



Artifacts and Anchors

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



From the DIRECTOR

Hello Friends,

We are looking forward to a new year, a new decade and new exhibits here at the Museum. Even though the Museum is closed, this is an exciting time within our walls!

This is a milestone year for Maine. In 2020, we are celebrating our State's birthday, as well as preparing for the 375th Anniversary of Kittery's incorporation as a town in 2022. We will be partnering with the Town through special events and presentations both inside and outside the Museum.

Each winter, we create new displays to highlight different aspects of Kittery's history. This year with items recently gifted to the Museum, we will be changing things up for our coming season. With our History Portal project now accessible to our visitors, the Timeline Room is undergoing a big change. Artwork from our collection will be displayed here making this area a gallery. We will be presenting local artists and local scenes along with some artifacts from the archives.

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Spring 2020

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Kittery Supplied Continental Army with Uniforms

The Continental Army was formed by the Second Continental Congress after the outbreak of the Revolutionary War. Established by a resolution of the Congress on June 14, 1775, it was created to coordinate the military efforts of the Thirteen Colonies in their revolt against the rule of Great Britain. The Continental



Army was supplemented by local militias and volunteer troops that remained under control of the individual states or were otherwise independent.

Kittery received orders in August 1775 to supply uniforms for the Continental Army. Congress ordered that uniforms were to include brown coats with different colored facings (collar, lapels, cuffs, and inside lining of the coattails) to distinguish the regiments.

Source: Old Eliot, Vol. V, No. VI, June 1899. Dr. J.L.M. Willis, Editor

Kittery, August ye 2nd, 1775.

Whereas it is recommended and resolved by the Provincial Congress of this Province that this Town of Kittery Shall Supply the Continental Army now in this Province, with one hundred Twenty and five coats; Two hundred and Fifty Shirts, brown linnen; two hundred and fifty pare Brown linnen Breeches: and Two hundred and Fifty pare white Woolen Yarn Stockings; – Therefore it is hereby Desired that any and all Persons in this Town, who are inclined to supply with any or all of the Above articles, that they immediately Give in their Names, with what of the above articles they can Supply with unto Some one of the Selectmen of this Town at or before the Tuesday Night Meeting Eighth Day of this Instant, and so Soon as ye articles are Sent to Watertown, the Committee of this Province has Promised Payment will be Immediately made for the same; the Cloath for the Coats of a Common light brown Coular. Said Coats to be Ready for S'd Army by the first Day of October Next, and the Shirts, Breeches and Stockings to be Sent to S'd Army Immediately.

Jno. Frost	} Select Men of Kittery	Wm. Leighton, Town clerk
Wm. Lewis		
Sam'l Weeks		



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From the PRESIDENT

“Beware the ides of March”

William Shakespeare, *Julius Caesar*, Act 1, Scene II

While the ides of March of 44 B.C. was a very bad day for Julius Caesar, March 15, 1820, was a very good one for the State of Maine. It was on that day that Maine, having separated itself from Massachusetts, was admitted to the Union as the 23rd state. Maine had been part of Massachusetts since 1652.

Neither becoming part of Massachusetts nor separating from it was quick or easy. When the Massachusetts commissioners came to William Everett’s house in what is now Eliot to convince the inhabitants of Kittery to submit to Massachusetts governance, it took 4 days of debate before Kittery finally submitted.

At the other end of Maine’s being part of Massachusetts, it took 6 popular votes over a period of 27 years before the decision was taken to separate. And the results may be inconclusive. There is a saying that “Maine separated from Massachusetts in 1820, but they’ve been buying it back a piece at a time ever since.” Besides being a popular vacation destination, Maine has become a popular place for people “from away” to move to for work or retirement.

As we celebrate Maine’s bicentennial as a state, I invite you to take some time to learn more about how and why we became a state. On March 5 we will have a presentation about Maine’s bicentennial with Kittery Adult Education. Registration for this presentation is required and can be done online at <https://kittery.maineadulted.org/course/maines-bicentennial/> or by phone at 207-439-5896.

The bicentennial is not the end of the celebration. In 2022, we will be celebrating the 375th anniversary of Kittery’s incorporation as the first town in Maine. Stay tuned for future announcements of events to celebrate that milestone.

