

Kennett High School Alumni

June 2023



www.kennettalumni.com * PO Box 2583 Conway, NH 03818 * kennettalumni@gmail.com

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**Kennett High School
Alumni Association**

A. Crosby Kennett School 100th Celebration

The 100th Celebration is fast approaching and I know I am super excited to be apart of this event. The committee has put a lot of work into planning the details and working to bring back some of the traditions Kennett has always had.

We will be bringing back the iconic Homecoming Parade Friday, September 22 at 6pm down Main Street in Conway, and moving all KHS sporting events back to the McKeen Memorial Fields on Saturday, September 23rd starting at 11am. We will be opening the time capsule that was buried in 1974 on Saturday at 10am.

This will be great time to relive your Kennett Memories, join the sidelines of the sport you were once apart of, take in some tours of the A. Crosby Kennett building, enjoy the "Conway Boy" & "Conway Girl" at the recently restored Majestic Theater and of course breaking out your Black and White Eagle Pride gear to show it off (does it still fit 😊).

I have spent hours flipping through yearbooks, news articles and learning so much about the history of the building and Kennett as a whole, I enjoy sharing everything I find with you. If you are on Facebook I strongly recommend you follow the Kennett High School Alumni Association Facebook Page to stay up to date on the happenings of Kennett and be able to look back as I uncover more history and artifacts.

In this newsletter you will find a sponsorship form. If you are a business and want to sponsor this event, please fill out Business Sponsor part of the form. If you are an alumni and would like to make Class Sponsor, please fill out the class sponsor part of the form. If you would like to make a Monetary Donation there is spot for that too. All monies raised will go directly to funding this event and any money left over will be moved into the scholarship account and will be handed out as a scholarship to graduating seniors or alumni.

Before I wrap this up I want to take a second to thank the committee members, Diane Smith (class of 74), Sally Smith (class of 75), Penny Merrill (class of 72) Richie Hanson (class of 57), Brian P. Wiggin (class of 68), John Colbath (class of 67) & John Eastman (class of 82). Without your help this event would not be happening. Thank you to the businesses who have made sponsorships to help fund this event. Thank you to alumni who have made donations and class sponsorships, we could not celebrate without your support. I look forward to celebrating with all you in September - Go Eagles!

Saralyn Smith
100th Celebration Chair
Class of 2002

Who was A. Crosby Kennett?

Few teachers or students are aware of the importance of this individual for whom our institution of higher learning was named.

Are you?

A. Crosby Kennett was born in Madison on July 27, 1859, just prior to the outbreak of the Civil War. He was the son of William Kennett of Madison and Sarah E. Russell of Conway. He attended schools in Madison and New Hampton.

A great local trivia question would be, "What was A. Crosby Kennett's first name?" Old-timers such as Maurice Lovejoy, who Kennett took under his wing as a kid, said he hated the name and therefore went by the middle name. The answer: Alpheus. Mr. Lovejoy also relayed that whenever Stone's Drug Store came out with a new flavor of ice cream, A. Crosby would take him there to try it out. "That probably did not help his health at all as he loved ice cream," Maurice related.

The Kennett's were of Scottish origin and came to America in 1741 and settled in Kittery. They then moved to Wolfeboro and then Eaton - which part is now in Madison. Crosby was the oldest child of William and Sarah (Russell). He attended the New Hampton Literary Institute.

As a young man, he drove a stage for his father between Madison and Ossipee and demonstrated "a remarkable capacity for work." He became interested in telegraphy and was put in charge of the station in South Berwick, later Salmon Falls, and ultimately West Ossipee. He also loved the woods and eventually acquired a keen interest in the lumbering business.

