



Artifacts and Anchors

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



If Walls Could Talk

Plans for the tour of historical house gardens in Kittery Point—“Kittery Seaside Gardens Through the Centuries”—are progressing well. Nine sites from John Frost’s book *Colonial Village* are now planned for the tour: the Lady Pepperrell Mansion, the Kittery First Congregational Church cemetery, the Follett house, the Hooke house, the historical demonstration gardens at Ft. McClary, the Sir William Pepperrell Mansion, the Bray House, the 1798 house (and one Moore’s Island garden), and the Kerswell Ordinary.

This tour, in celebration of Kittery’s 375th anniversary, will be held on Saturday, July 9, from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. Tickets will be sold online and in person at the Museum. On the day of the tour, ticket holders will be given a printed brochure that will include a map and information about the sites on the tour.

We have been looking through our library and files for information about some of the sites on the tour and found some wonderful anecdotes about some of the houses, and characters associated with the houses, on the tour. Over the next few issues we’d like to share some of these stories.

The Lady Pepperrell House

From *Nooks and Corners of the New England Coast* by Samuel Adams

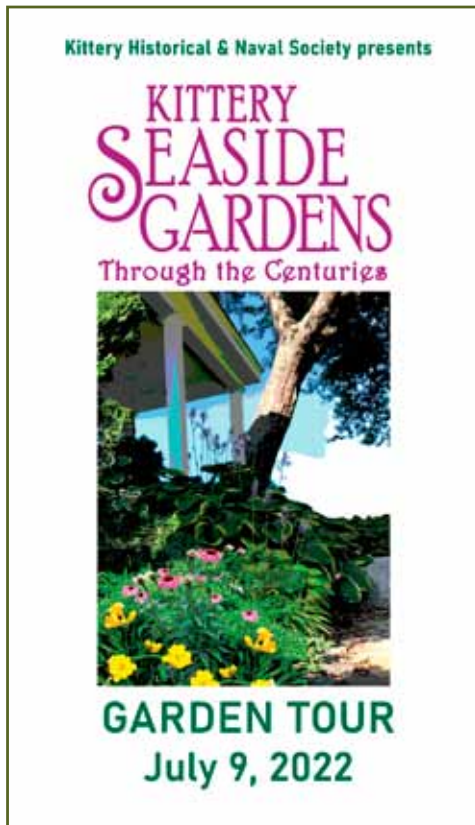
Drake, 1876. (John Frost includes in *Colonial Village* a paragraph from Drake’s description of his visit to the house.) Here is the rest of the story from Drake.

“... in leaving the church door, you were confronted by a somber old mansion, having, in despite of some relics of a former splendor, an unmistakable air of neglect and decay. The massive entrance door hung by a single fastening, the fluted pilasters on either side were rotting away, window panes were shattered, chimney tops in ruins, the fences prostrate. It was nothing but a wreck

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ashore. This was the house built by Lady Pepperrell, after the death of Sir William. Report said it was haunted; indeed I found it so, and by a living phantom.

“Repeated and long-continued knocking was at length answered by a tremulous effort from within to open the door, which required the help of my companion and myself to effect. I shall never forget the figure that appeared to us.... Poor Sally Cutts, a harmless maniac, was the sole inhabitant of the old house; she and it were fallen into hopeless ruin together. Her appearance was weird and witch-like, and betokened squalid poverty. An old calash almost concealed her features from observation, except when she raised her head and glanced at us in a scared furtive sort of way. Yet beneath this wreck, and what touched us keenly to see, was the instinct of a lady of



See WALLS, page 4



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From the PRESIDENT

Greetings,

Another season at the Kittery Historical & Naval Museum has come and gone. It was great to have the Museum open again and to be able to welcome visitors and show them some of Kittery's history. Many thanks to our Director Kim Sanborn, and to our trustees and volunteers who persevered through this season and enabled us to keep our Museum open, albeit with reduced hours. Now with the Museum closed for the season, our focus shifts to all the things that we need to do for opening in April, such as cleaning and maintenance of the building and rearranging displays. If you are in a position to help out with any of this, please contact Kim at the Museum.

This October began the year-long celebration of Kittery's 375th anniversary of our incorporation as a town. Kittery Historical & Naval Society and the Museum are very much a part of the celebration. The reprinting of the "Colonial Village" with many updates was a great way to start off and many copies have already been purchased. Going forward, we will be having historical lectures, walking tours and a garden tour. Watch our website at kitterymuseum.com and Kittery's 375th website at kittery375th.com for more information about celebration activities.

