

BUXTON-HOLLIS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Buxton-Hollis Historical Society Officers & Directors

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Janice Hill, President Barry Plummer, Vice-President, Buxton Marguerite Gardner, Vice-President, Hollis Brenton Hill, Past President Vicki Walker, Secretary Betsy Clay, Treasurer Nancy Pierce, Librarian Steven Atripaldi, Curator Kathleen Kendrick, Membership Louis Emery, N.C. Watson Committee Chair Robert Yarumian, Clerk Bette Robicheaw, Hospitality Co-Chair Roberta Ramsdell, Hospitality Co-Chair Marguerite Gardner, Print Communications Andrea Nemitz, Social Media Director Beth Gardner, Graphic Design & Composition Roxanne Eflin, Buxton Building Survey Julie Larry, Hollis Building Survey

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ow!

We have been taking a little summer breather from a very intense and aggressive eight week schedule—the first phase (and most physically demanding) of the rehabilitation projects which began shortly after April 30, 2013, the day we signed our lease with MSAD #6 for our new headquarters building in Bar Mills!

So far, we have torn out interior walls on the first floor, removed lowered ceilings in the large meeting room and hall, taken up carpeting throughout the old building (quite a job, since some were glued to the floor), pulled nails (it seems like forever!) out of the floors and steps, removed fluorescent lighting in the first floor meeting room, bathroom and front foyer, added new reproduction ceiling fixtures, sanded floors throughout and stairs, painted a portion of the hall, painted the library, office and museum store, painted file cabinets, stained and polyurethaned wainscoting and window trim in hall, bathroom and first floor left, washed venetian blinds, added window treatments. We also have a new gas boiler, electric water heater, new replacement windows in most of the attic, added insulation below the attic floor and attic stairwell, replaced some basement windows, and updated safety lighting, scraped and painted the front porch and replaced front step treads. Phew! I have probably forgotten something, but I am sure you were probably tired of reading this anyway!

We are making good progress on organizing the research library resource materials, setting up the office and store and figuring out where basic operational furniture/materials/supplies need to go.

We have begun a tiny inroad to accessioning a few items from our large pile of donated treasures which have been piling up for some time (years!). Because we still have the first floor meeting room to put back together we are holding off on creating displays until the dust settles, quite literally. So, hopefully you will be patient as we move through the fall with a goal of getting the meeting room, first floor bathroom and hall wall repair completed by November annual meeting. I wonder whether we will make it?

A huge thank-you to all who have donated time and treasure to making this dream become a reality! We couldn't have done it without each and every one of you! If you have time this fall to volunteer, please remember we can use your help. Come on in and we'll find something fun for you to do!

Best Regards,

Jan Hill, President

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BHHS Coming Attractions

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 28, 6:30 PM — MOVIE NIGHT



BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!

BUXTON, MAINE: AN AMERICAN STORY

A documentary conceived, developed, filmed, and produced by Patrick Bonsant and Matthew Fletcher

and

Saco River Community Television Made possible by a grant from Narragansett Number One Foundation

Old White Church, 15 Salmon Falls Road, Bar Mills, Buxton

Suggested donation: \$15.00 DVDs of the documentary will be available for sale at \$25.00

Overheard around town: "Every home should have a copy of this film!" \gg "It definitely needs to be shown at the schools!" "Extremely interesting and well-done; very professional!"

Do you have your copy yet?

Proceeds from Buxton documentary DVD sales are used for rehabilitating the BHHS Library and Museum

TUESDAY OCTOBER 22, 6:30 pm



GENEALOGY WORKSHOP with SEEMA-JAYNE KENNEY

BUXTON-HOLLIS HISTORICAL SOCIETY 100 Main St, Bar Mills, Buxton

Refreshments!