He bought much land in Passaconaway from the local merchant, Elijah Burbank Carlton. (Carlton was the original trustee of the Conway Public Library.) In 1888, he bought the Henry Metcalf Spool Mill in Conway (which became the largest in the world), extending into every part of the na-

tion and Canada. Up to 50 men were employed. A million board feet of white birch was annually

used in the factory. The power was produced by a 125-horsepower steam engine. Up to 2 million feet of wood was sawed in one winter. He added a planing mill and a box factory in 1897, eventually becoming the Conway Company. Boxes of all sizes and kinds were manufactured here. Up to 3 ½ million board feet of lumber were used each year. Twenty-five people were employed in this establishment and 75 more lumbered in Albany to supply the necessary raw materials. At one time he ran eleven portable sawmills. He owned as much as 70,000 acres in all of the local towns and the State of Maine. Also in 1897, Kennett helped form the first Electric Light Company, which was chartered in 1909.



Mr. Kennett was once the President of the Conway National Bank; a director of the Ossipee Valley Telephone Company; and treasurer of the Memorial Hospital. In politics, he was a staunch Republican and was elected to the State House in 1893 and the Senate in 1897. He was a member of the Governor's Council and served with the rank of Colonel. As a member, he secured the passage of a bill that prohibited the throwing of sawdust of mills into streams. He also secured passage of the State library law.

The Town Reports of the time are full of details of the involvement of Kennett in many ways. In 1915, for example, Kennett had the 202 foot covered bridge replanked with hard pine boards (for \$40.04!).

He helped to provide fuel for the schools. In 1916, he helped to maintain the state highway and repair the Cotton Mills (Conway Lake) Bridge and to break new roads.

The political arena interested Kennett as well. He served as a member of the State House of Repre-

representatives from 1892-93 and again in 1895. He served also on the Republican State Committee. He distinguished himself statewide as a counselor to Gov. Nahum J. Batchelder (1903-5). The Kennett family was also strongly involved in the affairs of the community. Mrs. (Lora) Kennett joined the Second Congregational Church in 1904 and she and her husband helped in the construction of the "Brown Church" in 1906. He was a member of the building committee. Their sons, Robert Harmon and Frank Edson would both join on April 15, 1923 and become valued members.

Kennett was an early trustee of the Conway Public Library, following in the footsteps of his mentor, Carlton. He was Chairman of the Trustees during the World War I years and served until his death. A. Crosby Kennett was also a member of the Masons, Palestine Commandery, Knights Templar of Rochester and the Veterans Association. His religious devotion was always to the Congregationalists. He was the chief financial contributor to the edifice of our Second Congregational Church in 1906 on what was heretofore Kennett property. As most of you likely know, the Kennett barn stood where the Catholic Church was erected in 1952 which is today Robert Frost Charter School. At that time all of the land on both sides of the tracks, where the elementary and middle schools now stand, were level Kennett fields. The Kennett's served tirelessly on many committees as have succeeding generations.

In local affairs, Kennett gave of his time freely. He was a town moderator and always interested in the development of educational opportunities. As early as 1916, Kennett was a member of three of the "Special Committee of Litigation" along with John H. Garland and James Gibson. The trio looked into the feasibility of establishing a town high school.

Kennett died at age 58 on December 5, 1917. His wife, Lora, herself the owner of an antique shop, offered to contribute funds toward the construction of a high school. The only stipulation

was that it was to be named for A. Crosby Kennett.