As I am writing this the week before Thanksgiving, I am thankful for the privilege of having a part in preserving and presenting Kittery's history. And I am thankful for our trustees, volunteers and members who support the Society and Museum. I hope that by the time you read this you will have had a happy and healthy Thanksgiving.

Bob

Bob Gray, President

From our library:

MANNERS

Culture and Dress

IN THE

Best American Society

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

WOMAN'S RISK GREATER THAN MAN'S

The risks of marriage are for the greater part on the woman's side. Women have so little the power of choice that it is not, perhaps, fair to say that they are less likely to choose well than we are; but I am persuaded that they are more frequently deceived in the attachments they form, and their opinions concerning men are less accurate than men's opinion of their sex. Now, if a lady were to reproach me for having said this, I should reply that it was only another way of saying there are more good wives in the world than there are good husbands, which I verily believe.

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 for details.

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

From the DIRECTOR

Season's Greetings Friends,

I am very happy to report that we had a good year here in the Museum. We saw visitors from many states throughout the country. We were able to open 5 days a week with the help of our dedicated volunteers and trustees.

We continued to work through our archives, digitizing and cataloging our collections. Transitioning from hand-written log books to computer programs will make accessing those records for research and genealogy much easier and less time consuming. This is a continuing project that is expected to last many years. However, we are already seeing progress being made.

I am pleased to report that we have once again worked with Kittery Adult Education and Meetinghouse Village to provide the community with presentations on Kittery's history. Traveling outside the walls of the Museum is something we love to do.

We are also partnering with the Town to celebrate Kittery's 375th anniversary of Incorporation with ongoing events throughout 2022 including "Kittery Seaside Gardens Through the Centuries" garden tour hosted by the Society.

We were very pleased we were able to reprint *Colonial Village* by John Eldridge Frost, making it available for a new generation of historians. We already have plans in the works for other books from the Museum's vast collection of stories from the past.

I want to welcome all the new members this year and thank all our members and volunteers for their continued support. This was an interesting year with a variety of challenges we were able to face head on and successfully navigate our way through to 2022.

I wish you all the best holidays, good health, and a Happy New Year!

See you in the Spring,

Kim

Kim Sanborn, Director

Kittery Seaside Gardens Through the Centuries

We are looking for volunteers to help with logistics/parking, to serve as garden docents, to take tickets, to hand out programs, and more. We hope that members of the Kittery Historical and Naval Society will step up to help make this event a successful one to benefit your Museum. Your time commitment will be short, but the benefit to the Society will be considerable. No special history or gardening knowledge is needed. If you would be willing to lend a few hours of your time, please contact Lauren Gallant (gallant@mit.edu), or Kim Sanborn (kitterymuseum@netzero.net), or phone 207-439-3080 and leave a message. *Thank You!*

News

Kittery's 375th Website

The Town of Kittery has a website that is the central source of information about events planned through 2022 connected to the 375th Anniversary of Kittery's Incorporation as a town. Check it often as new events are frequently added. <https://www.kittery375th.com/>

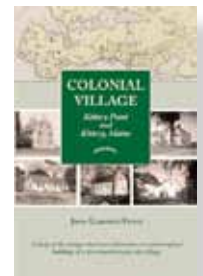
Wreaths Across America

The Society was contacted by the organizers of Wreaths Across America, a program that places wreaths on the graves of veterans each December on National Wreaths Across America Day. They plan to place wreaths this year in a number of cemeteries in Kittery and Kittery Point. By a vote of the Board of Trustees, the Society will sponsor 4 wreaths for the graves of Kittery veterans.

Colonial Village for the history buff on your "List"

The Society's publication *Colonial Village: Kittery Point and Kittery, Maine* is an updated version of John Eldridge Frost's 1947 book about the pre-1800 people and homes of Kittery Point Village.

It would make a great gift for the history buff on your holiday list and is available online from Amazon and Barnes and Noble, as well as when the Museum office is open during the off-season on Wednesdays 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.



Not yet a member? We would love for you to join! Go to our website or click on this link:

Participate



PHOTO: SUSAN PENDERY

gentle breeding that seemed that last and only link between her and the world. With the air and manner of the drawing-room of fifty years ago she led the way from room to room.

“We tracked with our feet the snow that had drifted in underneath the hall door. The floors were bare, and echoed to our tread. Fragments of the original paper, representing ancient ruins, had peeled off the walls, and vandal hands had wrenched away the pictured tiles from the fireplaces. The upper rooms were but a repetition of the disorder and misery below stairs.

