



BUXTON-HOLLIS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

100 Main Street, Route 4A ♦ Bar Mills, Maine

Celebrating 52 Years ♦ www.buxtonhollishistorical.org ♦ 207.929.1684 ♦ Fall 2022

Fall 2022 President's Message

Dear Members & Friends,

September is upon us! What a busy summer we have had! BHHS enjoyed and contributed in several ways to the exciting and varied activities of the Buxton 250th Sestercentennial celebration, and we also enjoyed participating in the Hollis Pirate Fest the following weekend! We would like to add our congrats & appreciation to all those planning these spirited events!

BIG Thank-You's to Brent Hill for pulling together a comprehensive "*Broad Sweep of Buxton's Brief History*" for the Buxton 250th program booklet, and to our volunteers helping with our "*Buxton, Maine An American Story*" documentary showing, as well as our "*Early Families of Buxton*" book signing with Frederick Boyle, AND successful sales tables. Many thanks to our volunteers including Barry Plummer, Peter Eliot, Vicki Walker, Bette Robicheaw, Avery Yale Kamila, Martha Muldoon, and Brent and Jan Hill. We were especially delighted to welcome several new members!

Special thanks to Robyn Cuffey, her volunteers and horses, of *Photo Finish Farm* in Buxton and *Futures For Standardbreds (FFS)* for allowing us to sponsor them as our BHHS parade entry in Buxton's 250th parade this year! In conjunction with this sponsorship we sold their repurposed grain bag shopping bags to benefit FFS in their efforts to retrain and find new homes for retired race horses-a win-win for both organizations!!!

Although we were aiming to offer another "*Spirit Walk*" Tour of the South Buxton Cemetery this fall, instead we have decided to present two other interesting programs: "*War Pigeons, Winged Couriers in the U.S. Military, 1878-1957*" in September AND "*Factory Girls & Maine's First Labor Strike*" in October.

Are you unable to participate in BHHS activities, but would like to support our work financially through your membership or other gifts?

Please send in your gift made out to: BHHS, P.O. Box 34, Buxton, ME 04093.

THANK-YOU FOR HELPING TO MAKE OUR CONTINUING WORK POSSIBLE!

In the meantime, we look forward to seeing you at our fall programs!

Please stay safe and well!

Best Regards.

Jan Hill, BHHS President



"Futures For Standardbreds" with Robyn Cuffey & FFS volunteers sponsored by BHHS in Buxton 250th Sestercentennial parade

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Chili Sauce

(Mrs. Norton Libby)

*Taken from "Dorcas Dishes,
A Little Book of Country
Cooking"*

6 ripe tomatoes

2 onions

1 green pepper

1/3 cup granulated sugar

2/3 cup good cider vinegar

1 teaspoonful each of cinnamon, allspice and nutmeg, and 1/2 teaspoonful cloves.

Scald and peel the tomatoes and cook with the onions and peppers till tender, then add the sugar, vinegar, spices and cook 10 minutes longer.

Page 79, Copyright 1911

“Early Families of Buxton” – New Genealogy Book by Frederick R. Boyle



Fred Boyle signing and selling new genealogy book with Martha Muldoon at BHHS sales table at Buxton 250th

Our June, 2022 program was on genealogy and “*Early Families of Buxton, Maine*”, a new genealogy book by Frederick R. Boyle. It covers 61 families in Buxton by 1790. Due to printing issues, Fred was only able to have 7 copies available at the June program and sold out the 20 he brought for the Buxton 250th celebration. He has more available now, but they are a very limited edition.

To be sure to get your copy, contact Fred at his web site <http://frederickboyle.com/>; or U.S. mail at **887 Main Street, Apt. 3, Sanford, Maine 04073**; or by email at **fred@frederickboyle.com**. The books are \$70 each.



Bette Robicheaw & Vicki Walker at Hollis Piratefest BHHS sales table.



