

Join Holly Korda at the Goodall Memorial Library on Thursday April 6th at 6:30PM as we explore the amazing efforts of the Knitting Brigades of WWI and learn how knitting helped unify the nation and win the war. The presentation will include fascinating stories and vintage photographs.

In the summer of 1917, following the U.S. declaration of war against Germany in April 1917, the American Red Cross put out an urgent call for volunteers in every state who came to knit more than 15 million pounds of wool into socks, sweaters, hats, and bandages for our soldiers and allies overseas. In less than two years, membership swelled from 200,000 to over 30 million nationwide. Women, men, and the nation's school children knit and purled more than 23 million articles for the war effort in the most successful mobilization of community resources in the United States.

Holly Korda learned of Red Cross efforts to mobilize volunteers nationwide to knit bandages, socks, sweaters, and other necessities for WWI soldiers and allies from a relative who learned to knit in school as part of this effort. Holly was fascinated in the stories and inspired to learn lessons of experience that might be relevant today. She began researching the knitting brigades with the National Red Cross several years ago and recently updated her investigations using Maine historical archives to learn more about the "who" and the "how" behind this grassroots success. She looks forward to sharing what she has uncovered, through photos and knitting songs of the day, and to exploring the important role of volunteers in Maine and the nation during the Great War. A Maine native, she returned in 2007 and lives in Old Orchard Beach.

Join us for this fascinating presentation, April 6th @ 6:30PM. If you wish, bring your own items, photos, and stories to share with the group.

FMI please contact Jean at Goodall Memorial Library (207) 324-4714, or visit our website, www.lbgoodall.org.