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COVER PHOTO: In the midst of a diplomatic war with Great Britain and New Brunswick over the northern boundary of the state, Maine anchored its claims to the southern half of the St. John Valley with this tiny fortification in 1839. The Fort Kent blockhouse, as author Sheila McDonald points out in our second article, was an important symbolic and tangible statement of Maine's land claims in the disputed territory. Ironically, the structure was built after the near-hostilities of the "Aroostook War" had passed. Photo provided courtesy of the author, from the collections of the Bureau of Parks and Recreation, Maine Department of Conservation.

OUR AUTHORS: *Geraldine Tidd Scott* is the author of *Hodgdon, Maine: Sesquicentennial Album, 1832-1982*, and *Isaac Simpson's World*. Born in Houlton, Maine, she graduated from Bob Jones University and studied at Syracuse University and American International College while she taught for eighteen years in public schools in New York, Oklahoma, Iowa, and Massachusetts. She and her husband, Mahlon Scott, reside in Windham, Maine.

Sheila McDonald is a resource administrator for the Maine Bureau of Parks & Recreation. She is a graduate of the University of Montana, Missoula, and Cooperstown Graduate Programs. Her work on historic site development and research for the Bureau includes Forts Halifax and Kent. Ms. McDonald has been working on research regarding the St. John Valley since 1981 when she began a project at the Maine State Museum that resulted in the "Chez-Nous: The St. John Valley" exhibit.