

100 MAIN STREET, ROUTE 4A, BAR MILLS, BUXTON, MAINE
BUXTON-HOLLIS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

INCORPORATED 1970 ♦ <http://www.buxtonhollishistorical.org> ♦ 207.929.1684 ♦ SPRING 2014

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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Happy Spring Everyone!!!
 As the days are getting longer, I find myself being grateful for having had the opportunity to flow with nature's seasonal rhythms during our old-fashioned Maine winter—for taking some time to rest, rejuvenate—and get ready for new growth and the many spring activities ahead!

After a very aggressive 2013 Spring/Summer/Fall schedule, BHHS closed in November for the heating season after a very eventful and successful year. Over the winter, however, in addition to answering patron phone and email inquiries, we did make a little time available for work on our beautiful new headquarters building at 100 Main St., Bar Mills. Barry Plummer cleaned the mastic glue from the meeting room chalk boards, insulated behind these chalk boards\AND we had wainscoting, chalk trays, and trims reproduced by Wade Junkins installed by Jason Knight in the first floor meeting room and hall. We replaced existing doors in the first floor bathroom and meeting room with 5-panel doors to be more in keeping with the building. In preparation for museum displays being planned for the second floor (right side), we need to paint the ceiling and walls in that room this spring. (See more information inside about the first displays being planned.) We are in need of volunteers to assist patrons in the research library during regular open hours and will hold **volunteer trainings on Saturday, March 29 at 10:30 am and Thursday April 18 at 6:30 pm. Come on in and join us!**

We have exciting news which will be discussed at greater length in our next newsletter, but for now I would like to mention that Rick Poore has donated his time and talent to building us a wonderful lighted display and storage cabinet for the pottery shards, kiln bricks and "furniture" found last fall at the site of the early Bickford Pottery on Haines Meadow Rd. in Buxton. This beautiful lighted cabinet is nearly completed and will be a great addition to display our anticipated new collection of Bickford Pottery shards, etc. In the spring, an archeological dig will commence at this historic site. Over 30 different glazes have already been discovered and will be on display at BHHS this year. Early southern Maine potteries, including the Bickford Pottery in Buxton and the Kendrick and Alld Potteries in Hollis will be included in the topic of our annual meeting program in November. Stay tuned for more fascinating developments as this work progresses!

If you have not yet purchased your copy of the much acclaimed 2013 Buxton Documentary DVD produced by Saco River Community Television, please consider doing it soon. We now have an ample supply on hand for your gift giving needs as well. Just call the BHHS office to leave a message and we will get back to you ASAP or you can call me at home 929-8895.

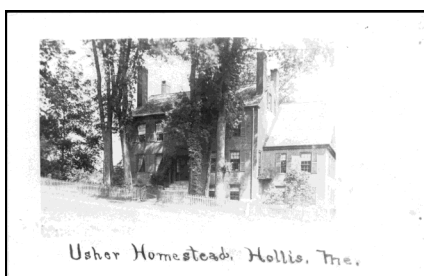
We will be open weekly on Thursdays from 4-8 P.M. and most Saturdays from 9-12 beginning Thursday, April 3rd. We have some interesting programs planned for your historical society's 2014 year, so we hope that you will check them out, mark your calendars, and please plan to attend! *We also need people to assist with prep and painting, so please get in touch if you can help!*

Best Regards,

Jan Hill, President

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2014 Events and Programs

Tuesday, April 8 @ 6:30 pm: “*What’s for Dinner? — Appreciating Historic Kitchen Gardens.*” Presented by *Master Gardeners Jolene Staruch and Maya Travaglia.* Kitchen gardens weren’t just an avocation for our predecessors in Hollis and Buxton — they relied on themselves to produce and preserve foods or they went hungry. Gardens required careful planning and cultivation to make sure the family would be well-fed during the long winter months. Just as they did with other necessities such as handmade rugs and quilts, women developed an art form with their gardens. The transition to a more industrialized society, a growing popular fascination with scientific research and technology, and new ways of transporting goods from one place to another affected both the nature and the methods of home gardening.

*Donations gratefully accepted.**

Tuesday, May 13 @ 6:30 pm: “*Freedom Fighters — Honoring the 150th Anniversary of the End of the Civil War and the 100th Anniversary of the Beginning of World War I.*” History has been defined by wars throughout the centuries, and of course the United States is not immune. Both the Civil War and World War I changed our collective psyches and the direction of our country in drastic ways. This multi-media presentation is still under construction and we’d like your help! Please see the article on Page 5 for more information.

