

## POWDER MAGAZINE RESTORATION

The Friends of Fort Knox plan to restore a significant historic asset of Fort Knox this season. The powder magazine is located adjacent to the northern spiral staircase and has been closed to the public for decades, due to safety concerns. The interior of the powder magazine was constructed with wood in the 1860s. During the approximately Century and a half since the magazine's construction much of the wood has rotted and decayed.

The restoration project will involve replacing rotted wood planks and matching the type of wood to the original. Every effort will be made to retain and preserve as much of the original powder magazine wood and fixtures as is practicable. In addition, interpretive materials such as replica powder barrels and electric illumination in the magazine are in the plans.

This powder magazine represents one of the main storage areas where black powder was stored for use in the Rodman and twenty-four pound blank howitzer cannon batteries. Powder magazines were constructed of wood and made use of copper fixtures to guard against any unintended spark that may have caused a catastrophic explosion.

The Friends wish to thank the Morton-Kelly Charitable Trust and the Messler Family Foundation for providing financial support for this restoration project.



Powder magazine deterioration

# FORT KNOX TIMES

fortknox.maineguide.com

Spring 2011

## DISPATCHES FROM THE FORT

### 2010 FRIENDS' FORT PROJECTS

The Friends of Fort Knox funded repairs to Battery B and adjacent demisabstion walls that had been destabilized due to decades of freeze/thaw cycles due to poor drainage. This project was an extension of the Century and a Half masonry repair project, which began in 2008. In addition, significant efforts were made to curtail erosion problems at the repair sites and road in front of the Fort.



Battery 'B' project underway to rebuild retaining wall in the summer of 2010.

The project began with the deconstruction of the Battery B retaining wall with heavy machinery. During deconstruction, a granite drain was discovered at the base of the wall that had been covered with soil and was not functioning. Workers dug a trench from the granite drain leading to the river and installed a perforated pipe to direct water away from the wall.

Another feature that was unearthed during the retaining wall deconstruction appears to be an anchor inserted into a granite block. The anchor may have been associated with the use of a steam derrick during Fort construction. Steam derricks were used on the wharf area, adjacent to the Fort proper and interior to lift the massive granite blocks into place.

Other elements to the Friends' funded repair project include wharf repairs and extensive erosion control measures leading to Battery B. The repairs were funded from proceeds from The Friends' of Fort Knox annual Fright at the Fort Halloween event. The cost of this project was \$38,587.

Masons continued work on repointing the final casemates in the fort and did extensive acid wash cleaning of all repointed bricks. Repointing vent bricks in the northern most casemate is completing the final phase of the Century and a Half masonry project.

Other projects included the creation of an educational garden, installation of a light to illuminate the flags and repair to lights illuminating the Fort's façade. The combined total of funds expended on all projects in 2010 was \$59,699.

## 'GHOST HUNTER' SHOW FINDS UNEXPLAINED ACTIVITY AT FORT KNOX

By Rich Hewitt, BDN Staff

PROSPECT, Maine — The results are in.

"This place has some serious activity going on." That was the "reveal" Wednesday night on the SyFy Channel's "Ghost Hunter" show that featured the investigation of Fort Knox back in February.

"They definitely believe it's haunted," said Leon Seymour, executive director of the Friends of Fort Knox, who was featured on the show giving the "Ghost Hunter" crew a quick tour of the fort.

About 50 people gathered at the Bucksport Golf Club to watch the show on a big-screen TV.

"It was a lot of fun," he said, adding that the locals got a chuckle from the crew's complaining about the cold and how they felt as if they were out in the "wilderness."

The show's stars, Jason Hawes and Grant Wilson, and co-star Amy Bruni roamed the 19th century stone fort with high-tech equipment searching for evidence of paranormal activity. The ghost hunters didn't see any ghostly figures in any of the areas where they investigated, but they did pick up some unexplained readings on their instruments. In Long Alley, where there have been reports of ghost sightings, there was a strange anomaly on their thermal imaging camera that they could not explain. And something broke through the laser grid that they had set up. They also heard some "crazy breathing."

"It sounds like it's right next to me," Hawes said from the darkened alley "It sounds like it's coming closer and closer." Near the cannon mounts, the crew also heard loud footsteps when there was no one there.

