



VISITOR'S ABC'S

'K' is for Kittery

Each year, the *Beach News* is proud to feature an unique ongoing series of articles concerning interesting facts about the region's places and history. This year, we will be doing a virtual visitors' ABCs of the Seacoast region.

BY JOHN HIRTLE
BEACH NEWS STAFF

Unlike most Seacoast area towns, Kittery is not named after a town in England, but a home. Specifically, the manor of Kittery Court located on Kittery Point located in Kingsweare in Devon, England, across the river Dart from the city of Dartmouth. It was from Kingsweare that some of the first settlers came from.

While settlement of Kittery dates back to the early 1620's, it wasn't until 1647 that Kittery was formally recognized as a town, making it the oldest town in the state of Maine.

William Pepperrell was one of the town's early notables. Born in 1696, Pepperrell would rise in local politics, eventually becoming a colonel in the American militia. When King George's war broke out, he was in command of the British land forces that took the French fortress of Louisbourg on Cape Breton in Nova Scotia. For this, Pepperrell became the first native-born American to be made a Baronet.

One of his local lasting contributions can still be seen in a way. Fort McClary stands atop the land he gave to build fortification to defend the citizens of Kittery from foreign attackers, and to protect ships from duties collected by New



KITTERY'S OTHER SIDE — While most are aware of the outlet malls on Route 1 in Kittery, the town largely retains its picturesque scenery, such as Pepperrell Cove, with Fort McClary (pictured above).

— Beach News Photo by John Hirtle

Hampshire's Naval Officer across the river at Fort William and Mary. Today's present structures at Fort McClary include the 1844 granite blockhouse, said to be the last one built in Maine, and half-built walls from the Civil War period of refortification. Fort McClary is now a state park and is open to the public.

With its ample timber and skilled labor, the town of Kittery became known as a shipbuilding center. This, and the swift currents of the Piscataqua River led to the establishment of the country's oldest shipyard on a set of islands in Kittery in 1800. Since Kittery had no post office at the time, it was named the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard. Over the years, debate on which state the shipyard is actually in has grown, but there is no denying that the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard is the finest facility of its type in the country. Today though, the yard is faced with the threat of closure, as the BRAC Committee con-

siders which vital military facilities need to be shut down during a time of war.

While Kittery has seen its share of industries and attractions, the thing it is most well known for is the shopping outlets along Route 1, an rightly claims the title as the "Gateway to Maine". But before you go further into the pine tree state, take a moment to stop by The Kittery Historical and Naval Museum to find out more about the town's long and colorful past.

The Kittery Historical and Naval Museum is located next to the town's municipal offices at the junction of U.S. Route #1 and Rogers Road, immediately north of the Kittery Traffic Circle. It is open from June to Columbus Day, Tuesday through Saturday from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM, or by appointment. Admission fees are \$3.00 for adult, \$1.50 for children 7-15; children under 7 are free. Other family, senior and group discounts are available. For more information, please call (207) 439-3080.

WHO WAS YOUR FIRST SUPER HERO?



Was it the Hulk? Spider-Man? Or maybe Captain America? They were just a character in a comic book, but you knew they were something special. Somebody who stood up for the little guy, and maybe got stepped on for doing it. Somebody who did the right thing, even though they didn't always want to. And they made you feel like maybe you could be a hero, too.

Some people say there aren't any heroes anymore. But they probably don't read Marvel Comics.

Marvel Comics: Where The Heroes Are.



TM & © 1983 Marvel Entertainment Group, Inc. All rights reserved.

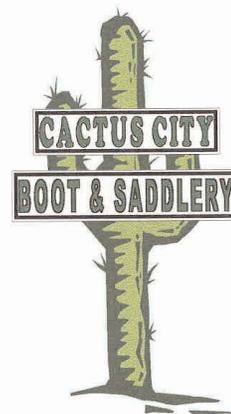
CHRIS' COMICS
AND BASEBALL CARDS

522 S. BROADWAY
SALEM, NH 03079
(603) 898-4151

919 LAFAYETTE ROAD
(Across from Tang's)
(603) 474-2283

10% Off Any Marvel Comic Purchase With This Ad

CACTUS CITY & BOOT SADDLERY



Western boots
Featuring Ariat, Tony Lama,
Justin and Frye
Stetson Hats - Felt and Straw
English and Western
Tack and Riding Apparel
Adults and Children

Open 7 days a week - Monday-Saturday 10-6 Thursday 10-7:30 Sunday 11-4
826 Lafayette Road (Route 1), Hampton, NH 03842 • (603) 929-0027