*Donations gratefully accepted.**

Saturday, June 14 @ 6:30 pm: “*Old Time Social, Music & Game Night.*” Join us for a fun night of Parcheesi, Cribbage, Dominoes, Scrabble, Chinese Checkers and other board games. Lots of nostalgic music will fill the air led by *Chris Clark and the Acoustical Roots Music Duo, “BillyBilly.”* BHHS’s newest musical group, *Donna and the Hansonettes* will also keep our feet tapping and our hands clapping, with perhaps a heartbreaking ballad thrown in for good measure. Be sure to tune up your best singing voices. We will be admiring the lovely old organ donated by Donna Hanson that belonged to her beloved grandmother. Donna will be pumping up a storm! Beverages and munchies will be provided. Call Bertie Ramsdell at 929-4529 or email her at robertaramsdell@myottmail.com for seating reservations.

*Donations gratefully accepted.**

Saturday, July 19, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm: “*Buxton Community Day Festivities.*” Join us in the parade and at our sales table on the Tory Hill Church lawn! Please let us know if you are interested in helping at the sales table. If you haven’t had an opportunity to purchase “*Buxton, An American Story,*” the DVD documentary filmed and produced by Patrick Bonsant and Matthew Fletcher and Saco River Community Television, now will be your opportunity. The beautiful Gibeon Bradbury notecards and our collection of books and indexes will also be available.

Saturday, July 26, 12 noon to 3:00 pm: “*Box Lunch Social.*” Come together again with old and new friends in the magical Brewster Mansion Barn for this unique fun packed fundraising event! Help support capital and operating expenses at our new BHHS headquarters by packing a picnic lunch with a description in an attractive container to be auctioned to the highest bidder by auctioneer extraordinaire *Bruce A. Buxton.* Period costumes fun, but *optional.* For an invitation and for more information, call Bev at 929-6495 or email ratkins5850@aol.com.

Saturday August 2, 1:00-4:30 pm: “*Royal Brewster Mansion House Tour — A National Historic Register treasure in Buxton.*” Hosted by *Bev and Sandy Atkinson*. Completed in 1805, this magnificent Federal home is the fine workmanship of early local master builder, Captain Joseph Woodman. Commissioned by Dr. Royal Brewster, the first doctor in Buxton, for his new wife, Dorcas Coffin, the house also was home to Royal's brother, the famed deaf painter, John Brewster, Jr. You won't want to miss seeing the recent elegant rear ell and kitchen renovations, as well as the tasteful redecoration of the stately first floor study and front entrance hall of this unique historic property! Costumed docents add period charm. This event is organized by and is a benefit for the Buxton-Hollis Historical Society. If you would like to help, please contact Jan Hill, 929-8895.

*Suggested Donations: \$15, Seniors \$12 at the door.**

Tuesday, September 9 @ 6:30 pm: “*Preserving the Harvest — A Time To Reap.*” presented by *Master Food Preservationist Heidi Carter*. We learned how to plan and grow a garden in April with Jolene and Maya; hopefully our own gardens were a success. Now — what to do with all of that bounty? Heidi will tell us about how it was done throughout history. We may learn the techniques that our grandmothers used and discover that they are still pertinent and even preferable to the ways in which we obtain our food supply. If you have preserved food and can share tips or if you would like to learn more, please join us for this fascinating multi-dimensional presentation.

*Suggested Donations: \$10, Seniors \$8.**

October (date and time TBA): “*Suspended Worlds: Historic Theater Scenery in Maine.*” Presented by *Christine Hadsel, Director of ‘Curtains Without Borders.’* A hundred years ago, grand drapes and painted backdrops were the primary artistic feature in the cultural life of almost every village and town in Northern New England, as well as the upper Midwestern states. Curtains Without Borders is dedicated to documenting and preserving historic painted theater scenery. See wonderful slides of painted curtains found in town halls, grange halls, theaters and opera houses throughout Maine. They were created between 1890 and 1940, although on rare occasions, pieces painted after 1940 are also included.

*Suggested Donations: \$10, Seniors \$8.**

Saturday, November 8 @ 5:00 pm: *BHHS Annual Meeting: “The Earthenware Potters of Southern Maine — Country Potters Who Helped Shape Maine’s Industry (1820-1880).* Presented by *Justin Thomas*. Early New England settlers had to rely on their ingenuity in order to acquire many things we often take for granted. Pots and dishes were items that weren’t practical to import. As a result many good potters became entrepreneurs and set up their own pottery businesses, producing a domestic essential that was in constant demand. Pottery manufacturing became one of the first industries in New England. There were hundreds of potters throughout Maine, and of course they each developed a distinct and often very beautiful style. In the Buxton-Hollis area several potters flourished during the 19th century. The Bickford Pottery in Buxton has recently come to the attention of experts, thanks to Justin, and we look forward to his showing us some of the Bickfield pottery finds to date. *Please indicate when you make your reservations what you can bring to contribute to the light supper buffet. Reservations to Bertie Ramsdell 929-4529 by November 3rd.*

*Suggested Donations: \$15, Seniors \$10.**

* You may have noticed that we have included a requested program donation to help support ongoing capital and operating expenses for our new headquarters. Thank you for your enthusiastic participation in this project.

