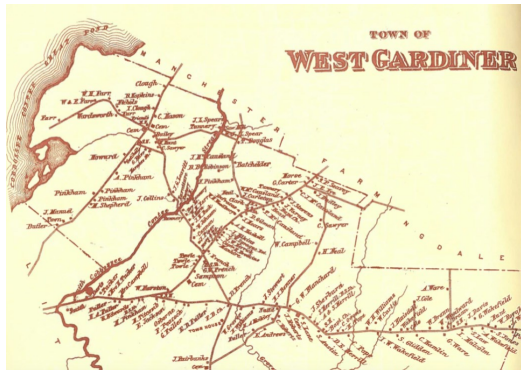


# AGRICULTURAL HISTORY

Kendra Shaw’s great-great grandfather, James Davis, and his son, Warren, were the first to farm the family land. The 1880 Maine Agricultural Census shows that the 100 acre Davis family farm had thirty acres of tilled land, twenty-five left as untilled fields, and the rest woodlands.\* The family owned twenty-nine sheep, eight cattle (two working oxen, five dairy cows, and one other), one swine, and twenty chickens. In 1879 the farm produced two hundred pounds of butter and fifty-six pounds of fleece. The total value of the farm was \$2,500. The substantial stone walls, now standing in the forest, provide evidence of the agricultural history of the land.



1879 Kennebec County Atlas showing the Davis farm

## LOOKING FORWARD

Looking towards the future, the Kennebec Land Trust hopes to construct a system of trails in the Wakefield Wildlife Sanctuary that will offer visitors beautiful views of Cobbossee Stream. Paddlers on the stream will be able to enjoy over 4000 feet of peaceful woods and marsh along the shore. At least two of the historic cabins will be maintained for nature and conservation education, recreation, and visiting artists and writers

\*In 1880, there were 53,061 farms in Kennebec County, the average farm size was 88 acres. Kerchner. *The Improved Acre; Maine History*, 2008.

# WILDLIFE

One of Kendra’s greatest passions was wildlife and their habitats. A University of Maine graduate in entomology, Kendra respected all parts of nature, especially animals.

Wakefield Wildlife Sanctuary provides a diversity of habitats for many species of animals. This habitat diversity also supports an abundance of upland and wetland flowers, ferns, graminoids (grasses, sedges, and rushes) shrubs, and trees.

## A PARTIAL LIST OF BIRDS



Scarlet Tanager ~ Glenn Hodgkins

- |                              |                         |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|
| American Robin               | Northern Flicker        |
| American Goldfinch           | Northern Parula         |
| Belted Kingfisher            | Ovenbird                |
| Black-and-white Warbler      | Pileated Woodpecker     |
| Black-capped Chickadee       | Pine Warbler            |
| Black-throated Green Warbler | Red-breasted Nuthatch   |
| Blue Jay                     | Red-eyed Vireo          |
| Chestnut-sided Warbler       | Scarlet Tanager         |
| Common Raven                 | Song Sparrow            |
| Common Yellowthroat          | Tufted Titmouse         |
| Eastern Phoebe               | Veery                   |
| Eastern Wood-Pee wee         | White-breasted Nuthatch |
| Great-crested Flycatcher     | Winter Wren             |
| Hermit Thrush                | Yellow-rumped Warbler   |

# ABOUT KENNEBEC LAND TRUST

Founded in 1988, KLT focuses on conserving important natural areas and working landscapes of the Kennebec River and Lakes region of Kennebec County. As a regional land trust, we work cooperatively with landowners in a twenty-one town area centered around the state capital. Currently we protect more than 5628 acres on over sixty properties. These conservation lands feature more than forty miles of trails and twelve miles of shoreline.

Conserved properties include Vaughan Woods in Hallowell, Curtis Homestead in Leeds, Mount Pisgah in Winthrop, Parker Pond Headland in Fayette, Davidson Nature Preserve in Vassalboro, and Webber-Rogers Farmstead in Litchfield. Most KLT conservation lands offer public access in all seasons for hiking, paddling, bird watching, skiing, and just enjoying nature. A full listing of Kennebec Land Trust properties and their recreational uses, and an interactive map with directions, can be found at our website: [www.tkl.org](http://www.tkl.org).



**PLEASE JOIN US!**  
**Kennebec Land Trust**  
**PO Box 261 331 Main Street**  
**Winthrop, Maine 04364**  
**207-377-2848**

Brochure contributions: West Gardiner Historical Society,  
Maine State Archives, Kennebec County Registry of Deeds,  
and Amy Lesko

**Anna Hodgkins, 2017 KLT Summer Intern**



# WAKEFIELD WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

**WEST GARDINER, MAINE**

**A PENDING BEQUEST**

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**Brochure: Anna Hodgkins**

**2017 KLT Summer Intern**



Anna Hodgkins

*The Kennebec Land Trust (KLT) works cooperatively with landowners and communities to conserve the forests, shorelands, fields, and wildlife that define central Maine. KLT protects land permanently, offers opportunities for people to learn about and enjoy the natural world, and works with partners to support sustainable forestry and farming.*



# WELCOME TO KENNEBEC LAND TRUST'S WAKEFIELD WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

The Wakefield Wildlife Sanctuary was generously bequeathed to the Kennebec Land Trust in November 2016 upon owner Kendra Wakefield Shaw's passing. Its 113 acres feature historic cabins and 4000 feet of frontage on Cobbossee Stream in West Gardiner. The property's coniferous and deciduous woods, vernal pools, and marshlands are important habitat for many species of birds, mammals, and plants.

