

100 MAIN STREET, ROUTE 4A ♦ BAR MILLS, MAINE

BUXTON-HOLLIS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

INCORPORATED 1970 ♦ <http://www.buxtonhollishistorical.org> ♦ 207.929.1684 ♦ FALL 2018

President's Message

Greetings Members and Friends,
This fall president's message is dedicated to our dear recently passed friend, immediate past BHHS Vice President from Hollis and Print Media Director, Marguerite Clark Gardner of Clark's Mills. As I sit down to write this message, my heart is full of the many special qualities I loved and miss about "Meg". Meg was a member of a family with a long history in York County. My first memories of her were when, as a retired teacher, she expressed interest in the N. C. Watson School and then later when she used her considerable and varied talents tirelessly to help preserve the S. D. Hanson School, the old Hollis High School, and our present BHHS history center building from demolition. She strove always to preserve meaningful historic spaces and architecture of our area, bringing her considerable education (English major at Bates), work and travel experience, wonderful creative writing skills, and research abilities to the tasks at hand.



"Meg" Gardner holding Axel Rowe Hill

She was always willing to assist others in genealogical research and loved introducing Boy & Girl Scouts to the basics of genealogy during their tours of the historical society. She was a well respected grant writer, and frequently offered to assist in completing applications to the *National Register of Historic Places*.

Meg spent her working life and retirement benefiting the unfortunate, connecting them with needed services, or many times opening her home to those in need. No matter the state of her own limited finances, she was generous with her resources and seemed to me to be a guiding example of how to treat our neighbors and fellow human beings.

Chronically late to meetings and loving to talk, Meg was a jovial, well informed and engaged historian who loved historical research, always finding additional "fascinating" off topic information over which to marvel and chuckle. An avid politician, she gained open minded perspective on life and current events through her travels living all over the world. She was also an early and well trained pianist and musician. She loved to feed animals: feral cats, special black birds, and a one very special small black poodle.

Suffice it to say Meg loved and enjoyed life. She was an idea person and more than once, wrote long emails outlining her thoughts on the direction our historical society needed to move. However, she was never simply content to sit quietly on the sidelines, but instead was always striving to make a positive difference in the world, in our Towns, and at BHHS. If attendance at her funeral was any indication of the positive difference she made in the lives of those she touched, she most certainly achieved that goal. We deeply mourn her passing and celebrate her life of service...

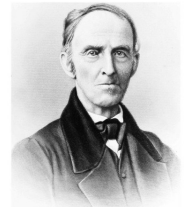
In gratitude and peace,
Jan Hill, President



(L-r) Janice Lane, Jan Hill, Nancy Pierce, Meg Gardner, Bertie Ramsdell, Betsy Clay, Barry Plummer (Brent Hill was behind the camera lens)

N.C. Watson School Re-Awakening

The N. C. Watson School in Buxton Center started out in Chicopee. It was built in 1900 to replace a brick school house that was falling into disrepair. Naaman C. Watson, the school's namesake, was born in 1804 in Gorham, Maine. As a young man he graduated from Gorham Academy and taught school during the winter months and worked on the family farm the remainder of the year. At the age of 54, he bought 100 acres of land in North Buxton and farmed until he died at the age of 82 in 1886. At the time the new school was being built in 1900, Mr. Watson's surviving daughter, Tabitha, offered to make a substantial amount of money to the Town of Buxton if the new school was named after her father, N. C. Watson.



N.C. Watson
N.C. Watson

The school was used until 1942 when the building was transferred by the Town to the Chicopee Fire Department. The building was used for various things until it, too, fell into disrepair. The Fire Department no longer wanted it and planned to burn it down. In 1999, Louis H. Emery, one of the founders of the Historical Society, presented a program on one room school houses. At this time the N. C. Watson School was one of the last remaining one room schools in Buxton. After his presentation, the idea to save the building was born. Under Mr. Emery's leadership, the building was donated to the Buxton Hollis Historical Society in 2000 by the Chicopee Fire Department with the stipulation that the building be moved. A BHHS committee was formed, and after much planning, substantial business and private donations and many volunteer hours, the old school was relocated to its present location in Buxton Center on the Groveville Road, next to the Buxton Centre Church on land donated by Anthony Taylor. The Society maintains and operates the school as a living museum of a 1900's era one room school house. Many photos, as well as information about the building's historic relocation, are housed in the school.