Bob
Bob Gray

From our library:

MANNERS

Culture and Dress

IN THE
Best American Society

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

PROFANITY

A gentleman should never permit any phrase that approaches to an oath, to escape his lips in the presence of a lady. If any man employs a profane expression in the drawing-room, his pretensions to good-breeding are gone forever. The same reason extends to the society of men advanced in life; and he would be singularly defective in good taste, who should swear before old persons, however irreligious their own habits might be. The cause of profanity being offensive in these cases is that it denotes an entire absence of reverence and respect from the spirit of him who uses it.

News and Events

Thaxter Foundation Grant

The KHNS received a grant from the Rosamund Thaxter Foundation to support three projects:

- printing a newly created history of Kittery, a concise history to be distributed *gratis* throughout the community for the Maine Bicentennial celebrations in 2020 (and thereafter at the Museum);
- a re-printing of the wonderful account of the settlement of Kittery in John Eldridge Frost's book *Colonial Village*. First published in 1947 by one of Kittery's foremost town historians, it has been out of print since 1980. Mr. Frost, a former Society member and past President, gave the rights to the book to the Society; and
- funding for a project to make the remarkable database developed at the Museum about Kittery's historical residents an on-line resource.

Holiday Open House

For three days in December the Museum was decked out in holiday finery—greens and bows in the window boxes, trees decorated and shining in the Museum and the Mitchell Garrison, and a fire (electronic only!) burning brightly in the video room casting a glow on the lovely donated goods for the silent auction. A glow of good cheer was felt throughout the house for our annual holiday open house. Members and Trustees brought delicious homemade holiday treats for sale each day, the trees were decorated with an array of hand-made decorations for sale and the gift shop was filled with wonderful holiday gifts. On Saturday the Museum hosted book signings and sales of five local authors; Dennis Estes,

Portsmouth Kittery and York St RV Trolley, Reflecting on the Past; Betsy Wish, *We Are Kittery*; Denise Brown, *Memorial Bridge Cat and Tugboat River Rescue*; Lenaye Marsten, *The Secret Life of Mary White*; and a DVD by Neil Novello, *The Castle*. Local merchants and individuals were extremely generous, donating items, gift certificates and merchandise for the profitable silent auction. The open house is one of our best fundraisers for the Society and the Museum.

Museum Featured on TV



Maine Life host Erin Ovalle gets a tour of the Museum from Kim Sanborn and Bob Gray.

Filmed last fall, the Kittery Museum was featured in an episode of the television program “Maine Life” that was aired February 1. Kim Sanborn and Bob Gray took host Erin Ovalle on a tour of our Museum and discussed some of the history of Kittery relating to other sites visited on the TV tour of Kittery/York. The program is available on [YouTube](#) by searching for Maine Life Media, Season 5, Episode 1.

Armsden Lecture a Big Hit

On Feb. 19th, Kim Sanborn delivered a well-attended lecture, “Kittery Through the Lens of Douglas Armsden,” at the Kittery Community Center with a guest appearance

by Beverly Armsden Daniel, daughter of Douglas Armsden. Members of the audience expressed interest in seeing even more of Mr. Armsden's photos at possible future talks.

Calendar

How and Why Did Maine Become a State?

Thursday, March 5, from 6-8pm, at Traip Academy

Bob Gray will give a talk about Maine's Bicentennial, the observance of Maine's separation from Massachusetts to become the 23rd state of the union. Come find out how and why Maine was part of Massachusetts to begin with and how and why it separated to become a state. Register through Kittery Adult Education.

Quarterly Membership Meeting

Tuesday, March 24 at 6:30pm, at the Kittery Community Center

At this meeting, the membership will vote for new Trustees who have been nominated by the Society's Membership Committee.

Kittery's Grand Hotels Talk

Thursday, May 21 at 6pm, at Kittery Historical & Naval Museum

Kim Sanborn will talk about 'Kittery's Grand Hotels' at the Kittery Historical and Naval Museum. Register through Kittery Adult Education.

OPENING DAY!!

Mid-April, weather dependent!

Kittery Valuations: Historically Disliked

FROM COLLECTIONS,
MAINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY,
Ser. 1, v. 4, 1856

NOTE. The original memorial of which the following article is a copy, was presented to the Society by I. Wingate Thornton, Esq. of Boston. The melancholy picture of that town given by a committee of the inhabitants, we may supposed to have been intended to operate upon the sympathy of the General Court, for the reduction of their valuation. We cannot but think they overacted their part, and made such exaggerated statement of their poverty, as to weaken their credibility.....