We are delighted to celebrate our new library space and our resource collection with this workshop for

people who would like some guidance in braving the maze of genealogical research. Seema-Jayne Kenney is a wife, mother, and an entrepreneur. She began to explore her family history while she was still in high school and discovered that her family connections reached deep into Colonial New England. Seema-Jayne completed a Certificate in Genealogical Research from Boston University in 2010. She is a member of the Massachusetts Society of Genealogists and of the New England Chapter of the Association of Professional Genealogists. Seema has discovered using history to learn more about ourselves and our families is more fun than teaching about computer software as she transitions into her new career as a genealogist. We hope that that she will integrate some of her own experiences searching for her family's roots in Connecticut, Rhode Island, and Maine as she discusses how to build family trees and how to find and use reliable resources. Questions will be welcome during and after her presentation, so bring your "brick walls" with you, and perhaps we'll solve a few mysteries. Suggested donation: \$10.00



Genealogy A copy of your family's genealogy would be a welcome addition to our research library family section. Please consider sharing it with the BHHS!

Breaking News

Iden Store Rehabilitation Project: We had tentatively scheduled a date to dedicate the completion of the exterior renovations and landscaping for the Elden Store Project. Although there has been progress made toward completion of the landscape, there is more to be done, and the hardscaping (granite retaining wall and brick walk, etc.) are not finished. Therefore, the BHHS Board decided it would be best to postpone the dedication event until next year pending completion of the landscaping phase.

Elden Store has long played an active and vital role in Buxton's history. It is owned by the Town of Buxton, having been purchased in 1940 to house high school agricultural classes and laboratories. It is nationally recognized as an historic building and is listed on the National Register of Historic Buildings. You may have noticed a bronze plaque affixed to the building that highlights this designation.

The Town of Buxton and Buxton Hollis Historical Society have been collaborating for several years to rehabilitate both the inside and the outside of the building The upstairs is leased by BHHS, which used it for a while as its meeting place and museum. More recently the upstairs has been used by the Boys Scouts while the downstairs houses Buxton's Emergency Management Agency.

Both the Town and BHHS are continuing their effort to rehabilitate the building with support from the community. Two generous grants from the Narragansett Number One Foundation have been crucial to the project. The Emergency Management Agency entrance and other doors have been replaced. Shutters, trim, clapboards and windows have been repaired and painted. A private donation from Lucy Phillips, an Elden descendent, has made it possible to add a beautiful handcrafted sign to the south side of the building. Members of the Buxton Centre Baptist Church generously assisted with exterior painting as part of their Community Outreach program. Many other volunteers have helped, doing everything from scraping paint to watering newly-planted shrubs and trees. The Town of Buxton contributes labor on an "as available" basis to help with landscaping and placement of granite walls and steps.



BHHS has a new office mascot! But he still needs a name! Enter our contest and make history of your own! Submit a name by secret ballot between June and October 2013. You'll find the ballot box in the front hall right next to the visitors' book and the donations jar.

We'll vote to choose the winning name at our Annual Meeting on November 2, 2013!

If your entry wins this exciting contest you will be forever memorialized as part of the history of our new home, the Buxton-Hollis Historical Society's Library and Museum.

> A photograph of the lucky winner and our newly named mascot will be prominently displayed in our beautiful new office!

> > Thank you, Jim Dearborn, for making this contest possible.

Volunteer News

ant to Volunteer? Find out more!

The Buxton-Hollis Historical Society has doubled the days and times that we are open, and **WE NEED YOU**! Schedules are flexible and there are always several volunteers on duty. We have "Volunteer Training" orientations periodically so you will have an opportunity to familiarize yourself with our resources and gift shop procedures.

We are often busy researching and solving historical and genealogical mysteries, and we all adopt projects to work on. There is always plenty to keep us busy. Our guard dog and mascot Axel keeps us on our toes! It's also an opportunity to meet local residents as well as people from all over the United States and even from Canada. What a pleasant surprise to find "kissing cousins" you didn't know existed!

Volunteers For Special Projects Needed!!!