We hope you enjoy your visit!



*Anna Hopkins*

## PRE-HISTORY AND HISTORY

Long before Kendra's ancestors settled on the property, Cobbossee Stream and the nearby Kennebec River were home to thousands of Abenaki people. The names Cobbosseecontee and Kennebec are both derived from Abenaki words meaning "plentiful with sturgeon" and "long reach" respectively. Before first contact with the European settlers there were nearly 3000 Abenaki people in the Cobbossee watershed area. These Native Americans utilized the plentiful natural resources found within the water bodies, along their banks, and in the nearby forest. Following European settlement and the introduction of diseases, very few native people survived.



*Kendra Wakefield Shaw practicing archery in the field near the family cabins, 1952*

The first European explorers traversed what is now known as West Gardiner as early as the mid-1600s. Some of the first settlers in Gardiner (then called Gardinerstown) established residences in the 1760s. Following the end of the Revolutionary War, much of the land was divided into large lots for the influx of new settlers. Eighteenth and nineteenth century families dramatically changed the landscape of the Cobbossee watershed. Large tracts of woodlands were cleared for agriculture, industry, and homes.

## FAMILY HISTORY

Kendra Wakefield Shaw's great-great grandfather, James Davis, began acquiring what is now the Wakefield Wildlife Sanctuary in 1828, when he bought a portion of West Gardiner settlers' lot number 17 from Israel Glass. Later on in that same year, James acquired another portion of lot 17 from Robert Gardiner Hallowell. James, his wife Jane, and their children lived on the land, farming it until James's death in 1883. Jane died in 1902.

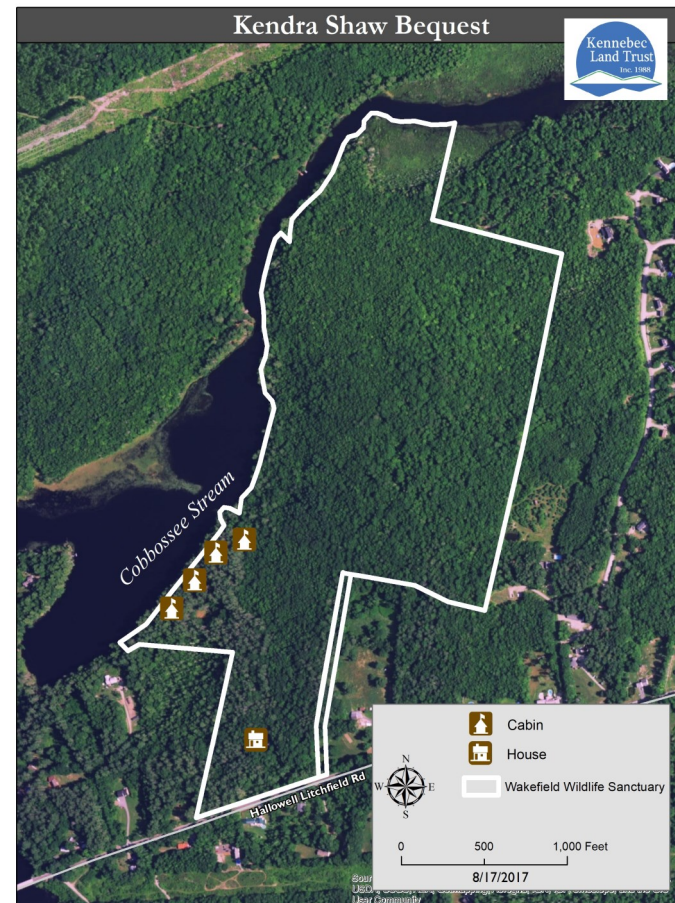
## FAMILY HISTORY, CONT.

The land was then inherited by James and Jane's son, Warren, who continued to farm the land with his wife Celia and their children, Maude and Mary. Maude and her husband Allen Wakefield inherited the family land after Warren's death in 1927.

At the turn of the twentieth century, the Wakefield family built the four cabins on the family's land on Cobbossee Stream. Allen was an electrician and also built and opened Wakefield's Service Station in Gardiner.

Allen and Maude's son Milan married Thelma Wardwell in 1933. Their daughter Kendra Wakefield was born in 1939. Milan, Thelma, and Kendra enjoyed fishing in Cobbossee Stream and campfires at the cabins.

Kendra married Harold (Jim) Shaw and they lived on Fountain Street in Gardiner until his death in the early 2000s. Kendra was very independent and self sufficient. She maintained the remote cabins into her 70s by herself, and could be seen painting them on a tall ladder. She also had many cats, each with their own unique name.



*Wakefield Service Station, 1941*



*Kendra at the cabins*