States and New England, the results of which are his three books, published between 1931 and 1941. The books are profusely illustrated with photos, architectural drawings (old and new) of houses and gardens, and a wealth of information about the homes and buildings—some of which are no longer in existence, making his documentation even more important to architectural scholars.

In the 1930s, Howells had an idea to restore Portsmouth's (NH) dilapidated South End waterfront, and he lobbied the government under FDR for the creation of a national park in Portsmouth. WWII intervened and the plan was set aside, but was revived by Howells's daughter-in-law, Muriel Howells, who helped found Strawbery Banke Museum.

Howells's many contributions to architecture and to architectural knowledge were acknowledged in his lifetime by honors and appointments:

- President of the Society of Beaux-Arts Architects and the Society of Architects Diplomes.
- Chevalier, French Legion of Honor
- Officer, Order of the Crown, Belgium
- Member of U.S. Commission of Fine Arts 1933-1937
- Associate Academician, National Academy of Design
- Member, National Institute of Architects
- Member, National Institute of Arts and Letters.

Howells used 36 Pepperrell Road as a summer home during his busy years in New York, Seattle, and Europe. He died at his home in Kittery in 1959 at the age of 91.



*Daily News Building, designed by John Mead Howells and Raymond Hood in the Art Deco Style, East 42nd St., New York City, 1930.*

RENDERING BY HUGH FERRISS



COUNTRY LIFE IN AMERICA, APRIL 1909 BY A. R. DUGMORE.

*Howells designed "Stormfield" for Mark Twain. It was built on 200 acres in Redding, Connecticut, in the style of a Tuscan villa. "It is charmingly quiet here. The house stands alone, with nothing but woody hills and rolling country." - Samuel L. Clemens letter to Dorothy Quick dated June 19, 1908.*

# VOLUNTEER Spotlight

**GEORGE HOFFMAN** has just become a volunteer at the Kittery Museum and we interviewed him on his third day working at the front desk, where he was greeting and orienting spring visitors to the Museum.

Although George is not a Kittery native, he has lived in Kittery since 1980. He was born and raised in Elmira, New York (upstate), where his ancestors were early settlers and farmers. His interest in history was nourished as he grew up immersed in family history and their roles in the early history of Elmira, and in a home surrounded by the antiques his mother loved. His family farming background made him no stranger to the land and he spent his adult working life as a landscape contractor. Following the death of his father, George's mother moved to Peterbrough, New Hampshire, where she opened an antiques shop. George began his education in Elmira, and then went on to graduate from Brewster Academy in Wolfeboro, NH. Higher education was at New England College in Henniker, NH, followed by graduate work at UNH Durham, where he "fell in love with the seacoast."

After college, George worked as a landscaper at Wentworth-by-the-Sea when it was still owned by the Smith family, the last family owners of the hotel. Once the

Wentworth was sold, George began a 25-year career with Piscataqua Landscaping.

George is now retired and busy with family responsibilities, but has found time to volunteer at the Museum. In talking with an old college friend who was very involved in a clock museum on Long Island, George thought it would be interesting to get involved in a local museum. He saw an ad for a volunteer open house this past April at the Museum and after talking to Kim Sanborn, Director, decided KHNM was the Museum for him.

George is learning more and more about Kittery's early days and he is impressed with how much Kittery's history intertwines with the nation's history, and how important the shipyard has been to the history of the United States. Because of his experience with one of the grand hotels across the river, he is particularly fascinated by the history of Kittery's five hotels, and of the railroads and trolleys that carried the guests to their summer accommodations.

George said it was many years before he found the time to visit the Museum! He is amazed at the variety and volume of artifacts on display at the Museum and how very well they are displayed. He particularly recommends the Fresnel Lens, the Gatling Gun, the diving suit



*George Hoffman is a new volunteer at the Kittery Historical and Naval Museum*

in the Squalus display, and the Mitchell Garrison.

George would say to his fellow citizens—"Don't put off your visit to this gem of a Museum. Check it out. Discover what is in your own backyard."

The Museum is fortunate indeed that George decided that this was the Museum for him and we look forward to many years of collaboration.



## From the Archives

### Spotlight on Collections

### Who, What, Where

A group of young people, on stage and in costume, obviously taking part in a play. Can you identify the time and place? Do you recognize anyone?

Answer on page 8.

# 1863 Letter – A window into old Kittery

Recently, one of our Trustees was gifted a wonderful letter written in 1863 by James Burke. The letter is to his family describing his coming to work in Kittery at the Shipyard and finding housing in the area. We have transcribed the letter and thought you might find it interesting reading.

Kittery Sunday, Oct. 18, 1863

My dear Wife and Children

I received your letter and am glad to hear you are all well with the exception of Mother's eyes which I hope will be well soon.

When I wrote the last letter I had not been one half hour in the house. The only place in the town that would take us under their roof, and we should have to board on the other side of the river which would be very bad as we would have to row across in a small boat, and at times when the wind blows fresh would get more water than was pleasant, but as good luck would have it I have got a first rate house with a man named Patch who works in Navy Yard as Carpenter. He has but one child a little girl about the age of Fannie who runs every day to meet her father and me every day when we come home to dinner. I have a first rate room and bed, and live very well so far as creature comfort is concerned but feel lonesome at times but I hope before very long to see you all again in the old home.