Do you like to organize and execute a project from start to finish? You are exactly the right person to tackle a BHHS *special project*! What kind of special project? One example: reviewing several scrapbooks donated by the Adelaide McGorrill family and compiling/ reproducing information about George E. Jack and other family members so that this information can be compiled and added to our family genealogy section. If you are interested, drop by for a visit during our open hours or leave a message on our answering machine (207.929.1684)

ehabilitation continues this autumn season at our new Buxton-Hollis Historical Society headquarters! Reproduction trim and chalkboard trays are being fashioned now for the first floor meeting room, as is trim for the replacement bathroom door and hall. We are in need of people to assist with filling holes, painting, staining, cleaning blinds, etc.

Can you make time in your schedule on either a **Tuesday**, **Friday** or **Saturday** sometime during the day (9 a.m. to 4 p.m.) **September 17 through October 31** to assist in some way? Please contact Barry Plummer (727.3345) or Jan Hill (831.9356) if you are able to help and to be sure that someone will be there when you are able to come. Also, if there are other days that might work better for you to come in, please call and we will arrange to have someone there.

2013 Life and Memorial Membership Awards

number of BHHS members have served and contributed to the Buxton-Hollis Historical Society over the years-and therefore to the Towns of Buxton and Hollis—in diverse, important and significant ways. Periodically BHHS recognizes and honors these civic minded and generous members with a special "Life Membership" or "Memorial Membership" designation. We are especially grateful for the past and continued support of our Life Members. The dedication and significant contributions of past Life Members have been vital to the growth, impact, and especially to the spirit of BHHS. This year we particularly remember three beloved friends and Life Members: Phil Atkinson, Pat Chase, and Joan Weeman. All of them helped lay a solid foundation for the historical society. BHHS was honored to receive memorial contributions honoring Phil. These have been used to purchase the lovely reproduction school house ceiling fixtures that now "light up" the meeting room and front hall of our new headquarters building.

It is with great gratitude and enduring friendship that we submit the following people for Life Membership and Memorial Awards to be presented at our November 2, 2013 BHHS Annual Meeting.

Sandy (Richard) and Beverly Atkinson

Long time members of BHHS, Bev and Sandy have opened their home, the National Register Royal Brewster Mansion and its magnificent grounds, frequently to the citizens of Buxton and Hollis and beyond for unique fund raising events to benefit not only the historical society, but the Dorcas Society of Buxton and Hollis and the Garden Club. They have hosted art shows, house and garden tours, book signings, fashion shows, musical performances, Box Lunch Socials, and special historic Civil and Revolutionary War encampments and other Buxton Community Day festivities. They have been key BHHS benefactors and supporters in so many waysmoving furniture, offering special museum collection and financial gifts, providing freshly baked cookies galore, and all the while counseling with good advice when asked! Sandy is on the N. C. Watson School House Committee and both Bev and Sandy have supported its restoration and now are helping with the restoration of our new Bar Mills School Headquarters. We also recognize and appreciate Sandy's leadership in the South Buxton Cemetery Association and his regular maintenance of the National Register Tory Hill Church grounds and the Helen Bruce Park, all of which contribute to the preservation of Buxton's historic spaces.

Joan Weeman

An original (1970) charter member of the Buxton-Hollis Historical Society, Joan was a long time board member. She served in various positions over the years, including Secretary and Membership Chair, and most recently Finance and Audit Chair. She was also Nominating Committee Chair and long a time Newsletter Committee member. Joan was our most dependable volunteer, doing whatever needed to be done. When the ceiling fell in at the Old Town Hall, Joan and Bob helped us pack up and move AND provided storage space in their garage for parts of our collection when we did not have room elsewhere. Her knowledge of the Town of Buxton was invaluable. She was active in our preservation effort to save the S.D. Hanson School from demolition. Also a skilled seamstress, she donated her time to assist in the construction of lined window treatments for our temporary home at Moderation and curtains for the National Register Elden Store at Buxton Center. Most important, Joan was a driving force instrumental in the gathering, preservation, reproduction, binding and storage of Town records, key to our preservation mission. Her counsel was ever helpful.