“Our hostess, after conducting us to her own apartment, relapsed into imbecility, and seemed little conscious of our presence. Some antiquated furniture, doubtless family heir-looms, a small stove and a bed, constituted all her worldly goods. As she crooned over a scanty fire of two or three wet sticks, muttering to herself, and striving to warm her withered hands, I thought I beheld in her the impersonification of Want and Despair.



“Her family was one of the most distinguished of New England, but a strain of insanity developed itself in her branch of the genealogical tree....

“This house had come into the possession of Captain Joseph Cutts about the beginning of the [19th] century. He was a large ship owner, and a successful and wealthy merchant. Ruined by Mr. Jefferson’s embargo and by the war of 1812, he lost his reason, and now lies in the village church-yard. Two of his sons inherited their father’s blighting misfortune: one fell by his own hand in Lady Pepperrell’s bed-chamber. Sally, the last survivor, has joined them [in mental illness] within a twelvemonth.”

Both Sally Cutts and the house fare better as the years go on.

Footnote about Sally Cutts from Drake, *Nooks and Corners*:

“Sarah Chauncey, known to us as ‘Sally Cutts’ was removed during her last illness to the house of her cousin, where she was kindly cared for. When near her end she became more rational, and was sensible of the attentions of her friends. She died June 30th, 1874.”

The Lady Pepperrell House is restored.

(From *Ye Romance of Old York* by Herbert Milton Sylvester, 1906)

“If one should turn one’s back to the broken stile that gives entrance to the cemetery, with one’s face to the old church, at the left, within a stone-throw is the Lady Pepperrell House. According to Drake, when he saw it, it was in an exceeding dilapidated condition, with its great door hanging by a single hinge, its window panes broken, and its chim-

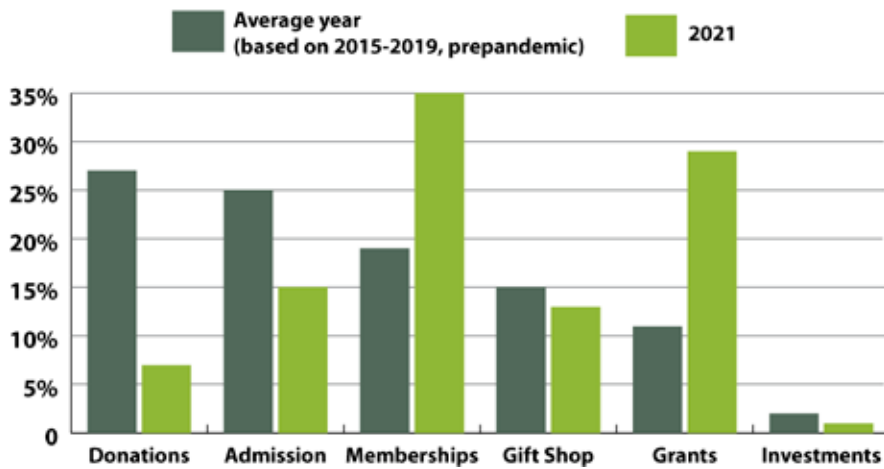
The town of Kittery and all who share a love of its history and historic homes are grateful for the efforts of the homeowners, past and present, who have cared for and preserved these beautiful houses for future generations. Over the next few issues, we hope to share more stories about the sites on our garden tour.

ney tops sadly awry. I anticipated finding it in a still more advanced stage of ruin; but what was my surprise to find it aglow in the light of the morning sun, and outwardly suggestive of all its pristine glory and importance. What wand of magic had been laid upon it I did not inquire, but there were no signs of decay, from either a physical or moral point of view. As I looked at its massive door I would not have been surprised had it been thrown wide open for Lady Pepperrell, or to have seen that proud dame step out upon its single wide flag that hugged its threshold, for a stroll about the lawn that spread away on either side of the walk that led to the street.”

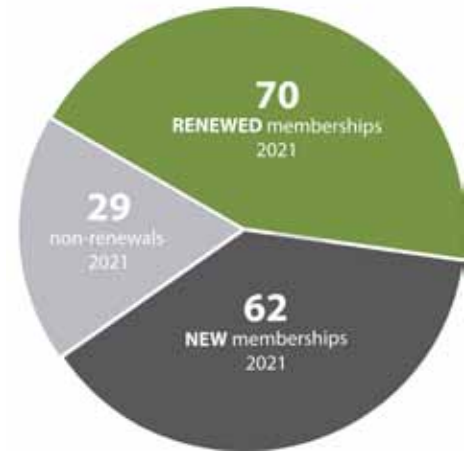
In 1888, the house was purchased by J. Chester Cutts, who restored the house and lived in it with his family.

