

BUXTON – HOLLIS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

100 Main Street, Route 4A , P. O. Box 34, Buxton, Maine 04093 Winter 2023

Incorporated 1970 www.BuxtonHollisHistorical.org (207) 929-1684

Unsung Heroes: Appreciating Our Volunteers

Every organization relies on people: staff make businesses run day to day, year in and year out. In the same way, volunteers are the lifeblood of non-profit organizations. Covid interrupted the rhythm of our lives, shifting and curtailing our activities, our participation, and in some cases, our direction. On the good side of the ledger, there were books that got read, and some long-deferred projects were dusted off and completed. As we move forward, this is a moment to recognize a cadre of folks who have been active volunteers over a number of years.

You will recognize *Barry Plummer* and his ready smile from the Newsletter. Barry has helped tirelessly on construction, painting and heavy lifting alongside Brent Hill for years. Donations that are bulky, and heavy have often found their way to us with Barry's help. He continues to serve as our VP for Buxton.

Betsy Clay has been our treasurer since 2013 and recently passed the torch to Linda Towle and Steve Roberts. Likely you have seen Betsy graciously welcoming you at programs, fundraisers, and community days.

Janice Molly Lane manages our website and our Facebook page. Molly has quietly helped us behind the scenes with technical issues, some of our software applications, the accounting program, and has often been found next to Betsy greeting you at events and programs. Her historical alias is Molly Woodman, in case time travel becomes reality and you meet her in another era.

(More about Unsung Heroes on Page 3)

From 2018:
Left to Right,
Janice Lane,
holding Axel
Janice Hill,
Nancy Pierce,
the late
Meg Gardner,
Bertie
Ramsdell,
Betsy Clay
and Barry
Plummer.
Photo by
Brent Hill



Welcome to Nancy Ponzetti!

President's Message:

Happy New Year!

It seems strange to wish you a Happy New Year in February since the volunteers and board members of Buxton Hollis Historical Society have been busily working on accessioning donated items, scanning documents, and answering inquiries even as our 1912 building closed for public programming in October. However, a new year does begin on Thursday, April 6, 2023 as we open our doors once more with public hours from 4-8 pm. Five new programs will be offered in 2023 plus our annual fundraiser and our participation in both Hollis and Buxton Community Days.

For the past twelve years, the office of President at BHHS had been filled by Jan Hill. At the 2022 Annual Meeting, Jan "retired". Our society and its members and friends cannot thank Jan enough for her years of dedication, hard work, creativity, and energetic leadership! As Jan's successor, I have very large shoes to fill.

Buxton Hollis Historical Society began in 1970 making this our fifty-third year and our tenth year in the current building at 100 Main Street, Bar Mills. A great deal of time, talent, and treasure has been incorporated into our building's restoration and preservation of the local history and genealogy of Hollis and Buxton-a history that is created every minute of every day.

As part of that creation, we celebrate the month of March as National Women's History Month. This celebration first began as only one day, March 8th, 1911, International Women's Day. From one day, the celebration went to one week, and in 1987, Congress declared March as National Women's History Month. We celebrate in March to remind ourselves of women's accomplishments to our

culture and society in all fields from science, politics, sports, religion, and humanities. This year's theme is *Celebrating Women Who Tell our Stories*. What better time to celebrate Hollis' own women storytellers Kate Douglas Wiggin and Nora Archibald Smith. Don't know who they are? Join Buxton Hollis Historical Society and find out. Thank you to our members and friends for your continued support throughout the years!

Nancy A. Ponzetti

An Invitation to Volunteer

Interested in History and Community? Presently we are looking for a Vice President from Hollis to fill the spot vacated when Nancy Ponzetti became president. We need help scanning images, transcribing documents, data entry of accessions, and working to clean and conserve donations.

BHHS OFFICERS

Nancy Ponzetti - President

Barry Plummer, Vice President – Buxton

Volunteer needed, Vice President – Hollis

Vicki Walker, Secretary

Linda Towle & Steve Roberts, Co-Treasurers

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Janice Hill, Past President

Janice Lane, Social Media Director

Nancy Pierce, Membership Chair

Nancy Pierce, Librarian

Vicki Walker, Chair-N C Watson Schoolhouse

Sue Schaller, Registrar & Newsletter

Better Robicheaw, Hospitality Co-chair

Kathleen Larry, Hospitality Co-chair

Robert Yarumian, Clerk

Appreciating Our Volunteers (continued from page 1)

Nancy Pierce has been our Librarian and Board Member, as well as pinch-hitting on events, projects, and tasks. Nancy and Barry have graced the BHHS float in the Buxton Community Days parade more than once. Nancy fields many inquiries from members and visitors, and spent much of one summer transcribing a collection of historic letters about the world-wide travels of a Buxton resident's great-grandfather in the 1920's. She currently is our Membership Chair... which reminds us that membership renewal season is upon us!