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SCHOOL COMMITTEE

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The BHHS newsletter is proudly sponsored by

Chad E. Poitras
Cremation and Funeral
Service Funeral Home
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498 Long Plains Road, Buxton 929-3723

www.maineFuneral.com

Chad Poitras, BHHS member

"A local resident serving locals with dignity and respect"

"BHHS sponsored FFS (Futures For Standardbreds) in the Buxton 250th parade & BHHS made room at our booth to sell these beautiful recycled grain bags to benefit FFS. A Win-Win for both organizations!!! "

Bar Mills Dam Removal

Brookfield White Pine Hydro, owner of the 4 Megawatt hydroelectric station and dam at Bar Mills, is in process of petitioning the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to give up its license for the hydro station, dam, and water rights. The hydroelectric generation has not run for about five years due to the poor concrete used in the construction of the power station in 1956. The concrete expands over time resulting in misalignment of the turbines and generators so they can't run smoothly. Brookfield proposes to stop hydro operations, breach the dam and perhaps install a large 8 Megawatt battery as a source of peak power for the electrical system. A larger transformer at the power house would be needed.

Brookfield held its first public meeting on August 2 at the Buxton Town Hall and has online information at <https://barmills.brookfieldusprojects.com/>. It includes a video of the August 3 meeting. They presented a study showing the Saco River water level at low flow conditions dropping about 13 feet at the dam, but only about 4 feet from the 1868 Bar Mills railroad bridge piers to West Buxton. They also state that they can meet fish passage requirements by removing all the dam or just the Hollis side of the dam.

There has been a dam at Bar Mills since 1795. The water power has been used for sawmills, grist mills, furniture factories, a pulp mill, and leatherboard manufacture, lastly by Rogers Fibre Company in 1980. The old dams were log and stone cribwork while the current dam is concrete and is a little higher than the prior dams.



Bar Mills landing on the Saco River-Note the river boat at the landing on right, c. 1867

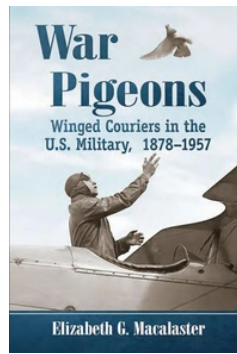
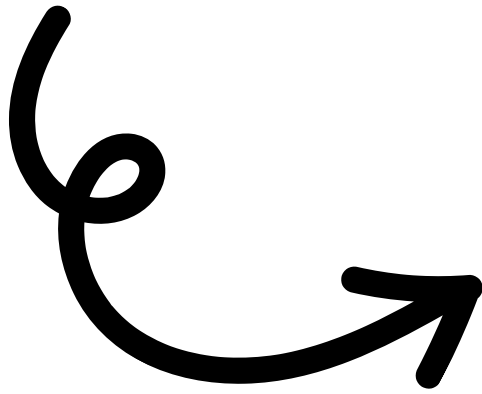


Railroad bridge over Saco River, c. 1936



Bar Mills Dam Construction, c. 1956

Coming This Fall...



September 20, 2022 @ 7 P.M.: Please join author Elizabeth Macalaster as she discusses her book, "War Pigeons--Winged Couriers in the U.S. Military, 1878-1957", the first complete accounting of the remarkable and invaluable service of homing pigeons carrying vital messages for American armed forces for more than seven decades, serving our country in four wars on four continents. Buxton-Hollis Historical Society, 100 Main St., Bar Mills. *Suggested donations \$10; Seniors \$8.

Buxton and Hollis Town Reports plus High School Yearbooks

Town Reports are always interesting. The selectmen just present the facts, but the old Superintendent's Reports are an excellent window on education in the area. One year a superintendent observed that a school would use much less firewood if the floor could be fixed because you could look at the ground under the building through the many cracks! Another waxed poetic in the 1920's over the addition of metal ceilings and walls as they were much easier to maintain. In World War I some one room schools were closed because there were not enough lumbermen to cut and split the winter's firewood.

Surprisingly, we received this year a few Hollis town reports from the Hanson family that we did not have, mostly from before 1900. Rita Bradbury had compiled Hollis vital reports on births, deaths, and marriages for us 20 years ago without them and she can still find her document so it can be updated! Thanks Rita.

Liz Havu has taken on a project this year to organize and archive our Buxton and Hollis town reports. She may also go on to tackle the Buxton and Hollis High School yearbooks. Buxton town reports are almost all done! We do need a few more recent year reports for 2017/18 to 2021/22, so if you have an extra one for Buxton or Hollis, we would be glad to have it. We keep some for the archive and keep one copy per year in our public library area for quick checks. **Great organization Liz!!!**



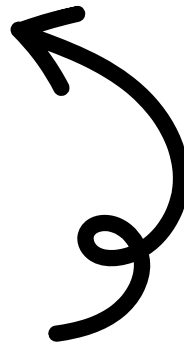
Liz Havu sorting Town Reports by year

Also Coming This Fall....