Introducing our Program Presenters for 2014

Jolene Staruch, Master Gardener, has been an avid gardener for almost forty years; she is currently focusing on year-round gardening and permaculture. Her “day job” is breaking computers (how many of us would like to join her?) as a software tester and project manager. Other hobbies must include time management, as she also creates stained glass windows featuring wildlife themes, she quilts, and she is a gourmet cook, all of which she both practices and teaches to others. Jolene lived in Greenville (Maine) for many years, but has fled now to the sunny south, Kennebunk. Jolene’s best friend is Boo, an Australian Shepherd who works as a trained therapy dog.

Maya Travaglia, Master Gardener, grew up in New York City surrounded by artists, including her parents, and the aesthetics of form and design. When Maya was six her mother taught her woodworking, and her father taught her sculpture when she was thirteen. A fine arts graduate of the prestigious Pratt Institute, she now develops beautiful creations from stained glass at her studio in South Berwick. Maya also specializes in incorporating “flat” stained glass in furniture and she is an architectural color consultant. <http://www.mayatravaglia.com//home.html>.

Both Jolene and Maya have completed the Master Gardener Program offered by the University of Maine Cooperative Extension Programs; we especially thank the York County Extension for helping to arrange this program. Master Gardener Program participants receive more than 65 hours of in-depth horticulture training with an emphasis both on growing fruits and vegetables and on community volunteerism. Each Master Gardener Trainee is required to serve a 40 hour volunteer internship in order to complete the program and to become a Certified Master Gardener Volunteer. Certification entitles the Master Gardener to continue to participate in advanced learning and to audit future classes.

Heidi Carter, Master Food Preservationist, was born and raised in Buxton, Maine. Her family taught her that growing and preserving as much of their own food as they could was very important. Heidi developed a strong interest in and concern for the traditions of past generations and their struggle to assure that they had sufficient food to survive during long Maine winters. This interest in food preservation encouraged her to enroll in the Master Food Preserver course offered by the University of Maine Cooperative Extension.

In order to complete the training and to be certified as a Master Food Preservationist, participants must attend a 35 hour training course (which includes hands-on kitchen lab sessions; I wonder whether they need taste testers?) and then complete at least 20 hours of volunteer service as a Master Food Preserver. The courses emphasize safe food storage and preparation, canning, pickling, preserving jams and jellies, freezing, and drying foods. We are delighted that Heidi asked us to be a recipient of her “volunteer hours” component.

Christine Hadsel, Project Director, *Curtains Without Borders*, has an extensive background in developing and promoting museums and important historical collections. She has been with the painted theatre curtain project since 1998. The collection of Vermont curtains has been given the status of “National Treasure” by the National Trust for Historic Treasure and the work to conserve them on-site has received national and international recognition. In addition to her supervisory duties, Christine works as a conservation assistant, especially when new support systems need to be created, and she gives talks and slide shows. She is currently on the board of the St. Johnsbury Athenaeum. Please visit the painted curtains website: <http://www.curtainswithoutborders.org/>.

Justin Thomas is a television producer for NECN in Boston. Justin specializes in early American pottery, an important New England industry in the 18th and 19th centuries. As a writer, he has contributed to the *New England Antiques Journal* and to *Ceramics in America*, and he has completed one book, “The End of an Era,” which traces the development, output, and decline of the pottery industry in Charlestown, Massachusetts. Justin is currently researching archeological sites with a number of organizations, including the Smithsonian, the University of Massachusetts Boston Archeology Department and the New York State Museum. He is also planning his next book, which will focus on the Saco River Potters in Maine in the 19th century.

Justin was instrumental in identifying the latest pottery site discovered in Buxton. At least 30 different glazes have been found recently at the Bickford Pottery site. Brent and Jan Hill have donated the entire collection of Bickford pottery shards and kiln furniture to the Buxton-Hollis Historical Society. This colorful and fascinating collection will be displayed in a handsome lighted cabinet made and donated by Rick Poore. Jason’s presentation at our Annual Meeting program will highlight finds from this important Buxton archeological dig.

Freedom Fighters at Home and Abroad: 150th Anniversary of the end of the Civil War 100th Anniversary of the beginning of World War I

It is sad but true that history has been defined by wars throughout the centuries, and of course the United States is not immune. We have sent our young men and women onto the battlefields many times and for many reasons, but both the Civil War and World War I changed our collective psyches and the direction of our country in drastic ways.