The names signed to the petition were among the most respectable of the Province, and yet did not contain that of Sir. Wm. Pepperrell, an inhabitant of the town, and the most wealthy person in the Province, nor any of his family.

We must therefore receive the representations of the memorial in regard to the character of the town, with some grains of allowance. W.

Memorial of Kittery Kittery, 1751

To the Honorable the Committee appointed by the House of Representatives to Examine the State and



Circumstances of the several towns within the Province in order to a Just valuation of their Estates &c.

The Town of Kittery in the County of York Humbly pray leave to represent their State and Circumstances to this Honorable Committee not Doubting of their Justice in the affair and relief Under the heavy burdensom Taxes, usually laid upon them.

The Township of Kittery is but about Seven Miles in length on a Strait line, and in breadth upon a Strait line about two miles and a half, in Some places a little more and in Some less.

It is a long narrow strip of Land, a great part unprofitable; about One Quarter part of the Lands in Said Town are not Capable of any Improvement in Husbandry. Such Mossy, Rocky Ground and boggy Swamps as bear nothing to Support any usefull Creatures, Is not profitable for anything. Poor fisherman and Sailors and some Labourers when there was Some Tradeing and business Carried on in the Town, Purchased Small house lotts here and there, amongst the rocks, built little Cottages to live in, On which lotts Some may raise a bushel of Potatoes and a hundred of Cabbages, and many Cannot raise so much; and those Cottages make a great part of the number of houses (so Called) throughout the Town of Kittery.... In the whole town are about Two Hundred and Eighty Four families or house-holders, and one quarter part of them Cannot... but Depend upon others for their Supply.

Not one in ten through the whole Town does raise a full Sufficiency for their own familys to live on the year about. Not one in thirty that Can raise any Provisions to Spare So that the Town in General Depend upon buying, but have nothing to Purchase

withal.... The fishery is Dwindled into nothing. Not one fishing Vessel in the Town Improved; the fishermen Driven to Other business and lost; leaving their poor and helpless Widows and familys to the Town for support. In a Great many of those houses is nothing but the Continual Cry of hunger, Poverty and want.

There is not any one Commodity of the Produce of the Town of Kittery Sufficient to Supply the whole Town

There is not three Rich men in the Town, Most all are very poor. Many are wretched and Miserable.

with what is Necessary of that Particular Sort of Commodity for their own use. The Inhabitants don't make nor are they able to make one half of their own Cloathing, nor raise half their bread Corn, Neither is all the Cattle annually raised in the Town Sufficient to Supply the Town with Meat....

There is not three Rich men in the Town, Most all are very poor. Many are wretched and Miserable.

There is not one town in the County under Such Difficult Circumstances as the Town of Kittery is under....

No Person living can Show that Kittery Does produce any one Commodity to trade upon of any Sort; but poor Widows and Orphans they have in Plenty more than any other Town in the County.

These things we are ready to verify in any reasonable time and manner.... These things will be duly considered and relief granted to this Town at this time and case from the heavy burthen of Taxes they have so long borne. So confiding in the Justice of this Honorable Committee in what lies before

Continued on page 5

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

Part 2 of an article in the Winter 2019
Artifacts and Anchors:

The Harbor & Its Ships

We all have read and been told that our harbor has the best entrance and the deepest water on the coast. All kinds of vessels from barque, barkentine, five and six masters, and seiners down to a whaleboat, the White Squadron, and Greeley's fleet on coming back from the Arctic—all have anchored here. Two of the ships whose names I remember in Greeley's fleet were the *Bear* and the *Thetis*, The *Bear* was his flagship and it was the same *Bear* which went to the Pole this past year as a supply ship for Admiral Byrd. Why I remember the names of those ships so well was because they were anchored in front of my home and I could almost touch them with a fishing pole. Vessels used to be anchored so close you could walk or jump from one to the other and land in New Castle.

You may wonder where they got their supplies and water. The fishing vessels had barrels which they brought ashore and filled from all the surrounding wells. Then, after a few years, Captain Jairus Hoyt, ... purchased a sailing boat, something like a scow, fitted with

VALUATIONS cont'd. from page 4

them, We subscribe ourselves in Behalf of the poor Town of Kittery; Your Humble Servants,

Jos. Hammond, Nathan Bartlett,
Elihu Gunnison, Simon Emery,
Epes Greenough, John Leighton,
Nathaniel Keen, Wm. Leighton,
John Godsoe, Joseph Staple,
Noah Emery, Esq., James Fogg,
Joseph Hammond, Jr.,
Ephraim Libby, James Gowen,
John Hammond,
Nathaniel Remick, Thomas Cutt.