Butch (Robert) and Karen Yarumian

Long time members of the Buxton-Hollis Historical Society, Butch was Vice-President for Buxton for a number of years and also continues on the Board as our long time corporation Clerk. He has donated significant surveys and plot maps for building preservation over the years and is the author of the 1800 Yarumian Map of Hollis for the 1998 Hollis Bi-Centennial Book. Butch was chair of the BHHS Publication Committee and instrumental in publishing "Records of the Proprietors of Narragansett Township No. 1, now Buxton Maine," an important historical Buxton research book. Butch and Karen very generously provided a new home for BHHS on short notice in 2007 after the ceilings came down at the old Buxton Town Hall and the decision was made by citizens of Buxton to demolish the building. For over six years Butch and Karen supported us with donated space, assistance in rehabilitating this space and encouragement in our ongoing operation at Moderation Center. They were wonderful landlords. Butch never ceased to be a reliable source of information and advice on land, boundaries and development issues. This year, he also donated a large and historically significant plot map of Buxton boundaries to the Town of Buxton and to the Buxton-Hollis Historical Society.

Save The Date & Annual Meeting!

November 2, 2013 ≈ 6:30 p.m.

Buxton-Hollis Historical Society

100 Main Street (Route 4A)

Bar Mills, Buxton

Refreshments will include hors d'oeuvres, desserts, decaf coffee, hot mulled cider — and — HARD TACK!

nderstanding Maine history means understanding both the widely remembered events and the quietly forgotten occasion... history is not a static entity. History is a conversation across time and across space...When people think of History, many think of...grand moments in time. But history — and the historical record — is also found in the daily records of everyday life: the diaries of school children, the recipe books of the housewife, the note on a post card. Understanding Maine history means understanding both the widely remembered events and the quietly forgotten occasions..."

naine History Online ờ

This year is the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg, a major turning point in the Civil War, and 2014 is the anniversary of the end of that war. The Civil War has several names that reflect different points of view about how and why we lost approximately 640,000 of our young men to it, as well as many countless who were permanently and horrifically disabled from their wounds, even though they survived. It is also known as "The War Between the States," "The War of the Rebellion," "The War for Southern Independence," "The War of Northern Aggression," "The Freedom War," and "The War of Secession." The unifying name, however, is "war" - and it was not a pretty sight.

We may not be able to reconcile some of the facts in our own minds, we may disagree or agree with the motives and resolutions of the conflict, and we may or may not believe that the Northern forces won the war. But I think we can all agree that this destructive, painful, and even hideous event changed the lives of Americans everywhere as they settled down to rebuild during its aftermath and to find a unifying dialogue that would help the country to heal. We can also agree that the towns of Hollis and Buxton, although far from the physical conflict, were deeply immersed in it personally, culturally, economically, and politically.

The program for our Annual Meeting will, I hope, explore some of the effects of the war on our own families and community history. One vital component will be a discussion of the local men and women who participated directly in the conflict or played vital supportive roles. If you have stories, memorabilia, pictures, artifacts, or any other information that you would be willing to share with the rest of us on November 2nd at our Annual Meeting, please contact me. Even small or seemingly insignificant memories are important; they often lead to very important knowledge and understanding. *Thank you!*

Meg Gardner 929-3647 daisymayc@gmail.com 340 Little Falls Road, Hollis Center, ME 04042

at

Updates 🗞 Hollis & Hanson High Schools

e have been concentrating so much on our new headquarters that some of you may think that we have completely disregarded the other two buildings we were passionately interested in preserving and reusing. We haven't forgotten them! In fact, both CHARM and BHHS members remain active in the discussions about how to best take care to see that these two important buildings retain their presence and usefulness to the community. Here is a brief report about what is happening.

Hollis High School. As I am sure you all know, in 2010 the MSAD#6 School Board was preparing to demolish Hollis High School as they no longer needed it when Buxton Center Elementary School was completed. The Board offered the school back to the Town of Hollis, as required by law. When the Hollis selectmen rejected the return of the building for Town use, the school district actively solicited and obtained contracts to demolish the building.