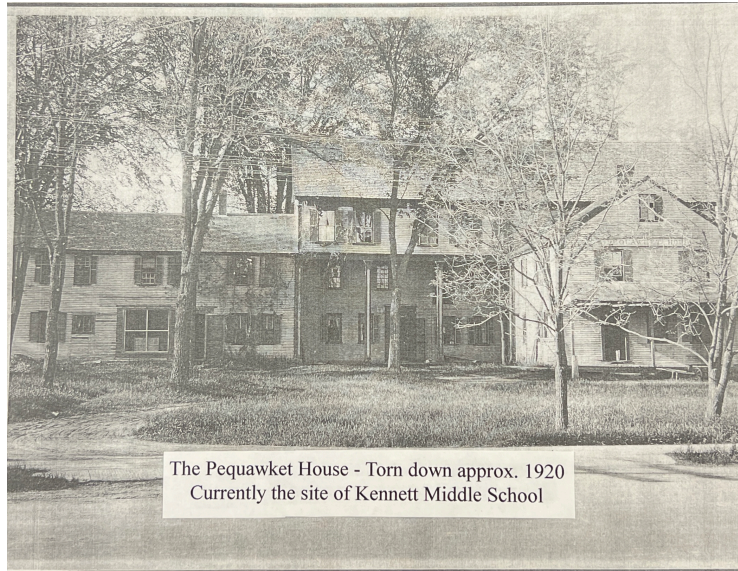
On April 25, 1922, the Town of Conway accepted the gift. Opening day in 1923 saw 137 students with a staff of nine teachers. It was then one of the most complete and up-to-date educational institutes in the state and some said the finest

looking structure. The spot finally selected as the site for the high school has a history of its own. According to personal notes from the late George T. Davidson, it was the scene of Thomas Abbott's Tavern and later was enlarged to the Adams Hotel, which was sold to Colonel John Hill.

It became known as the Pequawket House, where notables such as Daniel Webster, President and Mrs. Abraham Lincoln and

sons, Lord Talleyrand, General John Stark, Horace Greenley and Mrs. Grover Cleveland stayed. Rates were \$6 to \$9 a week. It was a stop on the stage route from Boston. John Shorey was the final owner and it was ultimately run as a boarding house for Polish mill workers before being razed.

When Mr. Kennett died on December 5, 1917, there had never been such a gathering of locals and dignitaries attend a funeral. Known nationwide, he was beloved by friends and family as well - a great counselor, collaborator and industrialist had gone on "to higher levels."



Contributed by Brian P. Wiggin

(Much info from Hobart Pillsbury's, "New Hampshire: A History" by the Lewis Historical Publishing Company of New York. 1927.

The following was written by Lora Kennett (Mrs. A. Crosby Kennett) at the time of the dedication of the High School, September 1923.

We came this day to dedicate
A building for one and all,
In memory of a loved one
Who has gone beyond recall.

He loved these grand old mountains
Towering upward to the sky,
The free and fertile valleys,
Brooks and rivers running by.

How much he loved these granite hills,
Only his friends can know,
And often said, "Tis God's country,
As he traveled to and fro.

The spot whereon this building stands
The Indians oft had trod
And the windows looking eastward
Show the handiwork of God.

The flag which adorns the entrance
Is a symbol to you and me
Of the sturdy men and women
Who fought to make us free.

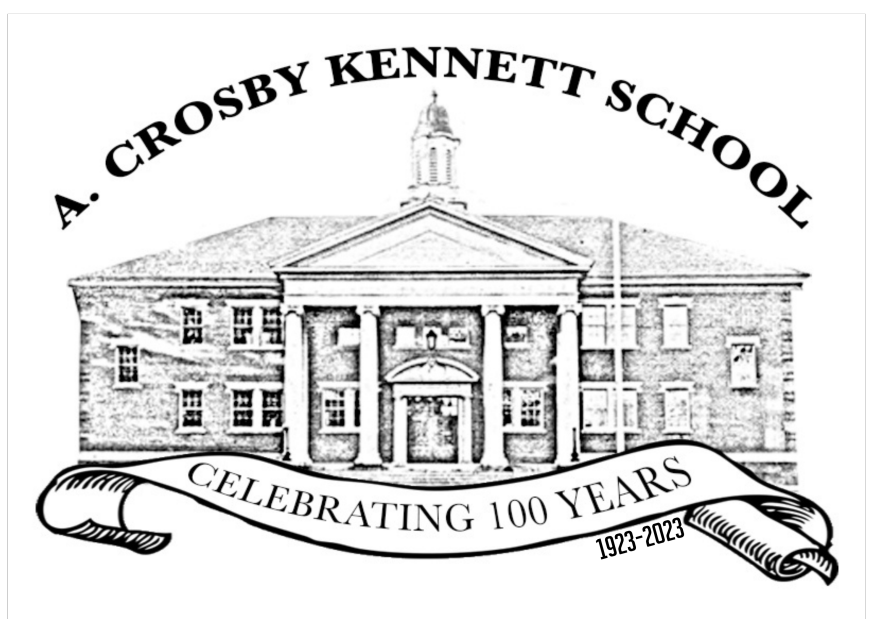
May we ever uphold the stand
Of the red, the white, the blue
And strive to make our daily lives
Honest, noble and true