No doubt you would like to know something about Kittery it is a one horse town take it all round. There is one street or rather road about a mile path long running from Portsmouth Bridge to the Navy Yard with a few houses scattered along on it without pavement side walls or anything else to keep you out of the mud of which there is a great plenty in wet weather. The rest of the place is all woods and creeks and rivers which makes a very pretty landscape and in fine weather it is pleasant to walk about the woods, as I have this afternoon, but one feels lonesome having so many at home to be alone if it is pleasant. I like the way they conduct the work in this yard every thing goes on here in a quiet manner no driving or hurrying. We are to work on the Ship Alabama she was built the same time as the Virginia in Charlestown was in 1818 and has laid here housed over ever since. She's all shrunk up which makes her it very easy work to caulk and if it was near home I would like the job very much. Tell Fred we expect to caulk the Franklin this winter and if they do I should like to have him down here and also tell him we have not received a single order as yet, orders not being as plenty here as there were in Charlestown. I hope Walter will be a good Boy and obey his Mother if he does not be sure and let me no it when you write, and I hope you will all be good children. If you would I would like you to send me by Jacksons

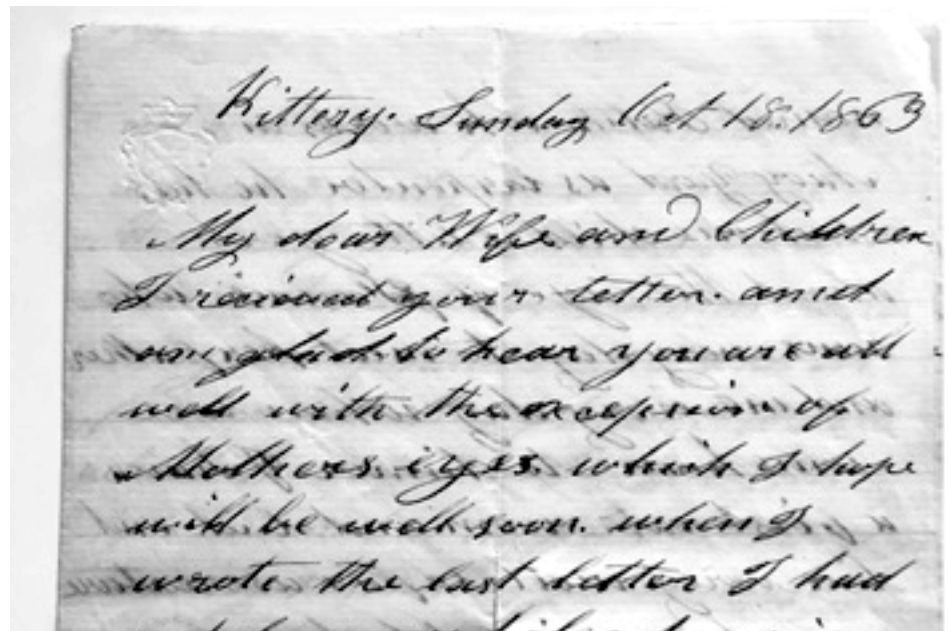
Espress in Court Square a [illegible three words] and frock send them marked in a little bound box to James Burke care of Jacob Patch Kittery Fore Side. The lady of the House would like to see the likeness of the children Send some in the box with any thing else you think I want most as I can't get anything here in this one horse town fit to use and don't want to travel 2 1/2 miles in to Portsmouth and have got no money if I did as it took about all I had whilst looking after a boarding house but there is one advantage in that. The less I have the less I will spend So there is not great loss without some small gain. I have a first rate appetite and will be so fat you would know me when I come home which will be at thanksgiving if they do not discharge me before. Give my love to all the household and kisses to all the little ones. My respects to John Mahoney and all the boys about the yard through town.

I hope Aunt Kitte is better And that Mother and Marey and Andrew are well and now? Mary and children as it is growing list I will finish by bidding you all good night and God bless you all is the prayer of your affectionate Father and Husband

James Burke





Give my Respects to Mr and Mrs Oneal when you go down that way and tell Jim he ought to be down here to rusticate this winter a month or two as it is a fine place for guning if he comes not to come without a [?] railrounder [?]

Direct your letter to James Burke  
Kittery Foreside  
Maine





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

 <p><b>Ron-Bet Excavation</b>      99 State Rd Kittery      ME</p> <p>Tel. (207) 439-5868      Ryan Chick      Cell (207) 703-6646      ryan@ronbet.com</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>Proud to support      the Kittery      Historical &amp;      Naval Society!</p>
<p><b>TIME TO SPRUCE UP      YOUR HOME?</b></p>  <p><b>Gutters      Windows      Awnings</b></p> <p>Established in 1947  <b>99 State Rd., Kittery, ME</b>  <b>207-439-5868 • ronbet.com</b></p>	<p><b>Visit the Florist at Cole Gardens!</b>  <a href="http://www.floristatcolegardens.com">www.floristatcolegardens.com</a>      603-229-0655</p>  <p><b>COLE GARDENS</b></p> <p><b>SEND BEAUTIFUL FLOWERS ANYWHERE!</b></p>

**Answer to Who, What, Where** (p. 6): Traip Academy Senior Play, Class of 1937, *Oh! Susan*. Performed on Dec. 10 & 11, 1936. Cast, left to right: Robert Prescott, *Jason, the butler*; Irene Brooks (sitting), *Mrs. Wetherby, Danver's aunt*; Virginia Huff (standing), *Edith, rosebud in the garden of girls*; Constance Fernald, *Rose, rosebud in the garden of girls*; Miss Ingalls, Coach and advisor; Roland Foss, *thief son of Old Soak*; James Tarling, *the Old Soak*; Anna Tobey, *thief daughter of Old Soak*; Anita Stewart, *house maid of Danvers*; Eddie Chapman (sitting), *Danvers Meredith*; Anna Ford (sitting), *Janet (Susan) Dalton*. Object ID 2014.010.3