

The Log

Kennebunkport Historical Society

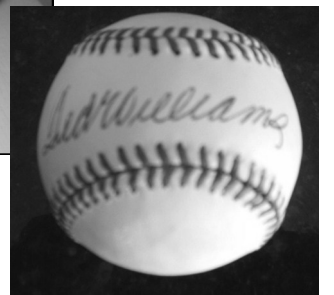
PO Box 1173, Kennebunkport ME 04046 • 207.967.2751 - kports@roadrunner.com • www.kporthistory.org

ANTIQUES AND GOOD THINGS AUCTION - DON'T MISS IT!

Since early last spring, Bill Clark and his auction committee have been working hard to secure items for the Society's auction on Saturday, July 30. They have assembled almost 200 items representing a wide selection of antiques, artwork, and fine collectibles. Items include baseball memorabilia, Will Rogers ephemera, furniture, antique pink lustre, Haviland, cut glass, early Wedgwood, paintings, watercolors, and prints – antique and contemporary.

Several local artists have donated original pieces for the auction including about 20 artists represented by the Wright Gallery in Cape Porpoise as well as Wade Zahares and Louise Frechette.

In addition, there will be other items to bid on such as vacation condominiums, cruises, Red Sox tickets, jewelry, vintage dolls, and country painted furniture. Additional information is available on the Society's website at www.kporthistory.org.



A variety of items, such as this Wedgwood pitcher and signed baseball will be at the July 30th auction.

Remember, there is no sales tax and no buyers' commission on anything you buy!

This is a major fundraiser for the Society. We hope you will come and bid and support the Society in helping to realize our ambitious goals of preservation, collections care and community programming.

Once again, we are honored to have auctioneer extraordinaire, Peter Whalon. The auction will start promptly at 10 a.m.

The Auction Preview Gala will be held on Friday evening, July 29, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. This event, catered by Kitchen Chicks, will provide guests with an opportunity to have a preview of the many fine antiques, collectibles and artwork that will be auctioned on July 30 to benefit the Society's education and outreach programs.



A pastel drawing of the Town House School by Wade Zahares, is among the artwork offered in this year's auction.

The Kennebunkport Historical Society
 PO Box 1173
 Kennebunkport, ME 04046

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MEMBERSHIP & VOLUNTEER INTEREST FORM

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

Alternate address – please include dates you are at this address:

Life: \$1000 _____ Benefactor: \$500 _____ Supporting: \$250 _____

Contributing: \$100 _____ Household: \$60 _____ Individual: \$40 _____

Donation: _____

Business memberships are available. Please call for information 207-967-2751.

I would like to help by volunteering in one or more of the following areas:

History/Genealogy Researcher _____ Gardening _____ Docent/Tour Guide _____

Light Carpentry _____ Office Help _____ Special Events _____

Other (please indicate) _____

Please send this form with your check to:

The Kennebunkport Historical Society
PO Box 1173, Kennebunkport, ME 04046-1173

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SUMMER EXHIBITION FEATURES MARITIME HISTORY

“High Seas and a Safe Harbor – Kennebunkport’s Age of Sail” opened on Thursday, June 16 and will remain open through Columbus Day.

Kennebunkport’s age of sail spanned the 19th century and defined the fabric and character of the community. Residents represented many of the maritime trades and careers, ranging from sail makers, riggers, blacksmiths, and caulkers to ship builders, masters and owners who amassed their wealth through their various mercantile endeavors.



This silk scroll of Captain Ward’s son Stephen was painted on a trip to China.

The streets of Kennebunkport were dotted with the gracious homes of legendary ship masters, and their sometimes plain exteriors belied the exotic treasures within that were brought back from voyages around the world.