These anniversaries help us remember the brave men and women from Buxton and Hollis who fought to make sure our country remained whole and free.

I would particularly welcome including stories and mementos of individuals in your family who were involved with either effort. Please contact me at daisymayc@gmail.com or 929-3647.

~ Meg Gardner

Looking at Bar Mills

Members of the BHHS have begun to plan and build permanent exhibits from its collection of artifacts. We have had many items kept safely in storage during our transient years following the demolition of the old Buxton Town Hall, and we have received many lovely and interesting new items since we have acquired our permanent home.

We thought it would be interesting to group portions of our collections as “villages,” highlighting people and places who formed communities, lived, and worked in Buxton and Hollis. We are beginning with our own new hometown, Bar Mills.

In spite of the village having one foot in Hollis and one foot in Buxton, Bar Mills historically has had a singular identity. People were often related either by blood or by marriage. Children on both sides of the river shared the original schoolhouse in Hollis prior to the wave of consolidation that resulted in the beautiful building we are now occupying. They worked together in sawmills, on farms, and at Rogers Fiber Company. They shopped here in the several commercial establishments that operated on both sides of the river. They also shared values, an important foundation of community life.

We would welcome stories, memorabilia, and artifacts that might be used in this exhibit, and we would especially appreciate volunteers to help complete the exhibition spaces, to accession the collection, and to assist with the displays.

Stephen Berry and the Berry Memorial Library

Stephen Berry was born in Buxton in 1811. His parents were Thomas and Mehitable (Harmon) Berry, who had moved to Bar Mills after their marriage. His father died when Stephen was only seven years old, but his mother made sure that he received a “common-school” education.

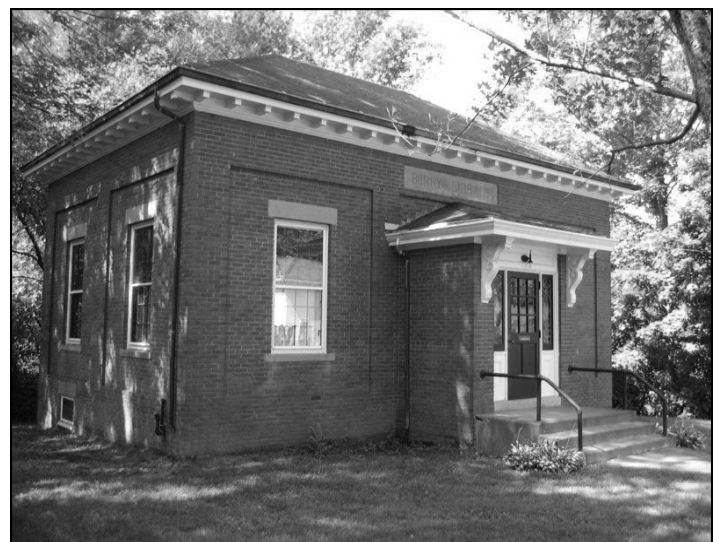
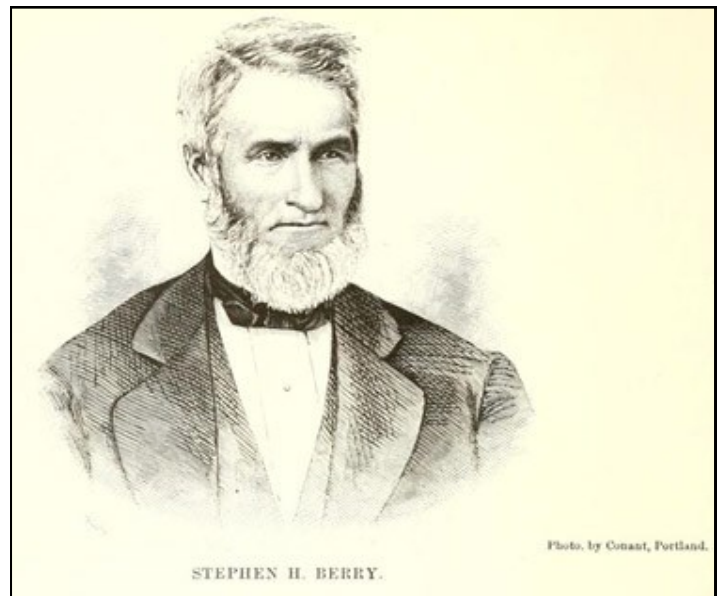
Common schools developed in the 19th Century and were the first “public schools” as we think of them. They were funded by local property taxes, governed by a local school committee, and were available free to all children in the town. They usually covered just basic studies, emphasizing reading, writing, and arithmetic. Stephen must have been a good student, as he attended Alfred Academy for one year, as well. This would have required tuition, and it would have provided a broad course of study with advanced math and Latin, among other subjects.