October 29, 2022, 6:30 P.M.: "The Great Turnout of 1841: Factory Girls & Maine's First Labor Strike"

Join Elizabeth DeWolfe, Ph.D., Professor of History at the University of New England, who will present this little-known tale of ordinary women mill workers who took extraordinary measures to demand just treatment. In 1841, nearly 500 female factory workers walked out of the male dominated hierarchy prevalent at Saco's York Manufacturing Company (and in the culture at large), bringing the mills to a halt for three+ days as they made their demand for fair wages, fair rules, and better housing. In this illustrated talk, she will explore the life of New England "factory girls," the opportunities mill work brought, and the challenges of this difficult labor. De Wolfe will examine this event in one Maine town as it plays right into national agitation for women's rights and the growing push for suffrage in Maine and beyond. Buxton-Hollis Historical Society, 100 Main St., Bar Mills. *Suggested donations: \$10, Seniors \$8.

****This evening will replace our traditional 'Annual Meeting' potluck dinner (with hors d'oeuvres and desserts this year). We will begin with a short business meeting at 6:30 P.M. to elect officers. Hope to see you there!**



Elizabeth DeWolfe, Professor of History and Co-founder of Women's and Gender Studies at UNE. She has received several outstanding book awards from the New England Historical Association and the New England Popular Cultural Association, among others.



Unknown portrait found in Hollis

A Reminder to Label Your Images for Posterity!

It is always disappointing at the historical society when we find interesting images of (perhaps? possibly?) local people, but there is nothing written on the back to identify them, i.e. the name, date, relationship, or place. We have a number of such items in our collection. The images, whatever medium, have so much potential to inform, but the names are missing.

We urge you to think about labeling your important family prints and digital images for your families and posterity. Perhaps this might make a good winter project?

Do you know this lady or how she happened to be leaning against a tree on River Road in Hollis recently? She obviously is very interesting, particularly because her left side is very different from her right side in hair style, eyes, ear height, collar, sleeve style, and shoulder, and bodice trim. Her clothing style seems to indicate she could have been born 170 years ago. Let us know if you can help identify her or have any idea of her provenance.

West Buxton Village

Hollis Side of the Saco River



Moderation Street, West Buxton, Hollis side about 1960. L-R Plummer's Store, Barnes Jewelry Store (now in Bar Mills,) and the West Buxton Fire Department

For 100 years West Buxton Village was a busy retail and industrial center with woolen mills, sawmills, blacksmiths, general stores, specialty stores, and two hotels. Today the only echo of industry is the hum of the hydro station supplying our electricity.

It is good to see activity on this once thriving village. The Marguerite Waterman/Donnie Pinkham house next to the bridge on the up river side has been fixed up and sold. The Plummer's Store site has been partially cleaned up and is proposed for a new house. The Barnes Jewelry Store and barber shop site is under construction for a unique residential house that evokes memories of the old jewelry store and the many other stores which once lined Moderation Street. Brookfield White Pine Hydro has also installed a little parking lot on the down river side of the bridge with nice looking stairs leading down to the rocky river bed.

However, the grand dame of the village, the former Odd Fellows Hall, is still looking for a purpose. The historical society gets several calls each year asking about the building's status and we refer people to the owner. A little imagination and determination is showing good progress in bringing to life the smaller village buildings. Some inspiration and a creative use for the Odd Fellows building would do wonders for this beautiful historic village site. (Jan thinks it would make a beautiful home!) For an example, see the converted Methodist Episcopal Church in Clark's Mills!)



Odd Fellows Hall set up for an event. Interior view towards front of building. Kitchen is through open door on right. Photo taken from the stage.



Plans for the new house under construction at the Barnes Jewelry Store site



1936 Flood at West Buxton. L-R, Whitehouse Store tilted and about to go down the river. Brick building next to it later became Plummer's Store. At this time in the flood the large woolen mill had already been swept away.