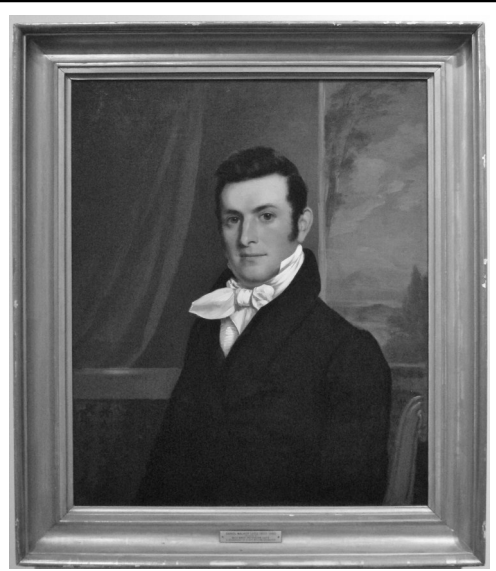
The exhibition is peopled with a selection of the town’s citizens and many of their stories. Among those that you will meet are Daniel Walker Lord, Captain Henry Benjamin Twambly, Captain George Nowell, and Captain Daniel Webster Dudley.

Some of the ships they sailed were built on the Kennebunk River in the Landing ship yards which were prosperous from the mid 1700s until after the Civil War.

Others were built in Kennebunkport, which boasted several yards near the mouth of the river. These included D&S Ward, Crawford and Perkins and Clement Littlefield across the river in the Lower Village. The last of the Kennebunkport yards was the David Clark Ship Yard, which kept shipbuilding alive until just after the turn of the 20th century.

During the 1860s and 1870s, square rigged vessels predominated, but after the Civil War, schooners were the ships most

One of the featured items of the exhibition is the recently conserved portrait of Daniel Walker Lord which was given to the Society last summer by Juliet, Elizabeth, William and James Parry; children of Lucy Fuller Lear. The conservation work was done by Bonnie and Domenico Mattozzi of the Maine Project for Art Conservation in Portland.



frequently built on the river.

The maritime enterprises that dominated daily life in Kennebunkport were key to the District of Kennebunk’s economy and provided a level of prosperity unknown to many other coastal towns.

The Customs House for the District did a brisk business throughout the 19th century but was closed in 1913. Some of the ship masters lived on through the 1930s and they passed on to the next generation legendary tales of their life on the high seas. Throughout their letters and journals that have been passed down to family members, the lure of the sea is strong in their blood but there is also a yearning for home and family and the desire to settle into a safe harbor.

Exhibition hours are Tuesdays through Fridays, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturdays in July and August, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

hoped that the town authorities will give it the immediate attention it needs...The York and Cumberland Bar Associations held their annual outing at the Cape Porpoise Casino...invited guests were members of the Maine Supreme Court... the day was perfect and the outing, particularly their entertainment at the Casino, was highly enjoyed by all.”

The Wave, July 19, 1902. “There was a large attendance at the Casino hop Saturday night and for an hour before the regular hop the children danced.”

The Wave, July 25, 1903. “The excellent management and fine music at the Casino attract many people there evenings for dancing and refreshments. So much has this become a daily pleasure with scores of Kennebunk and Kennebunkport people one wonders what they did evenings before the trolley line was established.”

The Wave, August 1, 1903. “The attendance at the devotional service last Sunday at the Casino was unusually large...The Kennebunk Band played, and many people stayed until the evening cars to enjoy all the music and to watch the changing colors as the sun went down.” Services were held on Sunday afternoons.

Sources for this article were *History of Cape Porpoise* by Melville Freeman (1955), *The Kennebunks – Out of the Past* by Kenneth Joy (1967) and copies of *The Wave*.

Sheila H. Meek

Cape Porpoise Casino.

After taking a trolley exploring trip over the Sanford and Cape Porpoise R. R., the tourist should visit the Cape Porpoise Casino which is under the management of the Railroad Company.

Fine dancing floor for pleasure parties.

New private Dining Rooms.

Special attention to private parties.

SHORE DINNER—Price 50 cents.		
Clam Chowder	or Fish Chowder	or Lobster Stew
	Steamed Clams	
Baked Fish	or	Fried Clams
with Boiled Potatoes		with Fresh Chips
	Plain Lobster	
Plain Bread		Doughnuts
	Pickles	Coffee
	or	
Broiled Live Lobster, in addition to the above, 25 cents extra.		
Served from 11 A. M. to 8 P. M.		

Orders in writing to Conductors, or by telephone to the Sanford office will receive careful attention.

I. L. MELOON, Supt. S. & C. P. R. R.

Newspaper advertisement from the early 20th century.