After limited activity for the past few years, the N. C. Watson One Room School House Committee is beginning a re-awakening. Spring of 2018 saw a great deal of cleaning and polishing going on. A new flag was bought and proudly flies on days the building is open. Buxton *Girl Scout Troop #1752* has spent significant time and effort cleaning the property behind the school and sprucing up the front yard as well.

We have several more projects that require volunteer time. If you are interested, please call BHHS at 207-929-1684 to leave a message. Our hours until the end of October are the 2nd and 4th Saturdays from 1- 4 p.m. We may have extended hours when the Buxton Centre Baptist Church begins their *Bean Supper* season. *Watch for our Open Sign!*

Vicki Walker, Chair

N.C. Watson School One Room School Committee

BHHS OFFICERS

Janice Hill, *President*

Barry Plummer, *Vice-President, Buxton*

Nancy Ponzetti, *Vice-President, Hollis*

Vicki Walker, *Secretary*

Betsy Clay, *Treasurer*

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Bette Robicheaw, *Hospitality Co-Chair*

Vicki Walker, *N.C. Watson Chair*

Robert Yarumian, *Clerk*

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Proposed By-Law Changes

The by-law committee proposes changes below for adoption at the regular October meeting if there is a quorum or, if not, then at the November meeting. The main reasons for the changes are to implement a strategic planning process and to clarify classes of membership. Text to be removed is in ~~strikethrough~~ and additions are underlined.

ARTICLE 1. NAME

The name of the organization shall be the "The-Buxton-Hollis Historical Society".

ARTICLE 2. PURPOSE

The purpose of this organization shall be to furnish an opportunity for united thought and action in collecting preserving and publishing whatever may be related to the early and late history of the towns of Hollis and Buxton and to preserve such articles or relics of the early settlers of the country and such records as may be of interest to the society.

To further it's purpose and implement it's mission, the Society shall review and adopt a Strategic Plan at least every three years and shall present the current plan to the membership at a regular meeting annually.

ARTICLE 3. MEMBERS

Section 2. There shall be three kinds of membership:

A. Honorary Life Members may be proposed by the Board of Directors and elected by the Society in recognition of their contributions to the Society. They shall have the rights of Active Members. They shall not be required to pay dues.

B. Memorial membership was granted only to George E. Jack and Blanche Dean in 1970. ~~may be granted by the Board of Directors upon recommendation of a dues paying member.~~

C. All other members of the Society shall be Active Members. Paid Life Members shall be one of several classes of Active Members.

ARTICLE 4. DUES

Section 1. Dues shall be payable on a calendar year basis. The amount and classes of the dues of the Active Members shall be established by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE 5. OFFICERS - THEIR ELECTION AND DUTIES

Section 8. The Board of Directors shall have the power:

c. To fill all vacancies in any office of the Society ~~however~~ whenever such vacancies may occur.

ARTICLE 6. MEETINGS

Section 1. Regular meetings ~~shall~~ will primarily be held on the second Tuesday of each month from April to November inclusively, except that the June meeting will be the first Tuesday.

VISIT OUR HISTORY CENTER

100 Main Street, Route 4A, Bar Mills, Maine
 OPEN:
 Thursdays 4:00—8:00 p.m.
 Saturdays 9:00—12:00 a.m.
 Except holiday weekends
 (Please check our website calendar.)

The BHHS newsletter is proudly sponsored by
Chad E. Poitras Cremation and Funeral Service

Funeral Home ☎ Cremation Provider
 498 Long Plains Road, Buxton
 929-3723

www.mainefuneral.com

Chad Poitras, BHHS member

"A local resident serving locals with dignity and respect"

ABOUT OUR NEWSLETTER

The Buxton-Hollis Historical Society Newsletter is published three times a year, typically in the spring, summer and fall. Its purpose is to inform a network of citizens and institutions of the work of BHHS and to foster an appreciation of the importance of Buxton and Hollis history.

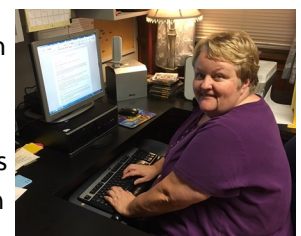
VISIT US ONLINE

Be sure to check out our webpage (www.buxtonhollishistorical.org) and Facebook page, both managed by our own "Molly Woodman" for event photos and more news than we have room for here. Additionally, visit www.bhhsnewsletter.weebly.com to see the online version of the BHHS newsletter.