Bertie Ramsdell recently passed the torch as our Hospitality Chair to *Bette Robicheaw* and *Kathy Larry*. Together they have provided refreshments and coordinated the food and prep for many events and annual meetings. We thank them for nourishing us at events at the Brewster Barn, balancing the pot luck menu at Annual Meetings, and satisfying our sweet tooth at monthly programs.

Bette Robicheaw joins us afternoons (as her schedule allows) to update our files on births, marriages, and obituaries. Bette was honored at our Fall 2022 Annual Meeting with a Life Membership.

Last but not least, Jan and Brent Hill, both Past-Presidents, continue to actively volunteer their time, energy and expertise. If you have followed the Newsletters over the past few years, you will have kept up with their determination, commitment and many projects. Brent currently focuses on scanning photos and updating our exhibits. Jan produced the 2022 newsletters with Mary McLeod Jones. Meanwhile, Jan wrapped up chairing the Board, and preparing the School for a walk-through by our landlord, the MSAD 6 Facilities committee.

A sincere thank you to the folks who have put in many hours and many smiles over the past 5-10 years and more. (by Sue Schaller)



Snowplow on a locomotive in Hollis. Undated image, estimated date: 1950's

Historical Biographies by Brenton Hill

Our museum currently has exhibits with images and artifacts about Bar Mills and West Buxton villages from about 1860 to 1960. We have recently revised our new exhibit plans to focus on the people of Buxton and Hollis through biographies and images in both the museum and our online sites.

There are many interesting historical figures to cover such as the Fighting Lanes, including Isaac Lane, a legislator, store and tavern keeper, fifer in the Revolutionary War and Colonel in the War of 1812. Isaac was a local organizer for the first area bridge in 1791 over the Saco at Salmon Falls and contributed rum to support the project. Can you imagine a village today taking on the cost or liability of building a bridge over the Saco? This was even before there was a good road to Saco, so one main purpose of the bridge was to get people across the river to church at Tory Hill on Sunday.

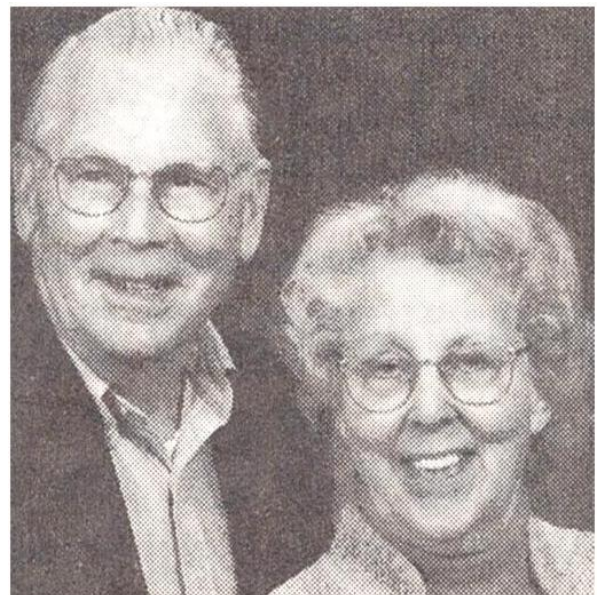


Colonel
Isaac
Lane
portrait

The next area bridge was at Bar Mills in the early 1820s. It was built by storekeeper and lumberman Ellis B. Usher. He apparently built the bridge before he went to the Maine Legislature for permission to make it a toll bridge. Who would take such a financial risk today? There are many interesting stories that we need to tell about our resourceful founders and families.

We also have many people who have contributed to define the fabric of our community over the last 70 or so years. These people did not have the internet or email or cell phones. They made the community better through their direct actions with their time and leadership in town government, social and civic organizations. They must be recognized and remembered for supporting these institutions while we still have people who personally knew and appreciated them.