CURRENT BUSINESS MEMBERS

THANK YOU
FOR YOUR SPONSORSHIP AND SUPPORT

Bark Level

The Captain Lord Mansion
Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage
Kitchen Chicks Catering
Libby O'Brien Kingsley & Champion

Schooner Level

BellaBotox
The Colony Hotel
Huntington Common
Kat Bags Ltd.
Kennebunk Beach Realty
Maine Art Gallery & Framing
Ocean Communities Federal Credit Union
People’s United Bank

Brigantine Level

Boatyard Catering
Great Works Internet
Kennebunk Savings Bank
Pier 77 and The Ramp Bar & Grill
Port Lobster

Sloop Level

1802 Bed & Breakfast Inn
Bowley Builders
Captain Fairfield Inn
Dan Viehmann Landscaping
The Kennebunkport Inn
Mann Memorial Veterinary Clinic
The Maine Stay Inn
The Nonantum Resort
Old Fort Inn & Antiques
Saxony Imports
Shoreline Builders, Ltd.
Spang Builders
The Shell Shack

THE CAPE PORPOISE CASINO



THE CASINO, CAPE PORPOISE, ME.

This old postcard shows a view of the Casino from the harbor.

To today's generation, the term "casino" has an entirely different connotation. They think of Foxwoods in Connecticut or the constant newspaper articles about a proposed casino in Oxford County. But in the early 1900s, there was a thriving casino in Cape Porpoise which served excellent food, hosted various groups and provided a large area for dancing.

With the advent of the trolley line running from Sanford to the pier at Cape Porpoise (Sanford and Cape Porpoise Railroad) an opportunity opened up for the Cape Porpoise Land Company to develop the land it had acquired in 1897. During 1898 the route was surveyed and actual construction began on the trolley line.

On September 29, 1899 the first trolley car rolled into Cape Porpoise as far as the Prospect House. By October 5th cars ran through the town square and by the 6th they could progress as far as Pinkham's Store. Fourteen days later, the end of the trestle leading to the pier was attained and passengers could alight at the Stone Haven Hotel on the hill overlooking the harbor. Soon the pile bridge to the wharf was completed, and by November 19th trolley cars began a regular schedule with six daily trips and eleven on Sundays. Another use for the tracks was to haul coal cars (unloaded from ships docked at the pier) all the way to the mills in Sanford.

Once convenient transportation was achieved, the next step was to build a casino in 1900. At that time it was popular to build a recreation center at the end of a trolley line. The new building included a restaurant with dining rooms (seafood dinners cost fifty cents!), a dance floor and an orchestra. The large piazza with its comfortable chairs provided an enchanting view over the harbor

and islands.

Fishing boats and yachts (in summer) sailed in and out of the harbor and many people went out to picnic on the nearby islands. On a hot summer day when the inland temperature hit 90 degrees, the cooling shore breezes kept the thermometer at 70.

The casino continued to prosper until the night of September 6th, 1915 when the building was consumed by fire. As patronage of the trolley line began to decline with the advent of the automobile, the Atlantic Shoreline Railway (the Sanford and Cape Porpoise Railroad had merged with several other local lines) kept the trolley line running only

until 1925. By that time, fewer patrons were making the trips profitable. The mighty automobile had taken over.

Below are several quotes from the summer newspaper, *The Wave*, during the years 1900 to 1903. They give an idea of the evolution and use of the Cape Porpoise Casino. There is also a sample menu.

The Wave, July 7, 1900 "The Electric Railroad is building a Casino at the terminus of their road, which will be completed in a few days. It is 110 feet long and 50 wide, with immense dance floor surface, theatre, dining room and other amusement features."

The Wave, August 18, 1900 "A notable feature of last week was the tea, which opened the recently completed Casino...and was thoroughly enjoyable. Evergreens, golden rod and mountain ash furnished the decorations of the walls and tables, and afforded an effective background for the charming costumes of the ladies and the more somber garb of the men. Success may be written large over the tea and the Casino, as well as over most things at this deservedly popular house."

The Wave, July 6, 1901. "Mr. G. D. Robinson, the famous chef, has been engaged for the season, and a specialty is made of shore dinners. This makes a delightful place to spend a day or evening, and is an especially attractive spot for dancing parties or picnics."

The Wave, July 5, 1902. "The Sanford and Cape Porpoise R.R. Co., has made improvements around the Casino and added to its attractiveness. There are two private dining rooms with a magnificent outlook that will no doubt attract frequent parties during the season."