While there were no spooktacular apparitions during the show, being featured on the popular SyFy Channel show definitely conjured up some interest in Fort Knox.

According to Seymour, the Friends' website got 951 hits by midnight Wednesday and another 270 by late Thursday afternoon, coming from all over the country. This time of year, the site usually gets about 60 or 70 hits a day, Seymour said.

"It certainly had the effect of getting the fort out all around the country," he said.

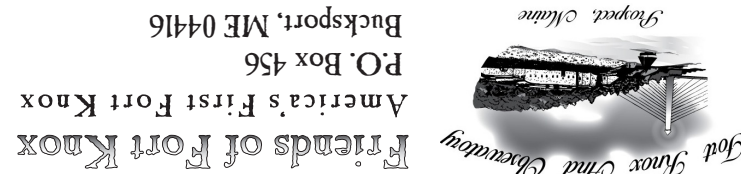


Ghost Hunters at Fort Knox-FFK Executive Director, Leon Seymour, greets SyFy Ghost Hunter TV personalities Jason Hawes, Grant Wilson and Steve Gonsalves, this past February as they begin their "investigation" of the Fort.

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**Overview**

The following is an annual report for the Friends of Fort Knox (FFK) reflecting the organization's activities in 2010. This report will highlight the continuation of the Century and a Half masonry project, Battery 'B' wharf/wall effort and an up tick in two of four income sectors. The largest income decline was registered in our gate income percentage. The Bureau of Parks and Lands had requested that the Friends accept a 50% reduction in contract gate fees. The reduction meant that FFK only retained .25 cents on every dollar of Fort gate fees (all observatory fees go directly to the Maine Department of Transportation).

Overall FFK gross revenue was up 9.5% from 2009.

The Friends of Fort Knox Board of Directors and staff continued to work hard to contain expenses, work with community groups, maximize resources, diversify income streams and complete projects at the Fort. The success of the organization would not have been possible without the outstanding cooperation of our partners, the Bureau of Parks and Lands, and especially park manager Mike Wilusz.

At the end of 2010, all FFK combined available unrestricted funds were \$163,965; in addition, a total of \$25,016 was restricted for restoration projects.

The FFK partnership with the Bureau of Parks and Lands continued to involve contracted management services. FFK staff worked the fee collection booth, provided interpretive tours for school children and visitors, traffic/parking control and provided staff for the Penobscot Narrows Observatory. In addition, FFK provided bookkeeping, marketing and special event management services for BPL.

The total operational season visitor attendance at Fort Knox and the Penobscot Narrows Observatory was 81,389, during 2010. Attendance totals were up 4% from the previous year. Adding in Friends' sponsored special events such as Fright at the Fort boosted overall attendance to 91,230.

**Interesting attendance statistics for 2010 are bulleted below:**

- \* Over all exempt use (non paying admission) was up 11%. Exempt use includes Maine senior citizens; children under age 5, school groups, social service programs and season pass holders.
- \* Non-resident adult visitors dropped 7% for the observatory while non-resident seniors rose 2%.
- \* Observatory attendance was up 5% over 2010.
- \* Exempt school student visitation increased by 22%.
- \* Special event visitor attendance increased by 14%.

Information in the report will be contained under general headings listed below.

**Restoration/Preservation**

The Century and a Half masonry project continued throughout the year and focused on the completion of repointing the ten-case-mate areas of the main Fort. Two vent areas located in the vaulted ceiling of the northernmost casemate were boarded up due to concern of falling bricks from the top of the vents. Masons repointed approximately the top four-feet of the vents and the boards will be removed before the coming operating season.

A floodlight was installed in the Fort control booth to provide illumination for the three flags adjacent to the main parking lot. Illuminating the flags allows them to be flown 24-hours a day and reduces the amount of time park rangers had spent raising and lowering them. Approximately, one-half of the exterior lights illuminating the Fort façade were replaced.

The major project this year centered on 'Battery B' and adjacent demisbastion walls that had been destabilized due to decades of freeze/thaw cycles due to poor drainage. The project began in October with the deconstruction of the Battery B retaining wall with heavy machinery. During deconstruction, a granite drain was discovered at the base of the wall that had been covered with soil and was not functioning. Workers dug a trench from the granite drain leading to the river and installed a perforated pipe to direct water away from the wall.