Stephen’s father had been part-owner of a sawmill, and Stephen, too, became a lumberman. “He dealt largely in timber-lands and at his death left a large property in them,” according to *The History of York County, Maine* (Pub. 1880). He was a hard-working and very honest businessman, according to reports from that era, and many in the community admired him. He married Catherine Coffin, from Porter. Catherine had received her education at the Saco Academy and at Fryeburg Academy, and thus was unusually well-educated for a young woman at that time.

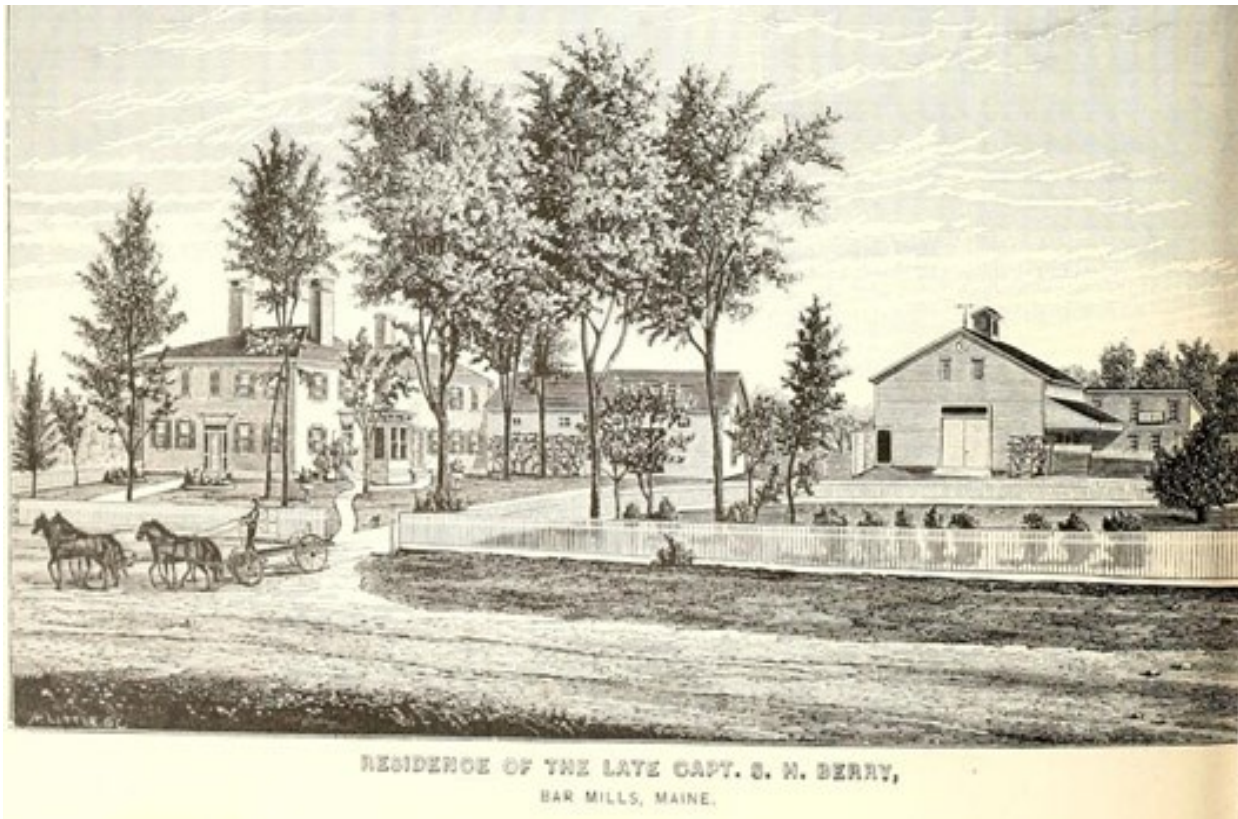
Stephen and Catherine Berry had eight children, including Andrew, one of the youngest, who was born in 1845. Andrew married Susan Came, daughter of Abram Came of Buxton. The commitment to education and books that had been part of his parents’ lives appears to have been passed to Andrew. Andrew’s will provided for a lot of land and a fund to build and to support a free public library in the village of Bar Mills in memory of his father. In 1926, after the deaths of both Andrew and Susan Berry, a special town

meeting was held to vote on whether or not the town should accept the bequest. The vote was positive, a committee was formed to guide the construction of the new building, and it was completed and opened in 1929. It remains a jewel in the village of Bar Mills (Buxton).