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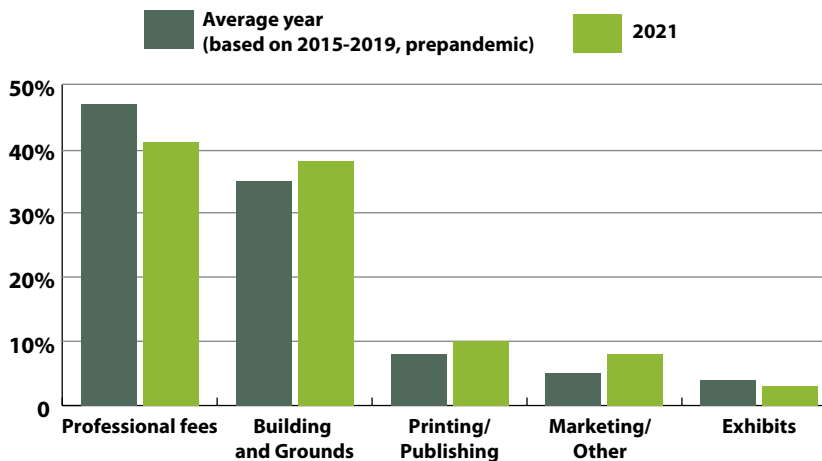
KH&NS Income From All Sources (%)



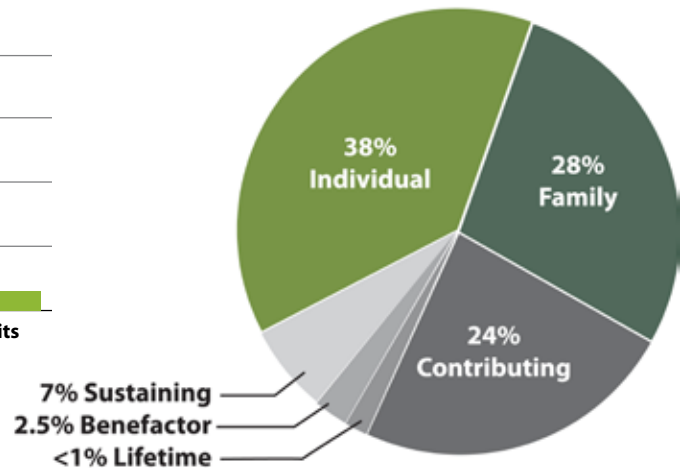
2021 Membership



KH&NS Expenses From All Sources (%)



Current Memberships/Donations by Type (%)



We thought our Members would be interested in this information about the Kittery Historical and Naval Society and Museum. The graphics show some of the end-of-the-2021-season figures. Admissions were still recovering after the museum being closed for the 2020 season. A successful membership campaign helped make up for some of the lost income.



Spotlight on Collections


Who, What, Where

A pine box (21½" x 8" x 4") with handles, containing 10 heavy lead objects, all of which measure 5¼" x 1½", with a nail protruding from the large end.

Do you know what they are?

Answer on page 8.

Please consider making an end-of-the-year gift to the Kittery Historical and Naval Society so that we may continue our work of preserving Kittery's history for everyone to enjoy now and in the future. Any amount is appreciated. NEW! You can now donate online from our website: kitterymuseum.com. Just click the donate button.



Kittery Historical and Naval Society

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

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


Name _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Amount Enclosed _____

Thank You!



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



Our Permanent Exhibits

Although each year brings new exhibits to the Museum, visitors also value the long-standing displays that tell the story of Kittery and its heritage.

(Clockwise from top left: 1901 Gatling gun, model of a car of the Portsmouth, Kittery and York Street Railway, hard hat diving suit from Squalus rescue, a vintage Captain's gig, and the original Fresnel lens from the Boon Island lighthouse.



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Answer to Who, What, Where (p. 6): A set of 10 lofting ducks. One of a boat designer's most prized tools—known as spline weights, or “ducks” or “whales.” These are used to hold the drafting spline in place as it forms one of the many curves necessary to draw the lines of a shapely boat. Spline Weights can also be used when lofting the plans full-sized onto the floor of a boat shop. (Kittery Historical and Naval Museum, Object ID# 2015.002)