Another feature unearthed during the retaining wall deconstruction a metal anchor inserted into a granite block that may have been associated with the use of a steam derrick during Fort construction. Steam derricks were used on the wharf area, adjacent to the Fort proper and interior, to lift massive granite blocks into place.

Other elements to the Friends' funded repair project included wharf repairs and extensive erosion control measures leading to 'Battery B'. The repairs were funded from proceeds from the annual Fright at the Fort Halloween event.

**Volunteers**

Volunteers are a crucial component to Friends of Fort Knox activities. A breakout in the number of volunteer hours for 2009 is listed below:

*Estimated Volunteer Hours 2010*

FFK Board and Committees: 512 hours  
 FFK Gift Shop Volunteers: 615 hours  
 FFK sponsored special event volunteers includes Park Day, Scottish Tattoo, 20th Maine, SCA, Fright at Fort: 2,800 hours  
*Total estimated Fort volunteer hours documented by the Friends: 3,927 and 298 volunteers.*

(continued on page 5)

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**Visitor Services**

*Interpretive Tours-* Another bright spot in this year's annual report are the interpretive tours provided by Friends' staff during 2010.  
 # of school group tours – 39 – 1,499 students  
 # of general public tours – 276 – 1,303  
 # of non school group tours – 27 - 994  
 Total # of tours – 342  
 Total # of individuals receiving a tour –3,796

**Gate Staffing-** Friends of Fort Knox personnel greeted visitors throughout the operating season, providing guidance and collecting admission fees. Gate personnel provided services seven days a week, 8 hours a day for the operating season (9 hours a day July/August).

**Observatory Staffing-** Beginning May 1, 2010, FFK provided two staff people, seven days a week, at 8.50 hours a day (9.5 hours July/August), to operate the observatory. FFK staff was trained by BPL personnel in CPR, first aid, emergency evacuation procedures and in the use of a defibrillator. Staff performed exceptionally during several emergency evacuations of the observatory due to elevator malfunctions.

**Special Events** – Friends sponsored special events continued to please visitors with a variety of entertainment and educational demonstrations throughout the season. Notable special events included a Park Day cleanup, Maine Foster Care Family Day, Paranormal/Psychic Faire, Scottish Tattoo, Pirate Day, Medieval Tournament, 20th Maine Company 'B' Civil War reenactment, cannon firings, Civil War medical demonstration, Shakespeare, Fright at the Fort and a granite cutting demonstration.

The "Must Roos" pirate ship plies the waters off Fort Knox during Pirate Day activities and a Civil War cannon firing demonstration.

Aliens in the cornfield and a pirate vulture swoop into Fright at the Fort.

**Financial Income**

Listed below are the four main income streams for FFK that span the past four years. Significant income growth was seen in the contribution/grant percentage in 2010. A significant decrease was seen in the FFK gate contract percentage, due to the Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands request that FFK accept a 50% contract reduction.

Income	2010	2009	2008	2007
Gift Shop-	\$94,799	\$98,007	\$99,350	\$111,995
Special Events-	\$58,606	\$48,890	\$59,174	\$55,732
Gate Contract -	\$50,000	\$90,124	\$80,998	\$124,765
Contributions-	\$48,451	\$20,006	\$81,517	\$17,233
<b>TOTALS-</b>	<b>\$251,856</b>	<b>\$257,027</b>	<b>\$321,039</b>	<b>\$309,725</b>

**Promotion and Public Education**

The Friends of Fort Knox distributed over 8,000 newsletters to visitors to Fort Knox. The newsletters contained information on the history of the Fort, Friends' restoration priorities and event schedules. Ongoing radio and television ads encouraging visitors to visit Fort Knox and the observatory aired throughout the season.

The Friends received a large amount of electronic and print media coverage throughout the year. The reopening of the observatory, restoration efforts and special events drove media coverage.

Future Restoration/Preservation Projects – The Friends of Fort Knox Board working in partnership with the Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands have identified the restoration of a powder magazine adjacent to the northern casemates as the priority project for 2010.