Harold C. Smith, former West Buxton Postmaster, at the historical society's post office exhibit at 100 Main St. Buxton. Harold celebrates his 100th birthday September 14, 2022.

Happy Birthday, Harold!!!



Odd Fellows Hall stage, L-R Diane Longley, Rita Bradbury, Barbara Bradbury, Brent Hill. (Jan Hill took the picture.)

Pleasant Point Park History

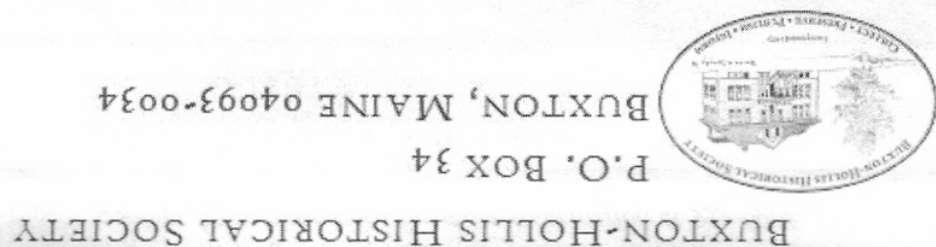
- 1741** – First colonial settlement of the farm by the Joseph Woodman family. Abandoned soon after due to the French and Indian War.
- 1750** – Joseph Woodman and wife Mary return permanently.
- 1754** – Second Buxton side fort built on the Woodman farm near Simpson Road. The first fort was on Joy Valley Road. The fall of Quebec in 1759 leads to peace and settlement in the area.
- 1774** – Burial Ground established using only unmarked field stones. Last burial in 1817.
- 1906** – Mary Woodman donates the Woodman farm to the Appalachian Mountain Club in memory of her father, Clarence Woodman. It is later donated by the club to the State of Maine and then to Buxton in 1971.
- 1912** – Dorcas Fair held in the field of the Woodman Reservation farm on July 30. (See the photo below.)
- 1922** – 150th Buxton Anniversary Tribute Program to the Early Settlers held at the Pleasant Point Woodman farm
- 1948** – Skelton Dam completed. Water level raised to the Bar Mills dam.
- 1972** – At Buxton's 200th Anniversary, the Buxton-Hollis Historical Society erects a plaque for 42 people known to be buried at the cemetery, including Joseph Woodman and his wives, Mary Tarbox Cole, and Reliance Thompson Edgecomb.
- 2009** – Excavation of the 1754 fort which was built by William Hancock.

The first colonial settlement on the site was by the Joseph Woodman family of Newbury, Mass. about 1741. They had to retreat to Biddeford for many frontier war years, but came back to their farm by 1750. Joseph (1715-1796) died at his daughter's farm in Hollis, but was buried at the Pleasant Point burial ground with his wives, other family, and neighbors.

The 2009 archaeological survey noted many historic items of interest in the park, including; The Hon. John Woodman house and barn foundations at Simpson Road, the other John Woodman house foundation at the Point, the Captain Joseph Woodman house foundation, the 1754 fort remains, the Nathaniel Woodman house foundation, a brick manufactory from as early as 1750, and a small granite quarry which made house foundations. The archaeological dig artifacts include pottery and household items. They were entrusted by the Town of Buxton to the Buxton-Hollis Historical Society, 100 Main Street, Bar Mills where they will be on display.

On this, the 250th Anniversary of Buxton's incorporation, we are grateful for the Woodman family who have shared this wonderful site with us and have done so much for Buxton.





Buxton-Hollis Historical Society Membership Year 2022

Please note that your membership year runs from January 1 thru December 31.
(Please Print Clearly)

Today's Date _____

Name(s): _____

Street Address: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Email
address: _____

Home Phone _____

Cell Phone _____

Send my newsletter: ☐ Electronically
☐ U.S. Mail

Annual Dues Level

☐ Student (\$5)
☐ Individual (\$10) ☐ Sustaining (\$100)
☐ Family (\$20) ☐ Paid Individual Lifetime (\$450)
☐ Patron (\$50) ☐ Paid Couple Lifetime (\$500)

Please make checks to:

Buxton-Hollis Historical Society

Send to:

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Attn: Membership Chair
P. O. Box 34
Buxton, ME 04093

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

THANK YOU For Your Support!