The Wave, July 12, 1902. "The road from the Stone Haven to the Casino is in very bad condition and it is

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

In the last issue of *The Log*, my closing thought was "Volunteers are not paid; not because they are worthless, but because they are PRICELESS!"

Indeed, the Kennebunkport Historical Society has had the good fortune to benefit from some truly priceless volunteers. These are individuals who have steadfastly committed their time and their talents to the Society.

After a decade or more of service, a few now have "retired" or plan to "retire" in the near future. They are:

Ralph Clement - who served as editor of this newsletter, *The Log*, always demonstrating his exceptional creativity, wealth of information, and keen sense of humor;

Bill Dugan, Jim Bither, and David Kling - the triumvirate who has served as the Investment Committee, skillfully managing the Society's Endowment Fund through every tumultuous turn in the market;

Bev Keough - who lovingly tended the Nott House garden with her team, creating a place of beauty and serenity.

There is no doubt that their stupendous efforts on behalf of the Society will be sorely missed. To each and every one of them we extend our heartfelt thanks for their many years of selfless support.

Moreover, let us also thank those volunteers who have given us at least a decade of continuous service ... and are still going strong! They are:

Cecil Benson - our blacksmith extraordinaire;

Mary Bryant, Cindy Clement, and Sandy Severance - the faithful stewards of our Collections;

Sheila Meek - the Society's researcher and archivist without peer;

Lisanne James and Sandy Severance - the duo who ensure that the Nott House mannequins are always stunningly attired and posed;

June Fernie - who seamlessly supports the office administration and membership rolls

Bill Clark and David James - who are ever-ready to do whatever it takes to maintain the Society's buildings and grounds;

Sally and Junior Bridges - caretakers, guardians, and protectors of all the Society's properties.

The value these volunteers give to the Society is truly priceless. It is hard to imagine how difficult it would be to operate successfully without them. A million thanks seem inadequate to express our gratitude.

Frank Lloyd Wright once wrote "If you ignore beauty, you will soon find yourself without it ... But if you invest in beauty, it will remain with you all the days of your life."

Let us celebrate ALL the volunteers who invest in the beauty that is Kennebunkport through their dedication to the Kennebunkport Historical Society.

Carole Madden

President

VOLUNTEER TIME

We are making an effort to keep better track of our volunteer hours, and are pleased to say that the total time donated in May and June by our wonderful volunteers is . . . 1,049 hours!

DIRECTOR'S LETTER

Earlier this year, the Board of Directors voted to adopt the Five-year Strategic Plan that was drafted by a special ad hoc committee last fall. The plan addresses all aspects of the Society's operations, and key elements include a snapshot of the Society in 2010, a vision for the Society in 2015, and 77 recommendations with an implementation schedule. The Society has made good progress in carrying out many of the suggestions planned for 2011-2012.

Among the priorities are the retention and expansion of our membership which is the lifeblood of the Society. Various efforts are underway to reconnect with lost members and to reach out to those unknown to us who are passionate about our town and value the char-

acter of the community.

The Society holds in trust the treasures and stories of the past that make this place so special, and shares them to provide a rich experience for all. We commit that our offerings will enable individuals to learn something, to make relevant connections between our past and their lives, and to inspire them to action.

As you reflect on your own membership and what brought *you* to the KPHS, we hope you will consider inviting your friends and neighbors to discover the Society and all that it has to offer in preserving Kennebunkport's history, art, and culture.

Susan C.S. Edwards
Executive Director

SUMMER PROGRAM

On Wednesday, August 17, historian Joyce Butler will present a lecture, "You are a Sailor's Wife."

She will examine the life of Frances "Frannie" Mitchell, wife of Captain Eben Mitchell of Kennebunkport and Kennebunk, based on his letters written to her from 1854 to 1860. The letters reveal a great deal about life in a time of economical instability, when the Mitchells' own financial situation was tenuous, and their lives were blighted by long separations, leave-takings, and returns.

Butler explores the loneliness of Fannie's everyday life with tenderness and compassion, making us see her uncertain living conditions, the problem of communication due to an unreliable postal service, the fear of facing childbirth (always in the absence of her husband) and above all, Eben's totally unrealistic perception of her—the woman he called his "aingel."