**FRIENDS OF FORT KNOX 2011 SPECIAL EVENTS SCHEDULE**

Check the Friends of Fort Knox website often for additional events, [www.fortknox.maine.gov](http://www.fortknox.maine.gov)

**May 1st, Fort Knox and Penobscot Narrows Observatory, Prospect, Maine reopens.** The Fort Knox State historic site features one of America's best-preserved examples of seacoast fortifications constructed in the 1800s. The new Penobscot Narrows Observatory, the tallest bridge observatory open to the public in the world, boasts breathtaking views of the Penobscot Bay area. Visitors to the observatory ride an elevator up 420' feet on Maine's fastest elevator for incredible views. Admission to these attractions is only \$5 for adults and \$3 for children (non resident fees differ).

**May 21st, Saturday Maine Foster Family Day**

**July 2nd and 3rd, Saturday and Sunday, 10 AM until 4 PM - 6th Maine Battery Cannon Firings** - a full scale Civil War era Parrot cannon firing demonstration will take place throughout the day. This is the real deal and will provide some explosive excitement for all who visit.

**July 9th, Saturday, Scottish Tattoo 2010, 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM** - This popular annual event is back, featuring traditional Scottish bagpipers, precision marching bands and a patriotic salute to America. Tickets for the event are \$10 per person or \$5 for children 12 and under. Advanced tickets may be purchased at the FFK gift shop .



**Saturday, July 16 , Pirate Festival, 10 AM until 4 PM-** Join the professional Pirates of the Dark Rose for a day of swashbuckling sword fights, duels, cannon fire and pirate ship attack. The pirate ship "Must Roos" will let loose cannon fire on the Fort as she sails the waters of the Penobscot River, in search of booty. The festival will feature a treasure hunt, pirate parade (all are encouraged to attend dressed in your best pirate attire), best dressed and most authentic sounding pirate contests. Regular Fort admission and a \$3 per person event donation requested, because pirates love their gold! Those planning to spend the day may want to bring a lunch. Click here for video from the Pirates of the Dark Rose. The charge for the pirate ship sail is \$20 per person for an hour cruise and cannon firing. The ship leaves from the Bucksport Town dock and tickets may be purchased in advance by calling 469-6553. Advanced purchase is recommended as the ship can only carry six passengers. People are encouraged to carpool to the Pirate Day events at the Fort due to limited parking.



**July 23 and 24, Paranormal/Psychic Faire, Saturday and Sunday:** Meet with people who believe in things unusual. This unique event features, psychics, ghost hunters, exorcists, UFOologists and renowned cryptozoologist and author, Loren Coleman (often seen on the History and Travel Channel). Regular Fort admission and a \$2 event donation requested.

**July 30th and 31st, Saturday and Sunday, 20th Maine Civil War Reenactment and Bucksport Bay Festival** featuring the 20th Maine Company 'B', 15th Alabama Company 'G', other reenacting groups and held in conjunction with the Bucksport

Chamber of Commerce Bucksport Bay Festival.

**Thursday-Sunday, August 4,5,6,7, 6 P.M. Shakespeare Comes to Fort Knox** - featuring the presentation of Hamlet, performed by Ten Bucks Theatre Troupe. Ticket Prices- \$10 for adults, \$5 for children 12 and under, per performance. Advanced tickets may be purchased at the Fort Knox gift shop, by telephoning 207-469-6553 or by emailing FOFK1@aol.com

**Saturday, August 13th, from 8 PM to 10:00 PM (Last tickets sold at 9:30)- Moon Viewing at the Penobscot Narrows Observatory** \$5 per person (all ages) Rain and/or clouds will result in cancellation...call 469-6553 the evening of the event for recorded message if canceled.

**August 20-21, Saturday-Sunday 10-4 - Granite cutting demonstration.** Come and view the skills that were used to create the architectural masterpiece known as Fort Knox.

**August 27, 7 PM until 10 PM, Ghosts of Fort Knox Guided Tours.** Join the East Coast Ghost trackers on a guided tour of Fort Knox in search of ghosts and paranormal phenomena. There will be hourly tours and limited capacity. Those interested in going on a ghost tour are encouraged to reserve their spot in advance by contacting the Friends of Fort Knox at 469-6553. The cost of the tour is \$10 per person. Additional dates: 10/1, 10/8, 10/15

**September 10th , Saturday, The 9th Annual Medieval Tournament:** Knights will have armored combat, medieval music played, arts and science displays will be on hand and an archery demonstration will take place.