Looks can be deceiving: Berry Memorial Library may look as though it is quaint and old-fashioned, but in reality it has a computer lab and hundreds of new books, all of which keep pace with the changing needs of its patrons. Our connection to the past does indeed propel us into



the future.



“BAR MILLS”

“Bar Mills is situated on the banks of the Saco River. Part of the village is on the Hollis side, which has quite a population and many beautiful homes. Its railroad station is 18 miles from Portland on the Worcester division of the Boston & Maine Railroad. Here there are fine facilities for business. Both freight and express business is handled with care. The agent here is Mr. Rankin Bartlett. Close to the station are the coal yards of Lawrence Atkinson and Soule Brothers. P.S. Brooks runs a sales and livery stable, and Amos Woodbury a garage...In the village proper...is the usual variety of business...The Saco River Telephone and Telegraph Co. has its exchange here...and furnishes excellent service. Under the management of Miss Mary B. Shepard it is both extending and improving its lines. Across the river on the Hollis side, where the old Pulp Mill stood, is the newly fitted Sub-Station of the Cumberland County Power & Light Co. Electricity for the village houses, stores, mills, and streets are furnished by the Clark Light and Power Company in the town of Dayton a few miles away. The Rogers Fibre Co. is the principal industry of the village proper. In their newly built buildings, with every modern convenience, they furnish employment to a large number of men.

On Towle Street...is located the long established plant of the George G. Page Box Co....Both of these industries deal fairly with their workmen, and strikes are unknown...”

From: “Buxton in 1920-1921, Maine’s Centennial Year”



Status of Hollis High School

As most of you are aware by now, members of the Buxton-Hollis Historical Society and members of C.H.A.R.M. (Community Heritage Alliance of Rural Maine) have worked diligently for several years to try to save our three historic schools in Buxton and Hollis from being demolished. Unfortunately, although we have had success with both Hanson High School and with the 1912 Bar Mills Elementary School, the fate of Hollis High School is very uncertain at this juncture. The MSAD #6 School Board has made several attempts to meet the objections of the Hollis selectmen, who continue to oppose re-purposing the building for municipal use.

Right now, the building is expected to be under contract with Linda Griffin of *Pleasant River Properties* in Windham to be sold on the open market. Although there has been some interest, there has not been a viable offer over the winter. The realtor's contract has expired, but the School Board is prepared to extend it for two months.

The Maine Historic Preservation Commission has determined in writing that "...this property is eligible for nomination to the *National Register of Historic Places*" (see letter next page). Such eligibility offers an income producing business significant Maine Tax Credit of 25% for rehabilitation of an historic structure ; 30% if developed into affordable housing. Hollis High School was also named on the *15th Maine's Most Endangered Historic Resources* by Maine Preservation in 2012.

In order to *receive* the actual credits, the building must be listed in the National Register. HOWEVER, the tax credit process can be *started* when a building has been determined eligible for listing in the National Register. According to Christi Mitchell of the Maine Historic Preservation Commission, "Many, many tax credit projects start with an eligible building and the actually listing in the Register is completed at the same time, or shortly thereafter. In order to preserve this Hollis treasure, **BHHS is willing and able to assist the new owner by completing the application to the National Register.**

According to Maine Preservation, **there are two tiers to the Maine Tax Credit program:** a) the *Small Projects Program* which utilizes the 25% tax credit for projects with QREs (Qualified Rehabilitation Expenditures) of between \$50,000 - \$250,000 and; b) the *Substantial Rehabilitation Program* for projects above \$250,000 in cost. All projects must be income-producing. The *Small Project Program* does not require the Adjusted Basis Test, which is required for the *Substantial Rehabilitation Program*. Both programs can be married with the federal historic rehabilitation tax credit of 20%.

Federal Rehabilitation Tax Credit for Certified Historic Structures (meaning listed in the National Register or part of a NR District) is 20%. Together, the two programs can yield 45% or , if re-use is for affordable housing then 50% (which includes the extra 5% for the Maine tax credit). Non-profits can use the tax credits, but this is limited and only under certain conditions.

For more information, see:
http://www.maine.gov/mhpc/tax_incentives/index.html AND <http://www.nps.gov/tps/tax-incentives.htm>

A second alternative is also being planned to try save the building, if it does not go under contract within the specified time. A group of Hollis residents believes that the issue should be put in front of the citizens one last time and will be circulating a petition during the next few weeks to collect signatures to get a warrant article on the June ballot.

If there is no signed and accepted sales contract by July 31st, however, AND if the citizen's initiative fails, the school board will go ahead with their plans to demolish the building, spending substantial MSAD 6 taxpayers' money to do so. There are several contractors who have already bid on the project. This historic landmark may be lost forever to the citizens of Hollis.



