



## IMPORTANT UPDATE:

### **CMH 75<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting in Maine DATE & VENUE CHANGE TO THE SENATOR INN & SPA, AUGUSTA 23-26 MAY 2024**

Sometimes the best-laid plans can go awry and it often works out for the best, which is why we have changed both the dates and host site for our 75<sup>th</sup> annual meeting. Two weeks ago, while meeting with state park officials in Augusta to plan our tour of important military sites in the Midcoast and Kennebec Valley regions, I was informed that these sites would be largely inaccessible for visitation until just prior to Memorial Day weekend. During this visit to the capitol city, I was made aware of The Senator Inn & Spa, located conveniently off the Maine turnpike and a mere 5 minutes from downtown. The Senator has full conference facilities, including a large ballroom/banquet hall and exhibit hall—something that no hotels in Midcoast Maine could offer to us and is conveniently situated at the terminus of our planned tour route of forts and sites in the Kennebec Valley.

All museums and historic sites originally on our tour plan would be fully accessible if we postponed the meeting until the last weekend in May, while the weather (always uncertain in early May) should be balmy. After consulting with various CMH Board members and past conference chairs, it was determined to change the venue to the Senator Inn & Span in Augusta, with the conference kicking off with a special event on Thursday evening, May 23<sup>rd</sup> and officially ending with our annual banquet on Saturday evening, May 26<sup>th</sup>. On Sunday, we will be arranging optional, post-conference events for those who wish to stay on longer during the extended Memorial Day weekend.

I want to personally apologize to any member who might have already made vacation or travel arrangements or has been otherwise inconvenienced by these changes, but hopefully this early notice will allow you to reschedule without too much fuss. Maine is a beautiful state with a wealth of historic sites and other attractions and a late May visit is the ideal time to take such in, as “tourist season” officially begins in June, when the crowds begin to arrive, peaking in July. In addition to better weather and full access to sites and military collections, members will also benefit from reduced lodging and registration costs. This is the first time that the Company has ever had a meeting in Maine and it should not be missed. We have a superb lineup of speakers, covering military and material culture topics ranging from the 17<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, by leading experts—many published authors. Our tour day will take us to the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century forts at Pemaquid Point, Fort Edgecomb (1809), the finest unaltered Second System fortification in the USA, Forts Western and Halifax—first constructed in the French & Indian War—but also important to the Arnold Expedition of 1775, the Maine Military Museum, and a special tour of the Kennebec Arsenal—now privately owned—the most complete and best preserved Federal arsenal of the 1820s-1880s period. This meeting will be a great opportunity to renew old friendships and create new ones, while exploring the history and scenic beauty of Maine and sampling the food, drink and hospitality of the region. Registration packets will be going out before the New Year, but please contact me in the interim with any questions or concerns. Thank you!

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2024 Meeting Chair

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The Senator Inn & Spa, Augusta: <https://www.senatorinn.com/>



Fort Western (1754)



Fort Edgecomb (1809)



Fort William Henry (1692)



Kennebec Arsenal (1828)