Knox County, Maine, is located on the southeastern side of Penobscot Bay and consists of the city of Rockland; the towns of Appleton, Camden, Cushing, Friendship, Hope, Owls Head, Rockport, Saint George, South Thomaston, Thomaston, Union, Warren, and Washington; the plantation of Matinicus Isle; and about twenty moderate-sized islands, the largest of which are Vinalhaven, North Haven, and Isle Au Haut. The county was named for American Revolutionary War General and Secretary of War Henry Knox who lived in the county from 1795 until his death in 1806.

Rockland is home to the Farnsworth Art Museum, which has a large collection of Louise Nevelson's sculptures; and the Wyeth Center, which features works by Andrew, N.C., and Jamie Wyeth. The Maine Lighthouse Museum is home to the largest collection of lighthouse and U.S. Coast Guard artifacts. The Sail, Power & Steam Museum is the only maritime museum in Maine located on a historic shipbuilding site and exhibits historically significant sailing, power, and steam-driven vessels, ships, and small boats. Rockland Historical Society displays Civil War memorabilia and artifacts from the city’s life, fishing, and shipbuilding industries. The Coastal Children’s Museum exhibits and demonstrates pre-1920 landmark aircraft, ground vehicles, engines, and related technologies.

Located in Thomaston, the General Henry Knox Museum honors Knox’s life and times and the heritage of his home, Montpelier, which was reconstructed and filled with original family relics. The Thomaston Historical Society’s collection focuses on the Revolutionary War, with special emphasis on General Knox, local historical artifacts, and the area’s involvement in the Civil War.

Rockport is home to the Center for Maine Contemporary Art, where more than 300 artists exhibit their work annually. The Conway House is an example of the 18th-century style of rural construction known as Cape Cod.

The Owls Head Transportation Museum exhibits and demonstrates pre-1920 landmark aircraft, ground vehicles, engines, and related technologies. The Friendship Museum is located in a mid-19th century one-room schoolhouse and exhibits artifacts, documents, and historical memorabilia pertaining to the village and the Friendship Sloop.

Union is home to the Matthews Museum of Maine Heritage that houses more than 10,000 artifacts, including carriages, agricultural tools, musical instruments, books, a photograph collection, a research library, and “the Hodge,” a one-room schoolhouse.

The Vinalhaven Historical Society has photographic, genealogical, and historical documents and artifacts that illuminate the history of the town.

NEIGHBORHOODS

With 7,209 residents, Rockland is the county seat and the largest city in Knox County. Rockland has been called the “Lobster Capital of the World” for its importance to the East Coast lobster industry and for the annual Maine Lobster Festival. Rockland is also known for its rocky shoreline and a fully-functioning harbor. Italianate, Greek Revival, and Colonial architectural styles are found in the downtown, which is a designated National Historic District.

Camden has a busy harbor and a downtown area that features 19th-century architecture and a population of 5,254. Ships, yachts, and windjammers are frequently docked in Camden Harbor.

Owls Head is a residential town with a population of 1,204, is predominantly a fishing village. Friendship, with a population of 1,204, is predominantly a fishing village. Friendship was the birthplace of the distinctive Friendship Sloop, which was originally used as a fishing boat but is now prized for recreational sailing.

PARKS AND RECREATION

Knox County has several state parks. Camden Hills State Park offers 30 miles of hiking and walking trails along with an 800-foot summit. The 50-acre Birch Point Beach State Park is located on the shoreline of Owls Head offers opportunities for swimming and fishing. The popular Owls Head Lighthouse is located in Owls Head State Park.

Maine Coast Heritage Trust provides education about land conservation and sustainable agriculture at Rockport’s Aldermere Farm, which breeds Belted Galloway cattle that are also known as the “Oreo Cookie cows” because of their distinct black-and-white coloring. The Rockport Marine Park has three restored lime kilns originally used in the 1860s and a replica of a locomotive used in transporting the lime. The park also has a marble statue of Andre the Seal, a real harbor seal that became the subject of two books and a film.

Midcoast Recreation Center features tennis courts, dance and aerobics rooms, and an indoor ice arena.

Rockland Harbor Park on the waterfront in downtown Rockland is the venue for summertime events, which includes the North Atlantic Blues Festival (July), The Maine Lobster Festival (early August), and the Maine Boats & Harbor Show (mid-August). Johnson Memorial Park offers a small freshwater beach and park. The Project Puffin Visitor Center promotes seabird conservation with exhibits and educational films.

Pen Bay Medical Center is also located in Rockport.

Maine Media College, formerly Rockport College, offers degree and certificate programs, workshops, intensives, and cooperative labs geared to the fine arts and media-related professions.

HEALTH CARE

Pen Bay Medical Center is a 99-bed, full-service community hospital located in Rockport.

Waldo County General Hospital is a 25-bed community hospital located in Belfast.

COUNTY STATS 2013

- County Population: 39,550
- Per Capita Personal Income, Knox County, Maine: $41,703