PAUL R. LEPAGE
GOVERNOR

MAINE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
55 CAPITOL STREET
65 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE
04333

EARLE G. SHETTLEWORTH, JR.
DIRECTOR

9 May 2012

Meg Gardner
Community Heritage Alliance of Rural Maine
P.O. Box 118
Buxton, Maine 04093

re: Hollis High School (former)

Dear Ms. Gardner:

Thank you for submitting the National Register Eligibility Assessment Form and other materials pertaining to the former Hollis High School in Hollis, Maine. These have been carefully examined by our staff.

I am pleased to say that in our judgment, based on the information and photographs submitted to date, this property is eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.

All nominations, before being sent to Washington for final approval, must first be presented to our Commission for approval at one of their quarterly meetings. Should the owners of the Hollis High School wish to proceed with nominating the property to the National Register please have them contact me to discuss the process and to schedule the nomination.

In the meantime, the property will be included in the Maine Historic Resources Inventory which will provide the same protection as if it were already listed in the National Register. Please do not hesitate to contact me at (207) 287-2132 x 2 or christi.mitchell@maine.gov if I may be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

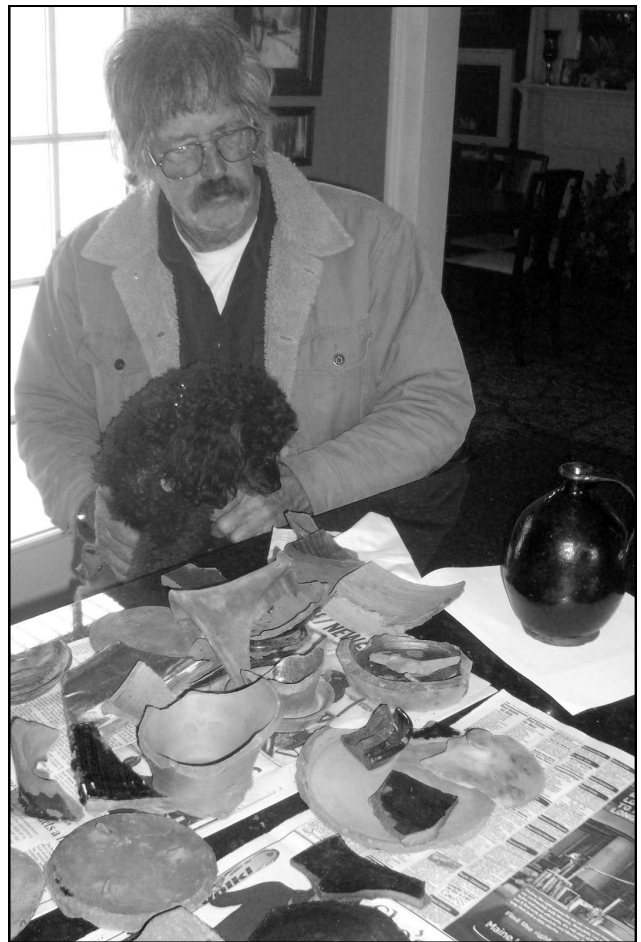
Christi A. Mitchell
Architectural Historian

cc: C. Biegel

NE: (207) 287-2132

FAX: (207) 287-2217

Photo Album



Miscellany

BHHS Society Library & Museum Hours:

*Primarily a Non-Lending Library for
Historical and Genealogical Research
Buxton, Hollis and York County*