However, many residents of the area protested, believing that the building was too important, needed, and valuable to allow it to be destroyed. These groups, including members of the Buxton-Hollis Historical Society and the Community Heritage Alliance of Rural Maine (CHARM), persistently attended countless school board meetings in order to present the district with alternatives to demolition. Through their efforts, the school building was found to be eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places and was placed on Maine's Most Endangered Historic Properties list. These designations demonstrated the historic importance of Hollis High School not to just a few people or even to the immediate community, but to the fabric of the history of the nation.

The School Board/Facilities Committee eventually decided to look at other options for the building's use. By State law they are required to offer a school building back to the town after it is no longer needed for educational purposes. They made three offers to the Hollis selectmen, becoming more

generous with their terms with each offer. Their third offer included the adjacent gymnasium that is heavily used by the community and also by Hollis Elementary School. As part of the offer, the school district would maintain the gymnasium for as long as they were using it for the elementary school. Although we all know that the elementary school needs a new gymnasium, we also are aware that one will not be built for several years.

When the third offer was rejected, the school board decided to sell the school building on the open market. They have contracted with a real estate broker who specializes in historic properties to market and sell the building, and they have provided that any sale agreement must include an Historic Preservation Easement provision. This means that the exterior of the building must be kept as it is and that changes must meet the preservation requirements. Currently potential buyers are considering purchasing the building for a private home. When the school board was informed that there was a serious buyer interested in the property, they approached the Hollis selectmen for the fourth time, and for the fourth time the selectmen rejected the return of the building for town use.

There are many potential uses that suggest the Town of Hollis needs this building — the only municipal building of historic value left here — in order to fulfill community needs. For example, the Hollis Town Hall is inadequate, deplorable, and an embarrassment to the town's image. Hollis High School would be a beautiful town hall. There is a sad lack of sufficient space for community activities. The old school building could easily accommodate these. The recreation department would benefit both in program space and in convenience by being located there, in proximity to the elementary school and the gymnasium. Ownership of the gymnasium would assure that Hollis would have priority use. The town libraries are inadequate for the town's needs, as demonstrated by many comments at a public meeting last year; this building would make a wonderful library. None of these options has been publicly and seriously considered.

The decision not to repurpose the building for Town use has solid financial repercussions, as well. There are options for outside financial support for rehabilitating important historic buildings such as Hollis High School. An opportunity to improve and upgrade facilities needed by the community by using outside financial assistance would be a prudent method of managing the town's assets.

We applaud the school board's pursuing the "next best" option for saving Hollis High School. The building is still standing. It will be there for some time to come, we expect, if this sale is successful. Our primary concern throughout has been to preserve this iconic structure.

However, many of us share the belief that the best use of this historic building, built with pride by Hollis citizens, is to return it to its place at the heart of the community.

Hanson School. The re-use of Hanson High School by the MSAD#6 has been a success story of creative thinking and good asset management. Most of you know that the classroom section of the school has been repurposed to centralize and house the district's Facilities Maintenance and IT Departments. It has also facilitated the removal of two of the portable classrooms at Bonny Eagle High School. Because these portables were detrimental to BEHS's accreditation, being able to transfer operations to Hanson has resulted in both an improved work space and a relief from a major negative situation.

The question remains, however, about what to do with the gymnasium. There is no doubt that both the school district and the Buxton community need more gymnasium space. There is also little doubt that the cost of renovating the Hanson gymnasium will be between \$100,000 and \$150,000. On the one hand, that is a very reasonable price to pay for a gymnasium. On the other hand, however, are the tight budgets that are affecting all public entities now. The school district has approached the Buxton selectmen to suggest that the town and the school district divide the cost of the project and the use of the gymnasium. The Buxton selectmen have rejected that idea. It is unlikely that the school district will be able to include the total cost of these renovations in their budget in the foreseeable future. Members of the Community Heritage Alliance of Rural Maine (CHARM) are investigating foundations and other potential funding sources on

A faith-based group, The River, has approached the district's facilities committee with a proposal to lease the gymnasium. They would take responsibility for funding all of the rehabilitation costs associated with making it useable, including compliance with the ADA and building codes. The River specifically designs programs that reach out to teenagers and provide them with positive social activities. By keeping the young people engaged in fun and interesting events, The River's goal is to offer alternatives to less desirable behavior. This proposal requires more information and discussion with the facilities committee before it is presented to the full school board.

behalf of the school district.