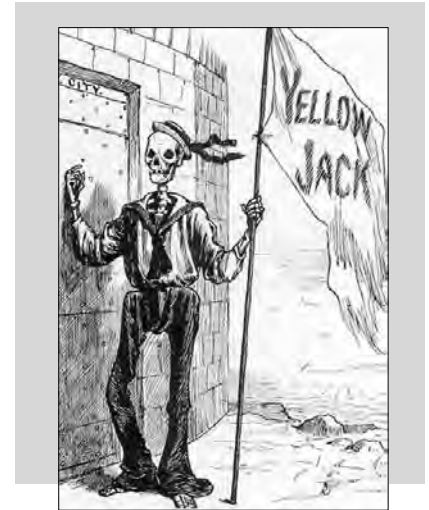
Kittery, March 20, 1751.

tanks, and went around the vessels and charged so much for a barrel of water. He built a large business. Later on he went into the tow-boat business and transferred the water question to the well-known house painter, Wilton Bray. Shortly after going into the tow-boat business Captain Hoyt installed water tanks in the boat so if he was called for a tow he could also

On Wood Island...was the quarantine hospital for the Government. Every Government ship had to anchor on the quarantine ground until they were inspected for yellow fever...

supply water. Previous to this there was another boat used for towing, called the *Clara Bateman*. Business was so good it gave both boats enough work to keep them busy the greater part of the time getting vessels up to Portsmouth to unload. Before this in order to enter the harbor there were two sail boats, one from here and one from New Castle, which used to go outside of Whalesback and await the vessels, then board them and pilot them into the harbor for anchorage. The one from here was Captain Samuel Tobey and the one from New Castle was Captain Amazeen.

On Wood Island where the Coast Guard Station is now situated was the quarantine hospital for the Government. Every Government ship had to anchor on the quarantine ground until they were inspected for yellow fever, which was very common for a time. If sick sailors were found they were transferred to the Hospital out there. It is said that one time ...ships that were lying in the harbor here threw mattresses overboard, which washed ashore on the Champernowne Beach where they were picked up innocently by a family of the name of Hill, who lived there, from which they took the fever and most of them died from the effect of it.



Village Stores

Kittery Point boasted three grocery stores – Frisbee Brothers, Safford and Clarkson (afterward T. Clarkson and Sons, as Mr. Safford had business enough at the Pepperrell Hotel to take his attention) and Captain Jesse Frisbee's store. The last was opposite the lane that runs down on Moore's Island. And there was a little store run by Grandma Hoyt, who sold everything from a spool of cotton to garden produce. If a man wanted a pair of mittens, she would knit them in one day.

Politics

As we are nearing another campaign, I must tell you where the presidents-elect flags used to swing in the breeze, both Republican and Democrat. The Democrat one was at Captain Thomas Hoyt's, near the residence of Mrs. Tabor Low now. He was a tried and true Democrat. The Republican one was at Captain Jesse Frisbee's. The Republican one at Kittery was close by the Library, near the residence of Colonel Mark F. Wentworth and the home of the Honorable Moses Safford. Talk about exciting times! There were torch-light parades. All the windows in the houses were lighted with candles. Children were dressed in flags as the goddess of Liberty, standing in the doorways all along the line of the march. Not all the houses would be lighted in one evening. If it was a Republican parade the Democrat houses were dark and the same was with the Democrat parade—the Republicans would be blackout.

VOLUNTEER Spotlight

If you have been enjoying the elegant and professional layout, design, graphics, and production of this newsletter, you should thank volunteer Janice Farmer. And when you enjoy the Museum's collection of Douglas J. Armsden photographs, you will want to thank Janice for her careful curating of the collection.

Janice Farmer (née Medcalf) is a Kittery native, born and bred. Janice's father returned from WWII to resume a job at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, and Janice spent her early childhood in Admiralty Village. When she was 8 years old the family moved to a house built by her father on Dennett Road. She says that at that time Dennett Road was still somewhat rural with two operating chicken farms near her house. And there were many fewer children to play with than in the Village! Janice attended Kittery public schools, graduating from Traip Academy.