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

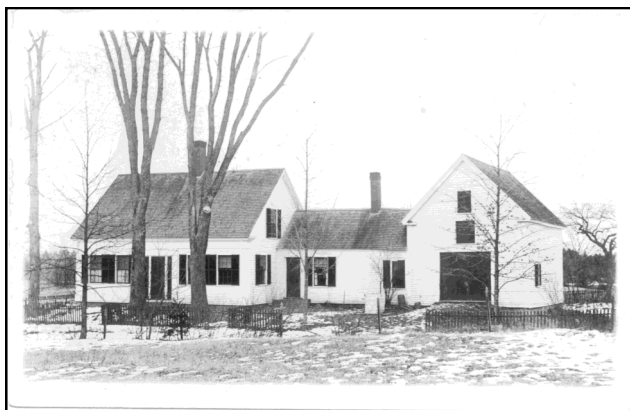
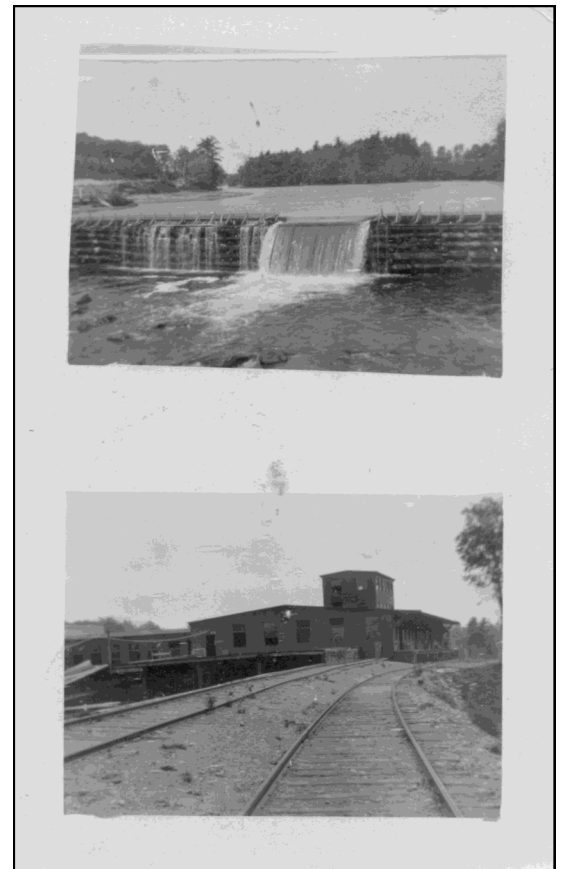
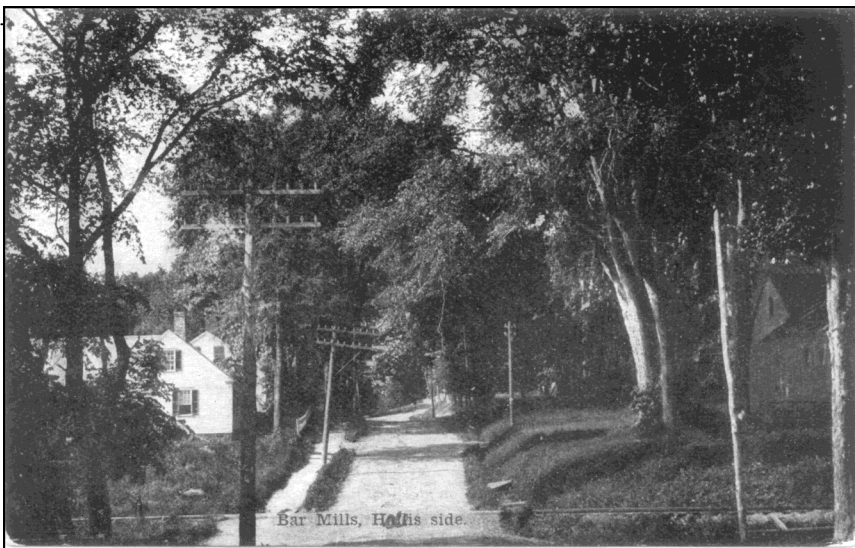
Open 1st and 3rd Saturdays

1:00pm to 4:00pm

or by special appointment

(through October 19, 2013)

Call Stacey Gagnon 929-2141



Atkinson's Store

The Atkinsons were shopkeepers in Bar Mills for generations. The original store, "W.H. Atkinson Confectionary," was established in Bar Mills in 1859. The store evolved into a general store and was operated by Neal Atkinson; this store offered a "wide variety of goods..." according to Olive Hannaford. Neal's son Everard was the third generation storekeeper until his death in 1976.

*From: "Buxton in 1920-1921,
Maine's Centennial Year"*

2014 Membership Form

Name _____

Street Address _____

Mailing Address _____

Phone _____

Cell _____

Work _____

email Send my newsletter electronically Send my newsletter via snail mail

BUXTON-HOLLIS HISTORICAL SOCIETY
 100 MAIN STREET, ROUTE 4A
 BAR MILLS, BUXTON, MAINE 04093
 Mailing Address:
 P.O. BOX 34
 BUXTON, MAINE 04093

Call or email Kathleen Kendrick:
 katke@sacoriver.net ♦ 207-229-9498
 Please make your check out to:
 Buxton-Hollis Historical Society
 and send to:
 Kathleen Kendrick, Membership Chair
 P.O. Box 236
 Hollis Center, Maine 04042

Please note on your check the calendar year for which you would like your dues applied.
 Donations are tax deductible and are gratefully accepted!

- Questions?
- Individual \$10.00
- Family \$20.00
- Patron \$50.00
- Sustaining \$100.00
- Founder \$500.00
- Other \$

Membership calendar year: January 1 through December 31, 2014

Annual Dues Level:

BUXTON-HOLLIS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

BUXTON-HOLLIS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. BOX 34

BUXTON, MAINE 04093-0034