New PCs at BHHS

We purchased a new desktop PC running Windows 10 last year with a document scanner to digitize documents. This year, Janice Lane solicited a donation of two Windows 7 PCs from the *Saco and Biddeford Savings Bank*.

Many thanks to both Janice AND the *Saco and Biddeford Savings Bank!* These computers are a big upgrade from our two older Windows XP



Janice "Molly" Lane and the new PC

machines. We will use them for image scanning with our flatbed scanner and for general office work including accessioning and cataloging.

Upcoming Events 2018

Sat., Sept. 15, 9:30 A.M.: “Cook’s Brook Paddle followed by Bar Mills, Buxton BBQ” – Paddle begins at 9:30 a.m. Paddling is not required to participate in the BBQ, which begins around noon! If paddling, bring your kayak or canoe, your safety gear, sunscreen and water for an excursion up scenic Cook’s Brook, a relaxed flat paddle. We’ll put in at Pleasant Point Park off the Simpson Rd. in Buxton and return to the same spot to take out, then proceed to the Bar Mills residence of Burt & Barbara Pease at 59 Depot St., Bar Mills for an enjoyable BBQ in the barn! Hamburgers, hot dogs and beverage provided. *Please bring a side dish or dessert to share!* *Donations always appreciated!

Tues., Sept. 18, 7 P.M.: “Building the American Dream Home by Mail: Kit Houses in Greater Portland” with architect, Julie Larry, Director of Advocacy for Greater Portland Landmarks. The *American Dream* of home ownership was fostered by reformers, developers, and building material companies in the early 20th century. This program will discuss the history of kit home manufacturing in this country and illustrate the variety of styles available from manufacturers and the various ways you can identify a kit home. You may even be living in a Sears Catalog House or have in your older home an architectural feature, such as a mantel, purchased by mail. BHHS, 100 Maine St., Bar Mills. *Suggested donations \$10; Seniors \$8.

Tues., October 16, 7 P.M. Getting in the mood for the often gruesome subject of the Halloween season, we will explore “Reconsidering the Lizzy Borden Murder Case: The Role of Ethnicity and Gender – *Explore this 1892 landmark law case & American Society*” with Joseph Conforti, author of seven books on New England history and culture and Distinguished Professor of American and New England Studies Emeritus at the University of So. Maine, as he reviews the famous murders and trial, as well as how issues of ethnicity and gender help broaden our understanding of what happened. BHHS, 100 Main St, Bar Mills. **Suggested donations \$10; Seniors \$8.*

Sat., Nov. 3, 5-9 P.M. BHHS ANNUAL MEETING & POTLUCK DINNER: Join members and friends as we break bread together, elect officers for the 2019 year, and enjoy the informative and fascinating program of the evening “**The Wabanaki Confederacy: The Wabnaki or “People of the Dawn,”** presented by noted teacher and popular historian, Nancy Ponzetti. The Wabnaki are the first people of the area of Northeastern New England and Maritime Canada, living here for over 12,000 years. At one time, there were more than 20 nations of the Wabanaki Confederacy. There are only four nations still in existence in Maine: the Maliseet, Micmac, Passamaquoddy, and Penobscot; more than 16 nations were completely destroyed. To reserve your seat at the table and let us know your potluck contribution, please R.S.V.P. Roberta Ramsdell at 929-4592. *Suggested donation \$10; Seniors, \$8

**Please note that suggested donations are used to support on-going capital improvements to our new history center building.*

Maine Memory Network

After a long review, your BHHS Directors have voted to join the Maine Memory Network of the Maine Historical Society. This will allow us to make our images more available on line for current and future generations. Selected significant images will be available for purchase as prints or in digital format. The Buxton-Hollis Historical Society would retain other ownership rights.

The other key feature of membership is that we will be able to convert our physical exhibits to on line exhibits on the Maine Memory site. We anticipate a future on line Bar Mills exhibit to start.

We have begun planning for our next major exhibit, West Buxton Village both Hollis and Buxton sides, and look forward to adding this new exhibit to the network in the future.

BHHS Bluebird Benefit Bash Sterling Success!

by *Martha Muldoon*

It was, thankfully, cooler this year and the threat of showers failed to dampen spirits as close to 75 participants at this year's Buxton-Hollis Historical Society's *Bluebird Benefit Bash* gathered in the gorgeous gardens of the Brewster Mansion grounds during the pre-event social hour. Delightful wine and hors d'oeuvres held the attention of attendees as the experts looked over the items brought by guests to be estimated.