May there be taught with its walls,,
Honor, righteousness and truth;
And may the Master's Golden Rule
Be the watchword of every youth.

May the shadows of these mountains
Protect us one and all
Within this peaceful valley
Till we hear the Master's call.



Kennett Memorial High School, Conway, N. H.



all events happening on A. Crosby Kennett Campus (KMS)

September 22 & 23, 2023

Friday, September 22, 2023 4:30pm - 10pm

- 4:30 pm Showing of Conway Boy/Conway Girl @ Majestic
- 6:00 pm - KHS Homecoming/100th Celebration Parade - Main Street, Conway
- Food Trucks @ KMS
- Entertainment @ KMS

Saturday, September 23, 2023 10am-5pm

- 10:00 am - Opening of Time Capsule buried in 1974
- 12:00 pm Showing of Conway Boy/Conway Girl @ Majestic All sporting events are being moved to KMS for Homecoming Weekend
- 11:00 am - Varsity Sports Games: Field Hockey, Boys Soccer, Girls Soccer & Volleyball
- 12:30 pm - JV Sports Games: Field Hockey, Boys Soccer, Girls Soccer & Volleyball
- 2:00 pm - Varsity Football Game @ McKeen Memorial Field
- 4:00-7:00 New England Ski Museum Cocktail hour for all KHS Ski Athletes

Other Events happening throughout the weekend

- Conway Scenic Railroad "Eagle Train" from North Conway to Conway
- Tours of the Kennett building
- Education Projects on Display
- Museum of Kennett Attire throughout the years
- Student Choir singing National Anthem & Kennett Fight Song before Football kick-off

2023 Kennett High School Alumni Association Scholarship Awards

To date, your donations have allowed us to award \$1,349,000 to KHS seniors and alumni. Any contribution is most welcomed to continue these efforts! This year the alumni awarded \$50,000 to alumni and seniors. We would like to congratulate them and wish them luck in their endeavors.

KHS SENIORS

Shannon Abrams
Olivia Arias
Grant Barahona
Benjamin Biche'
Mariah Bryant
Tyson Caisse
Tessa Capozzoli
Kaia Chakravadhanula
Alex Clarke
Mckayla Dockham
Ben Dougherty
Bryne Fayle

Ashley Garside
Brigitte Goldthrope
Noah Keefe
Evan Koroski
Sophia Odell
Jack Robinson
Cooper Santuccio
Samuel Seavey
Remington Snowdon
Lauren Violette
Cole Westover

KHS ALUMNI

Braedan Bailey
Camden Bailey
Eric Bormann
Amy Burton
Katie Colvard
Jaelin Cummings
Sydney Deblois-Hill
Taylor Garland
Callum Hawkes

Kathryn Hawkes
Amiah Johnson
Michael Keegan
Harrison Keeler
Mathew Kelly
Addy Nelson
Matthew Norwick
Grace Perley
Dalton Petell

The Kennett Alumni Association accepts scholarship applications from any and all Kennett Alumni. If you are continuing your education and would like the chance to earn a scholarship please fill out the application available on our website (www.kennettalumni.com). The applications are due May 1, are awarded in June and the scholarship money will be sent to your school upon the arrival of your Fall Semester Transcripts with a 2.5 or higher GPA. If you have any questions please reach out to us at KennettAlumni@gmail.com.