Although Frannie and Eben Mitchell's story is personal, it is representative of the arduous, demanding life that service in the merchant marine engendered for generations of Maine mariners and their wives.

The lecture will be held in the gallery at the Pasco Center at 7 p.m.

SUMMER CALENDAR

- Auction Preview Friday, July 29, 5:30-7:30 p.m.
- Antiques & Good Things Auction Saturday, July 30, 10 a.m.
- Pasco Program Wednesday, August 17, 7 p.m.
- Classic Car Days..... Saturday, September 3, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
- Golf Tournament..... Friday, September 23, 9 a.m. start

ONGOING

The Nott House

- June to Labor Day Tuesday through Friday, 1-4 p.m.
Saturday, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.
- Labor Day to Columbus Day Thursday and Friday, 1-4 p.m.
Saturday, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Walking Tours

- July and August..... Thursday, 2 p.m. and Saturday, 11 a.m.
- Labor Day to Columbus Day..... Saturday, 11 a.m.

Pasco Center

- Tuesday through Friday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.;
- and Saturday in July & August, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Town House School

- Wednesday and Friday, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

CLASSIC CAR DAYS

The Society invites you to the 1st annual Kennebunkport Classic Car Celebration on Saturday, September 3, Labor Day weekend.

Two great events are planned. There will be a Road Rally and Treasure Hunt in the morning and a Concours d'Elegance show in the afternoon. It will be fun for the entire family, with a variety of never-before-seen exhibits and things to do.

At 9:00 a.m., cars will leave to start the rally. If you have a classic car or a special interest car, you can sign up.

You can compete in the time and distance rally challenge or you can compete in the treasure hunt. We have 10 stops planned at historical and curious landmarks

throughout the Kennebunks. Can you find the name of the Captain of the ill-fated steamer *Isadore* that sank off the coast of Cape Neddick?

In the afternoon, some of the world's most beautiful and rare cars will assemble on the green at 125 North Street for a Concours d'Elegance show between noon and 3 p.m. Judges will evaluate cars in several classes, and prizes will awarded, including the coveted *Best of Show* and *People's Choice* awards.

For more information, go to



The Road Rally promises to be a fun event for all.

www.kportclassiccardays.com or call Tim Stentiford at 207-710-6699 or Brian Prichard at 215-901-1098. You can register now for the Road Rally and Treasure Hunt and/or the Concours d'Elegance Show, as well as buy tickets to attend the show.

Join us for miles of smiles as we ramble historic Maine, then gather for a grand and entertaining show.



GOLF TOURNAMENT

On Friday, September 23 at 9 a.m., the historic Cape Arundel Golf Club will host the 11th Annual Kennebunkport Historical Society Golf Tournament. All are invited to participate. Proceeds support the Society's education and outreach programs. Registration remains at \$110 in advance and \$125 on the day of the tournament. Included are 18 holes of golf, carts, prizes, refreshments and a gala post-tournament party and BBQ at the "19th hole." This tournament is known for the "best goodie bag in town!"

Founded in 1896 as the Kennebunkport Golf Club, Cape Arundel Golf Club was created by summer residents and golf enthusiasts who wanted to bring their love of the game home. In the 1920s, Walter Travis, the grand old man of American golf, designed and laid out the first 18-hole iteration of the course. Every hole was planned carefully by Travis and promised to provide first class golf, beauty, and difficulty. From the natural hazards and beautifully contoured greens to the perfectly placed bunkers and strategic layout, the new course demanded the finest kind of golf.

Come enjoy a fun day of golf and conviviality, while doing a good deed and supporting the activities of the Kennebunkport Historical Society. To register, send reservations and checks to the Kennebunkport Historical Society, PO Box 1173, Kennebunkport, ME 04046. For more information, call 207-967-2751.

CHECK OUT OUR NEW WEBSITE!

Thanks to the generosity of Past President Dr. Bob Card, the Society boasts a new website designed by North 40 Creative of Biddeford, Maine.

The website gives us an up-to-date look and it is very easy to navigate. We are now able to make updates and changes to the site to keep current with

our programs and events. So check it often to find out the very latest about what we are doing. The web address remains the same:

www.kporthistory.org.

We are very grateful to Bob Card for underwriting this important project.