Everyone enjoyed not only the refreshments in the garden, but then also went on to enjoy the assorted sandwiches, fresh fruit and delicious homemade pies in the beautifully decorated barn, all made by the loyal and talented members the Buxton Hollis Historical Society's Board of Directors.

The evening kicked off with door prizes of all types including a dinner for four at *The River Tap and Grill at the Salmon Falls Country Club* (won by Jackie Webber) to a gift certificate from our newest restaurant in Buxton, *The Buxton Common* (won by Frank Martin). Other lucky winners of silver trays were Jim Pate and Girl Scout Lilly Gaudiano, while Bette Robicheaw went home with a new silver teapot.



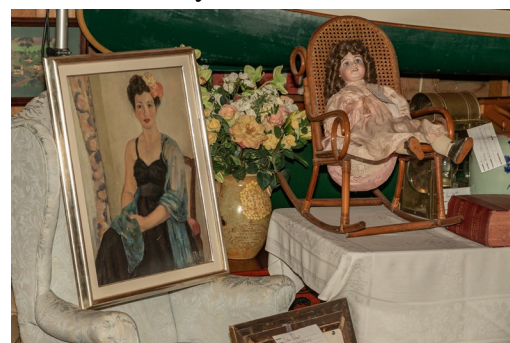
Then it was time for BHHS President Jan Hill to introduce the antique experts of the evening: Steve Center of *Centervale Farm Antiques* in Scarborough; Kevin Keraghan of *Warehouse 839* in Saco; and Rachel Gurley of *Gurley Antique Gallery* in Scarborough, to take the stage. Together they represented over 100 years of experience in the antique business and provided background on what's been going on in the vintage and antique markets over the past several years.

Some trends in antique valuations and the values and lifestyles distinctions between millennials vs. their parents and grandparents are clearly in play in today's antique market place. Steve noted, "Your children don't want most of your stuff, won't use it, and won't take it!

That beautiful mahogany dining room set of yours won't fit in your son's house without a dining room." Surprisingly, the popular trend today is toward mid-century modern furniture and accessories, as well as re-purposed industrial materials for tables and smaller upholstered pieces. Even sets of Pyrex have their fans - at \$145.00! Art work that is most popular today comes from the 70's and 80's and is often very colorful and abstract.

Rachel Gurley showed some examples of pieces that have maintained their value, as well as some that have not. She noted that a decorator had come into her shop and bought a large collection of decoys for a client. Evidently, ducks go up in value the older they get for the right customer! And Kevin Keraghan added that the condition of paper goods and tin toys is paramount. If they aren't perfect, their value diminishes.

Then it was on to the verbal opinions of value. A distressed church bench was valued at retail for \$145 to \$160, noting that an antique dealer would pay you less - the wholesale value. A Civil War era Waltham pocket watch was valued at \$350. A railroad lamp was valued at \$400, while a chair thought to be Shaker, was found to have been cut down and had a replaced seat. The experts were



(continued on page 6)

Basement Project Progress at 100 Main Street

Our new basement upgrade is nearing completion this fall. Through the continuing efforts of Jan Hill and Barry Plummer, and with a significant grant from the Narraganset Number One Foundation (NNOF) we have a new T. C. Hafford dry basement system, including a new cement floor. With many more than estimated volunteer hours for “destruction” (clearing out the basement, removing unwanted partitions and adding more, removing ceilings, bathroom fixtures, cutting off doors to accommodate the new cement floor) and reconstruction (the addition of foundation insulation, drywall, wide window ledges and closets, plaster, primer and paint as well as a computer area and kitchen), we now have a new beautiful, dry, lighted workspace, warm storage, a renovated bathroom, closets, and a fireproof room. We will make good use of the new space.



Volunteer laborers also included Rich Streeter, Jim Dunn, Brent Hill, and Asa Crump Rubin. Special thanks to all these hard workers! This was tough duty! Our primary contractors were T. C. Hafford Basement Systems, carpenter Jason Knight, electrical contractor, Dave DesRouseaux and Maurice (Moose) Lewis, plumbing.

Grateful thanks go to NNOF, who made this project possible, ALONG WITH so many of you patrons who donated to BHHS at programs and other activities. These donations made it possible for BHHS to support over 1/3 of the basement project expenses!!!