KHS - Did you know???

Mike Hathaway (band director 1965 - 1996) submitted a record to the Guinness World Records for the most amount of miles skied on a mountain while playing musical instruments. It is said that the Guinness Book of World Records responded, that they would not accept the submission because it was too weird.



A. Crosby Kennett School
100th CELEBRATION

Businesses, Alumni, and Community Sponsors wanting to lend their support are encouraged to sponsor the event or make a monetary donation.

The organization has a non-profit Tax ID: 20-6001069

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

EVENT SPONSOR - \$1000

includes a banner at the entrance

EAGLE SPONSOR - \$500

includes names displayed around all athletic events (5 - 3'x2' sign)

PLATINUM SPONSORSHIP - \$250

includes: 3'x2' Sign

GOLD SPONSORSHIP - \$150

includes: 18"x24" Sign

SILVER SPONSORSHIP - \$75

includes: 12"x18" Sign

FAMILY SPONSORSHIP - \$50

includes 8.5"x11" Sign



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Name of Contact: _____ **Business Name:** _____

Address: _____ **Phone:** _____

Email: _____

Amount of Sponsorship: \$ _____

CLASS SPONSORSHIP

Team up with your classmate to see which class can raise the most funds and have your class year represented at the event with a class sign.

Name of Contact: _____ **Year of Graduation:** _____

Address: _____ **Email:** _____

Class Challenge Donation: \$ _____

I would like to make a Monetary Donation

Amount of Donation: \$ _____

Please make your checks payable to: Kennett Alumni Association and mail form to:
Kennett Alumni PO Box 2583 Conway, NH 03818

Here are some warm thank you's we have received from scholarship recipients

"I would not be where I am without your support."

- Cassidy, Class of 2017

"College is a very expensive endeavor and your financial assistance is not only extremely generous but also highly appreciated."

- Jordanna, Class of 2019

"Thank you so much for awarding me your generous scholarship and investing in my future."

- Anna, Class of 2019

"I am forever grateful to be supported by wonderful community members like you!"

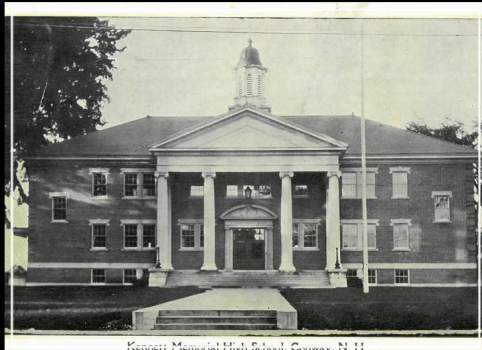
- Ashton, Class of 2019

"Thank you for selecting me to receive the Kennett Alumni Scholarship. I am very excited and very thankful for the financial help."

-Braeden, Class of 2020

"With your help, I now have a Master of Arts in History. Thank you so much for your support and your hard work to continue providing our alumni with such great opportunities. It's always a great day to be an Eagle!"

- Noah, Class of 2008



Kennett Memorial High School, Conway, N. H.



THANK YOU

We would like to send a special thank you to Porter Office Machine Co for always supporting the KHS Alumni with all our printing needs.



CUT HERE

Kennett Alumni

Now is a good time to pay your Dues - Annual dues are only \$5

Please take the time to fill out the following membership information for the current year and mail the form along with your check made payable to

"Kennett Alumni Association"

Please check if change of address

Name: _____ Class of: _____

Maiden Name: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____

Annual Dues \$5.00 _____ or 5 Years of Dues \$20.00 _____

Scholarship Donation: \$ _____

Thank You!



Kennett High School Alumni Association
PO Box 2583
Conway, NH 03818