



# The Patriot News

Volume 7, Issue 2

October – December 2016

## A Note from the Chairman

Dear MMHS Members:

We owe Dave Googins a huge debt of gratitude for his six years of hard work and wish him the best as he moves south to pursue his next career!

I will try to keep the newsletter as informative as he has in the past but we need your support and ideas to keep all that he has started going forward.

As you know we will be moving in the next 18-24 months, whether to a new location or to storage until we can move to a new building. To that end we have begun the process of cataloging and packing our library of well over 2,000 books, periodicals, and manuals.

This may take some time as I am very fascinated by what we have in MMHS's collection and I spend a lot of time looking at each item. When you research an artifact you never know where it will take you.

Peter Ogden

### What is in the Newsletter?

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## Calendar of Events

Nov 10	Marine Corps Birthday
Nov 11	Veterans Day
Dec 1	Civil Air Patrol Birthday
Dec 7	Pearl Harbor Day
Dec 10	AMVETS Birthday
Dec 13	National Guard Birthday
Feb 4	USO Birthday
Feb 19	Coast Guard Reserve Birthday

### Update on Annual Meeting

COL Dwaine Drummond provided an update on the new Joint Forces Headquarters. Part of the meeting was a discussion on how long we have before MMHS has to vacate Building 6 at Camp Keyes. We have about 18-24 months.

Members at the meeting voted to standardize the membership dates to coincide with the Federal Fiscal Year beginning this year to make it easier on membership renewal and tax reporting. New membership year date is: October 1 to September 30, 2017.

The agenda also included discussion of a plan to establish a more formal relationship with like-minded organizations and to locate places where we can display some of our artifacts instead of storing them. It's important that MMHS remain visible in the community while we await a new building. At best we are looking at 5 years for a new wing on the Maine State Museum.

## **EATING PIE FOR BREAKFAST**

I have begun the process of sorting and cataloging our books in preparation for storage. In our collection I found a book titled "Its an Old New England Custom", by Edwin Valentine Mitchell, copyrighted 1946.

The book talks about old New England customs such as:

*To Have Pie for Breakfast*

*To Talk About the Weather*

*To Adopt Peculiar Place Names*

*To Hark Back to the Past*

*To Beat the Drum*

The first custom mentioned, "To Have Pie for Breakfast": "is implied to be to possible cause of New England's oversized officers.

*"In the Revolutionary period, when our forefathers got in some of their best work at the breakfast table, New England produced the biggest generals and other military officers in point of avoirdupois. This is shown by the following memorandum found in the pocketbook of an officer of the Massachusetts line.*

*August 19, 1783.*

*Weighed at the scales at West Point*

<i>General Washington</i>	<i>209 lbs.</i>
<i>General Knox</i>	<i>280</i>
<i>General Lincoln</i>	<i>224</i>
<i>General Huntington</i>	<i>132</i>
<i>General Greeton</i>	<i>166</i>
<i>Colonel Swift</i>	<i>219</i>
<i>Colonel Michael Jackson</i>	<i>252</i>
<i>Colonel Henry Jackson</i>	<i>238</i>
<i>Lieut.-Colonel E. Huntington</i>	<i>232</i>
<i>Lieut. -Colonel D. Cobb</i>	<i>186</i>
<i>Lieut.-Colonel D. Humphreys</i>	<i>221</i>

*The combined weights including the Commander in Chief, adds up to an impressive figure of 2,359 pounds.*

## **THE KNOX TROPHY**

The Knox Trophy is the oldest award given at West Point to the Cadet with the highest rating for military efficiency, usually the Cadet First Captain.



The award was established on October 8, 1910 and a silver commemorative bowl is presented annually by the Sons of the Revolution, State of New York chapter. In 2010 The Knox Trophy celebrated its 100th anniversary.

The trophy was named in honor of Major General Henry Knox, the first Chief of Artillery during the Revolutionary War. President George Washington appointed Knox the first Secretary of War. The original trophy, made by Tiffany & Company was kept on display in the office of the West Point Commandant for a period of time.



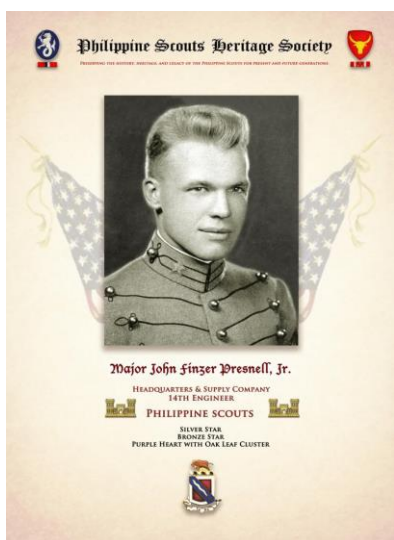
The above picture is the 2016 recipient to Cadet Joshua Allyn.