**October 8-9, Saturday and Sunday, 10 AM until 4 PM - 6th Maine Battery Cannon Firings** - a full scale Civil War era Parrot cannon firing demonstration will take place throughout the day. This is the real deal and will provide some explosive excitement for all who visit.



**October, 21/22 and 28/29, Friday and Saturday, 5:30 to 9 PM, Fright at the Fort 2011:** THIS EVENT ENDS AT 9:00 EACH NIGHT, PLEASE ARRIVE NO LATER THAN 8:30 P.M. Visitors are led through the dark passageways of Fort Knox where indescribable things lurk in the shadows, creating screams of fright. Admission is \$5 per person and additional information on Fright at the Fort 2011, may be found on the [fortknox.maine.gov](http://fortknox.maine.gov) official Fright at the Fort web site. "EASILY THE BEST HALLOWEEN EXPERIENCE IN THE STATE" Bangor Daily News



Volunteers are needed to spook and act as tour guides. The event takes place, rain or shine! Proceeds from Fright support Friends of Fort Knox preservation efforts  
**Become a sponsor for one of our special events. For sponsorship information please call 207-469-6553 or email FOFK1@aol.com**



Dear Friends of Fort Knox:

I am pleased to write to you, our valuable Friends of Fort Knox members, as the new Chairperson of the Board of Directors. Our membership is the foundation of what has been and continues to be a success story for both Fort Knox and the organization, which has now spanned two decades. This membership base includes a host of volunteers and valuable relationships with many community groups. The organization highly values our ongoing partnership with the Maine Department of Conservation's Bureau of Parks and Lands which hold ownership of Fort Knox for the people of Maine.

I have witnessed the ongoing restoration and improvement efforts to the State historic site and am proud to be associated with these efforts. My family has many fond memories of visits to the Fort and we are adding new memories this year, when my Son and his fiance are married at Battery C. Our Maine State Historic Sites offer visitors a window into Maine's past. As each new generation visits they continue to marvel at the craftsmanship that built our beloved Fort Knox.

In closing, I'd like to thank all of our members, volunteers, community groups and staff whose dedication to Fort Knox has made it one of the best preserved seacoast fortifications in the United States.



Truly,  
Carol

**Fort Knox is owned and operated by the Maine Department of Conservation's Bureau of Parks and Lands**

*Friends of Fort Knox Mission Statement*  
**The Friends of Fort Knox mission is to preserve Fort Knox and enhance its educational, cultural and economic value for the people of Maine**

**FORT KNOX NEEDS FRIENDS BECOME A FRIEND OF FORT KNOX TODAY!**

The Friends of Fort Knox invite you to become a member of the organization and help us to continue our ongoing mission to preserve and improve this tremendous State historic site. Over the past two decades the Friends have helped replace the collapsing roof, created the Visitor and Education Center, restored the Officer's Quarters, repaired the battery 'A' powder magazine and restored four 24-pound flank howitzer cannons original to the Fort, and now are undertaking extensive masonry repair throughout the fort. These important Fort Knox projects would not have been possible without the financial support of those who care about this tremendous asset of Maine history.

Membership in the Friends of Fort Knox includes: a free admission to the Fort for you and your family, 10% discount in our gift shop, invitation to member's special events and newsletters.

To join the Friends of Fort Knox and help us continue our mission to preserve Fort Knox and enhance its educational, cultural and economic value for the people of Maine, please complete the form below.

**Membership Application**

- \$10 Junior/Senior Member
- \$20 Individual
- \$35 Family
- \$100 Sustaining
- \$500 Benefactor
- \$1,000 Sponsor

*In addition to my membership, please accept my additional contribution for the following purpose:*

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Preservation      \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Education  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Operating      \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Endowment

**Count me in!** Enclosed please find my check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Company \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Method of Payment    \_\_\_ Check    \_\_\_ Visa    \_\_\_ Mastercard

Credit Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Please deduct \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per month for a total of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Please send to: Friends of Fort Knox, PO Box 456, Bucksport, ME 04416  
Phone: 207-469-6553; Fax: 207-469-6909; Email: FOFK1@aol.com  
(An IRS 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization)

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