Harlan and Mildred Dearborn come quickly to mind as part of the generation on whose shoulders we stand. Harlan (Blackie) was born in Buxton, served in the Army in WWII, operated Dearborn active in the Masons. Mildred was born in Houlton, was a nurse at several hospitals including the Buxton-Hollis Hospital, and served as an Emergency Medical Technician for Bar Mills Rescue in addition to knitting, gardening, rug hooking, raising a family and supporting their church. For their 50th wedding anniversary in 1993 they had an open house at Buxton Town Hall, not to receive cards and gifts, but for people to bring in donations to the Buxton-



Hollis Community Cupboard. We need to remember and learn from the people who have selflessly supported our towns.

The historical society's mission is to collect and preserve our history so we have many resources available for this work, including key local history books, maps, genealogies, cemetery records, scanned documents, birth, death, marriage and census records. For recent history we have news clippings, obituaries, family stories and some oral history. One story is that if you wanted to propose some Buxton town business in the 1950s, the best way to start was to go to Carl Deering's barn early in the morning. Carl was head selectman and was milking then. He had time to discuss town business while changing the milking machines.

If you have people you would like to see memorialized in brief biographies or would like to help with this project, reach us at (207) 929-2684 or by email at: bhhs@buxtonhollishistorical.org.



Mark Your Calendars!

**BHHS Reopens Thursdays 4-8 pm
beginning April 6th**

Spring Programs

April 18th, 7 pm

300 Years of Vegetarianism in Maine

by Avery Yale Kamila

May 16th 7pm

Battlefield Angels: Civil War Nursing

by Nancy Ponzetti

June 20th 7pm

Slavery in Maine by Vana Carmona

Suggested donation \$10, Seniors \$8

Aug 5th Hollis Community Day

Aug 12th Buxton Community Day

Pleasant Point Eggless Cake

Adapting recipes to do-without is a recurring theme in kitchens everywhere. This one was submitted by Mrs. Charles Nichols to A Book of Dorcas Dishes, 1911, published by the Dorcas Society of Hollis and Buxton, K.D.Wiggin-editor.

½ cup butter or lard

1 cup sugar

2 cups flour

½ tsp baking soda

½ tsp each of cloves, cinnamon, nutmeg
a little salt

½ cup sour milk

1 cup raisins

Bake in a slow oven ¾ of an hour.

Contributed by Nancy Pierce

The BHHS Newsletter
sponsored by

**Chad E. Poitras
Funeral Home**

**Funeral Services and
Cremation Provider**

498 Long Plains Road
Buxton, Maine 04093
207 929-3723

Chad Poitras, BHHS Member
and local resident,
Serving the community
with dignity
and respect.

Membership Year 2023

Today's Date _____

Name(s) _____

Street Address _____

Mailing Address _____

Email _____

Phone – mobile _____

Home _____

Send my Newsletter _____ to my email
_____ to my USPS mailbox

Annual Dues Levels

_____ Student \$5 _____ Solo \$10

_____ Family \$20 _____ Patron \$50

_____ Sustaining \$100

Other _____

Lifetime _____ Individual \$450

_____ Couple \$500

Please make checks to:

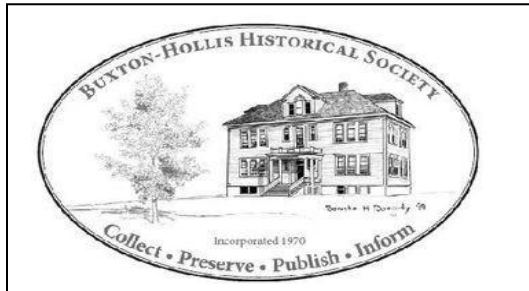
Buxton-Hollis Historical Society

Send to: Buxton-Hollis Historical Society

Attn: Membership Chair

P O Box 34

Buxton, ME 04093

Thank you for your support!**BUXTON - HOLLIS HISTORICAL SOCIETY****P. O. BOX 34****BUXTON, ME 04093**

BHHS Reopens Thursdays 4-8

Beginning April 6thApril 18th, 300 Years of Vegetarianism 7pmMay 16th Nursing in the Civil War 7pmJune 20th 7pm Slavery in Maine 7pmAugust 5th Hollis Community DayAugust 12th Buxton Community Day