Donations needed for the BHHS Reference Library

♦ Bonnie Eagle High School Yearbooks — All Years

♦ Maine Registers — All Years

♦ Buxton Phone Books prior to 1992

BHHS Society Library & Museum Hours: Primarily a Non-Lending Library for Historical and Genealogical Research Buxton & Hollis

> Hours: Thursday 4:00 pm — 8:00 pm Saturday 9:00 am — 12:00 noon (except holiday weekends)

N.C. Watson School One-Room School Museum Groveville Road, Buxton Center

Open 1st and 3rd Saturdays 1:00pm to 4:00pm or by special appointment (through October 19, 2013)

> Call Stacey Gagnon 929-2141

at its peak it held more than 5,300 prisoners.

Miscellany

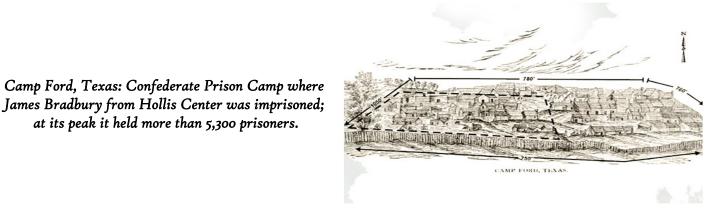
Don't miss these special Civil War Events this summer!

Saco Museum: "John Haley's Civil War" through November 10, 2013 371 Main Street, Saco; telephone: 283-3861 🗢 website: http://www.dyerlibrarysacomuseum.org

Maine History Museum: "This Rebellion: Maine and the Civil War" through May, 2014 489 Congress Street, Portland; telephone: 774-1822 & website: http://www.mainehistory.org

Windham Historical Society: Joseph Manchester 🗢 A Windham Son Who Went To War 1861-1863 September 23, 2013 at 7:00 pm 🗢 Windham Historical Society 234 Windham Center Road, Windham; telephone; 892-1433 🗢 website; www.windhamhistorical.org

Windham Historical Society: Local & Legendary: Gorham-Windham in the Civil War September 29, 2013 at 1:00 pm 🗢 Great Falls School, Gorham Tour of the Gambo Gunpowder Factory to follow at 2:00 pm [meeting at Shaw Park off Rt. 237, Gorham]



BHHS's Former Home, the York County Mutual Fire Insurance Company Building in Moderation Center, West **Buxton,** has an interesting history of its own. The insurance company was started in August of 1894 by several Bar Mills merchants who had suffered losses because of a rash of fires. There may have been a wooden building on the site before the merchants built the brick building that stands there now. A large walk-in vault provided security against both fires and heinous misdeeds. The building has some interesting features, such as a room used as a "ticket office" and a large room upstairs. What kind of events were held there? My cousin the Rev. Don Smith told me he and his friends used to gather there to socialize after high school classes were finished. Does anyone remember these occasions? A curiosity is the peephole in one of the doors: was this perhaps because the building was used as a speakeasy during Prohibition? If you have the answers to these mysteries, please let me know... ≫ Meg Gardner

Photo Album — Box Lunch Social



All Photos Courtesy of Peter Mills Photography





















All Photos Courtesy of Peter Xills Photography



BUXTON, MAINE 04093-0034

P.O. BOX 34

BUXTON-HOLLIS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 236, Hollis Center, Maine 04042	
BHHB Membership Chair	
Kathleen Kendrick,	
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Membership calendar year: January 1 to December 31, 2013	
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BUXTON-HOLLIS HISTORICAL SOCIETY	2013 Membership Form
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