*Continued on Page 4*

## CPT John F. Presnell Jr.

John Finzer Presnell, Jr. was born in Portland, Maine on November 2, 1914 to John F. and Fannye Farwell Presnell. He graduated from Portland High School as salutatorian in 1932.

He then attended Bowdoin College and graduated summa cum laude with a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1936. While at Bowdoin Presnell won the Goodwin French Prize, the Smyth Mathematical Prize, the Brown Memorial and King Scholarships. He accomplished all of this while serving in the Maine National Guard.



Presnell continued to excel while at West Point and was appointed First Captain of Cadets during his senior year. Upon graduation in 1940 he was awarded the Knox Trophy for military efficiency, the General Pershing sword as Cadet Captain, and the Robert E. Lee Memorial sword for the highest rating in Mathematics.

He was commissioned in the Corps of Engineers and sailed for the Philippines in August, 1940. Assigned to the 14<sup>th</sup> Engineer Regiment, Philippine Scouts on the Island of Corregidor, he was captured and survived the Bataan Death March. His parents were notified by the War Department that he was a POW on December 12, 1942. CPT Presnell was held as a Prisoner of War for three years.

*Continued on page 4*

## The Henry A. Knox Award

The award is named after the first Chief of Artillery, and the first Secretary of War., Major General Henry A. Knox. The award recognizes the most outstanding Active Component battery. Originally called the Knox Trophy and Medal, the awards were established in 1924 by the Chief of Artillery and presented annually.

The trophy recognized the best artillery battery and the Medal recognized the best enlisted Artillery Soldier based on performance, excellence, leadership, and proficiency. The awards recognized hard work, talent, determination, and high standards that resulted in the highest performance.

During World War II and after, the awards were not presented. In 2002, the Knox Trophy was reinstated and the Medal was replaced with the Gruber Award to recognize individual soldiers.



Since 2002 the Knox Award recognizes the best Filed Artillery or Air Defense Artillery Battery on active duty. Pictured above is the Fourth Battalion, 3rd Air Defense Artillery who is hoping to start a new tradition. They received the Henry A. Knox Award May 22 for the second year in a row.

In the next newsletter we will cover more of MG Henry Knox's career and his home, Montpelier located in Thomaston, Maine.

### *Continued from Page 2, Knox Trophy*

Some famous recipients of the Knox Trophy are:

Kristin M. Baker	1990
First female Knox Trophy recipient, First female Brigade Commander	
Robert Lewis Van Antwerp, Jr.	1972
LTG, Chief Army Engineers	
Peter Miller Dawkins	1959
BG, won the Heisman Trophy in 1958	
John Finzer Presnell Jr.	1940
CPT, WWII POW, from Maine	
William Childs Westmoreland	1936
GEN, MACV Commander in Vietnam and Army Chief of Staff	

### **Famous Quotes**

**Douglas MacArthur:** *Whoever said the pen is mightier than the sword obviously never encountered automatic weapons.*

**Dwight D. Eisenhower:** *Only our individual faith in freedom can keep us free.*

### *Continued from page 3, John F. Presnell*

He was reported to have died on January 19, 1945 while enroute to Japan aboard the Japanese Prisoner Ship Brazil Maru.

MMHS is proud to have CPT Presnell's Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Prisoner of War, and WW II Victory Medals as part of our collection. His medals will be soon on loan to the Major General Henry Knox Museum in Thomaston for display.

Other distinguished First Captains:

John J. Pershing	1886
Douglas McArthur	1903
Jonathan M. Wainwright	1906
William C. Westmoreland	1936

### **Membership**

If you have not had a chance to renew your membership, please do so. For your convenience you may renew online through our website or, if you prefer, by check through the U.S. Mail. Consider buying a gift membership for a family member or a friend.

**Total Current Membership      63**

10	Individual Members
12	Family Members
11	Senior/Student Members
30	Lifetime Members

### **Cost of Life Membership**

The question was raised during our annual meeting about possibly changing the cost of Life Membership. The current cost of Life Membership is \$250.00. Board members thought that we should poll the membership and see what you think.

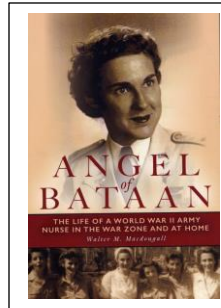
Should we pro-rate Life Membership by Age? For example:

65+	\$75.00
55-65	\$130.00
41-54	\$190.00
18-40	\$250.00

Please share your thoughts by emailing me at [Peter.Ogden@mainemilmuseum.org](mailto:Peter.Ogden@mainemilmuseum.org)

### **Angel of Bataan**

This is a new book about CPT Alice M. Zwicker the only Maine servicewoman held Prisoner of War. Alice was from Brownville, Maine.



She was one 77 Army and Navy Nurses captured during the fall of Corregidor and was held for almost three years at the Santo Thomas Interment Camp located at the Santo Thomas College Manila, Luzon, Philippines.