New West Buxton Exhibit Being Planned

We have been making good progress in the preliminary stages of the new Spring 2019 exhibit. We continue to gather images and objects to display. Please consider a loan or donation of any interesting items that relate to the village in the 1840s to 1950s time frame.

The most interesting image so far is an wonderful early, but terrible, panoramic image of the Buxton side after the fire of 1865. The sawmills, stores, covered bridge and part of the woolen mill are burned flat except for the brick Masonic building. Future structures on the site included more fireproof brick buildings: Moderation Center, the so called Casco Bank building, the Lord Mansion, and the Upper and Lower Hydro Stations. We will have a good enlargement of the photo, provided by Harold and Becky Smith, in the exhibit.



(continued from page 5)

puzzled by a Parcheesi Board that looked like one from the 1860’s and noted that, if it could be authenticated, it could be valued at \$4,000. A small Steiff teddy bear was valued at \$75 to \$100. One large oil painting under glass of an attractive seated woman was ascribed to Sidney Songs of California and was valued at \$1,800 to \$2,500. Similarly, a one hundred+ year old girls needlepoint sampler was given a value of \$275 to \$800. In each instance, the experts noted that items are worth what people are willing to pay for them...

The experts also referred people to the “askART” website for art prices, artist auction records, and art research tools; and the *Maine Antique Digest* and other publications that list current antique show and auction market information.

All in all, it was a delightful evening at the gracious 1805 National Register Royal Brewster residence of our most generous hosts, Bev and Sandy Atkinson. Grateful thanks to Sandy & Bev, all the BHHS volunteers who made the evening possible, AND those of you who attended and continue your strong support of the Buxton Hollis Historical Society!

Endangered Properties in the Hollis-Buxton Area

We note two endangered properties as historic preservation opportunities in our towns.

One is the *Odd Fellows Hall* in West Buxton, Hollis side. It is an 1875 building and was the village community center for many years with a busy stage and hall on the first floor. It is a wonderful large space, both upstairs in the old lodge hall and downstairs, which has tin walls and ceiling. The limitations come from the small lot size. It has been used for storage in recent years, but needs a better use to support it. Possible options discussed are conversion to residential units or removal from the site. Please contact the owner, Alice Dunn, at 780-0634 if you have interest or proposals.



The other property is the *Bear Hill Church* on Bear Hill Road in Hollis. It is an 1840 building built as a union church and remodeled in 1903. The interior is still in good shape for church services. The exterior appears as original, but some sill work is needed. Limitations include a small lot and no water or septic at this time.

There is an active group working to preserve the building. Their initial challenge, as it is for all historic buildings, is to determine a sustaining and self-supporting use, as the use drives the improvements and fundraising. *If you are interested or can help in any way, please contact Anne Hannaford for more information at 939-8678.*

Hollis Pirate Fest Report by Vicki Walker

Our Buxton-Hollis Historical Society had an informational table at the *3rd annual Hollis Pirate Fest* this past August 11th. The event was held at the town's Sports Complex off Plains Road. It was great day for the fun and games planned by the Hollis Pirate Fest Committee. It was lovely to see other local organizations present and interacting with our Community. Many families with children came and some of the pirate costumes were very realistic. Your Historical Society displayed some of the items that are for sale in the BHHS Museum Store located at our Headquarters Building at 100 Main Street, Bar Mills, Maine. Also available were free copies of this year's newsletters, as well as pencils with our web address on them.

We met some new residents who have purchased homes in Hollis and are interested in researching their older new home. All were encouraged to visit our Headquarters which is open Thursdays 4-8 p.m. and Saturday mornings 9-Noon through the end of October. Our research library and volunteers are ready to help you get started on researching your home, as well as your ancestors. Please stop by our table at next year's *4th Annual Hollis Pirate Fest*.



Bette Robicheaw tending to the BHHS table at Hollis's Pirate Fest

THANK YOU!

Questions? Please call 929-1684 and leave a message OR visit *Contact Us* on our website www.buxtonhollishistorical.org

Send to:
Buxton Hollis Historical Society
Attn: Membership Chair
P.O. Box 34
Buxton, ME 04093

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Annual Dues Level

Note- membership year runs from January 1 thru December 31.
(Please Print Clearly)

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BUXTON-HOLLIS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. BOX 34

BUXTON, MAINE 04093-0034



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