Janice said that she became interested in Kittery's history as she began to explore her own family's connection to the area, which began with her great-great grandfather. A US Marine, he was stationed at the Portsmouth navy yard in the 1860s. He and his family stayed in Kittery after

his discharge. Someone from almost every generation since then has worked at the Shipyard. Janice's great-grandfather was master of the pattern shop in the 1920s, her mother was a clerical worker in the 1940s, and her father retired from P&E after 38 years.

Janice's educational background is in graphics and design, and she is very happy to use these skills to promote the Society's mission. Now retired from UNH Printing Services, Janice works "upstairs" at the Museum, in the collections/library area. Janice was recruited to help in the collections area because Kittery natives are especially useful when working with the Society's collections to help identify places, people, businesses, etc. in old photos and ephemera. When the Armsden family donated a wonderful collection of Kittery-related photos by local photographer Douglas J. Armsden, Janice was asked to sort, scan, and catalog the collection. Her knowledge



Janice Farmer, KH&NS volunteer.

of the area was invaluable, as many of the photographs are not labelled. Janice says she is enjoying curating the collection and now has a great appreciation for Douglas Armsden's talent as a photographer.

When the Society decided to revitalize its newsletter *Artifacts and Anchors* and return to an eight-page format, Janice volunteered her considerable skills in newsletter design, production, and editing. Janice and two other Society volunteers plan to continue to produce the newsletter in its current format, quarterly, for the members of the Society.

Janice says her time at the Museum is very satisfying and she learns something new each time she comes in. She says many Kittery residents don't realize what a great opportunity the Museum offers to see a broad spectrum of town history. The artifacts in the collections connect the people of Kittery to historical events, both local and national.

When asked how she might want to convince other members of the community to volunteer to help at the Museum, she says that she would point out that volunteering does not require an extensive knowledge of Kittery or a huge commitment of time, that there is an interesting variety of jobs to be done, one gets to work with really interesting artifacts, and it's an opportunity to learn new things about Kittery and our history.



Spotlight on Collections

Who Is It?

This photograph by Douglas Armsden is from the Museum's recently acquired Armsden collection. It was taken in 1947 in the studio of a Kittery resident. Do you know who these distinguished gentlemen are? Answer on page 8.

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Continued from page 1

As we continue to bring history into the 21st century, we are also looking for people who would like to be involved with preserving Kittery's history. If you have an interest in digitizing, organizing, or researching we have a place for you. If you would prefer to greet our visitors and talk about Kittery, we also have a place for you. We are dedicated to sharing and preserving our collections for future generations and you can help us to do that. Just ask us what opportunities are available.



So here's looking to the future to preserve the past. Change is good. Come visit us and see!

Kim

Kim Sanborn, Director

Not a Member Yet? Become One!

Membership in the Kittery Historical & Naval Society entitles you to:

- Free admission to the Museum
- A printed copy of the newsletter *Artifacts & Anchors*
- A 20% discount on all Museum purchases
- Participation in quarterly meetings and special events



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**

Authors Wanted

The editors of *Artifacts and Anchors* would like to invite KHNS members and Kittery residents who have stories to tell or historical research to relate—about Kittery and its history or the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard and maritime history—to consider writing an article for the Society's newsletter. These might be memoirs, research articles, or anecdotal stories of topics of interest to the Society, such as past businesses, social and civic activities, schools, merchants, recreation, architecture and houses, artists and artisans, fishing and lobstering, ships and boats, churches, military, etc.

We invite prospective authors to submit a paragraph (100 words or less) describing their proposed topic. The editors will review all submissions and those articles chosen for publication will ordinarily be no more than 700 words.

Submit proposals to editor@kitterymuseum.org
or mail to: Kittery Historical and Naval Society
Editorial Staff, *Artifacts and Anchors*
P.O. Box 453
Kittery, Maine 03904





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Answer to Who Is It? (p. 6): John Prentiss Benson (left) and William Sumner Appleton stand in front of an easel holding two paintings by Benson in his studio in Kittery. Benson was a well known marine painter who lived at "Willowbank" on Whipple Road. Appleton was the founder in 1910 of the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities, a historic preservation organization (now known as Historic New England). This photo was taken by Douglas Armsden in July, 1947. Both Benson and Appleton died in November, 1947. (*Historic New England; Wikipedia*)