

## Attend Our First Program Since the Pandemic Began: Program and Book Signing By Esteemed Genealogist, Frederick R. Boyle

On Tuesday, June 21, 7 P.M. at BHHS headquarters, 100 Main St., Bar Mills, we are looking forward to hosting a genealogical program entitled “**Writing Books of Early Families of York County**”, AND a book signing by Frederick R. Boyle for his new book, “*Early Families of Buxton*”. Another among several books in his “Early Families” series, his Buxton book will contain about 100 sets of genealogies of Buxton families whose roots go back to the mid-18th century. Included are the Atkinsons, Boyntons, Bradburys, Dearborns, Eldens, Emerys, Lanes, Redlons, Sawyers, Woodmans, and many more!

A native of Boston, Mass., Fred grew up in nearby Medford. He has degrees from Colby College (B. A.), Boston University (M.A. in Ed.), and Harvard University (Certificate of Advance Graduate Study C.A.G.S.).

From 1985-2005 Boyle was a Certified Genealogist through the Board for Certification of Genealogists in Washington, D.C. Previous to this he was a Certified Genealogical Record Searcher through the same organization. For the last seven years of his 30 year teaching career, Fred was Director of the Education Without Walls program. Since retirement from teaching he has authored several books and is still an active Professional Genealogist specializing in searches of families in Maine, New Hampshire, and Massachusetts. From 1985-2011 he was a trustee of the Springvale Public Library where he served as an advisor for its extensive genealogy collection. He is a member of the New England Historic Genealogical Society and the Maine Historical Society.

We are happy to report that Fred has recently begun research on yet another book entitled, “*Early Families of Hollis*”. Please mark your calendars for this opportunity to engage with an expert genealogist with 40+ years of experience and knowledge of York County's early families. *Donations gratefully accepted.*



Frederick R. Boyle



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# **BUXTON-HOLLIS HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

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

Celebrating 52 Years ♦ [www.buxtonhollishistorical.org](http://www.buxtonhollishistorical.org) ♦ 207.929.1684 ♦ Spring 2022

## ***Spring 2022 President's Message***

Dear Members and Friends,

As spring arrives and warmer weather and sunshine liven our spirits, we look forward to a busy year evolving through the challenges of the COVID pandemic and increased public activity. Our research library and museum are open this year again by appointment only, with Thursday afternoons and evenings best for us, although other times can be arranged. Masks are still required, please.

Several dedicated volunteers have been making steady progress throughout the fall of 2021, winter, and spring of 2022 continuing the process of accessioning gratefully accepted donated items. Special on-going projects are scanning documents and photos; indexing 1810 Theodore Elwell deeds and letters; planning a new exhibit around the saw mill villages of Buxton & Hollis; and working to finally complete renovation of a small second floor room visioned to be an office for internal society documents and BHHS Board records.

We are planning our first program since the beginning of the pandemic on **Tuesday, June 21** presented by Frederick Boyle, a well respected Certified Genealogist who will present a program entitled, "*Writing Books of Early Families of York County*", AND sign his newest book, "*Early Families of Buxton*", just in time for the Buxton 250th celebration! We are delighted to learn that he has already begun to collect research on his next book, "*Early Families of Hollis*"! (More information follows on pg.2.)

Several BHHS activities are being planned for the **August 5th & 6th Buxton 250th (Sestercentennial) Celebration**, which will include: a showing of the Buxton Documentary DVD; our regular sales table with another opportunity to meet with Certified Genealogist, Fred Boyle (and purchase your copy of "*Early Families of Buxton*"); a float in the parade; a South Buxton Cemetery tour; and a brief History of Buxton by Brent Hill (being made

available in the 2022 Buxton Town Report). Check out more details of our **Buxton 250th activities** in our upcoming summer newsletter!

Be looking, also, for our sales table at the **August 13th Hollis Pirate Fest!**

If you're interested in participating in any of our planned activities, give me a call (831-9356)! Also, please contact me if you have subjects of interest you might like to share in our newsletter.

Are you unable to participate in BHHS activities, but would like to support our work financially through your membership or other gifts? Please consider a financial gift made out to BHHS and mail to: BHHS, P.O. 34, Buxton, ME 04093.

THANK YOU FOR HELPING  
TO MAKE OUR  
CONTINUING WORK  
POSSIBLE!

In the meantime, stay safe and well, save the event dates above, and enjoy this beautiful spring season.

We hope to see you soon!

Best Regards,  
Jan Hill, President

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**Minnie Alford's**

**Rhubarb Jam Recipe**

**Taken from the pg. 89 of the 1911  
Dorcas Dishes**

**"a Little Book of Country Cooking"**

To 6 lbs. of rhubarb add 6 lbs. of sugar and 6 large lemons. Cut the rhubarb in small pieces. Slice the lemons very thin. Put the fruit in a large bowl and cover with the sugar, letting it stand for 24 hours. Boil for about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of an hour. Do not stir more than necessary, as it looks better when not broken up. Put in glasses and cover with paper.\*

\*Please note that this 1911 recipe will need to be adjusted to today's standards.



## N. C. Watson One Room School Report

*by Vicki Walker, Chair, N. C. Watson One Room School Committee*

On behalf of our committee, Kathy Brooks, our newest Watson Committee member, welcomed her fellow teachers from the Hollis Elementary School, and their principal, Clay Gleason, to the N. C. Watson One Room School.

And with great pleasure on behalf of the Buxton-Hollis Historical Society, I also welcomed them, and congratulated Mr. Gleason on his new position as Superintendent of MSAD 6, effective at the end of June.

Teachers were presented with a brief history of our BHHS vintage school building and how it came to be moved from Chicopee to Buxton Center. Doris Hicks, who recently retired as a third-grade teacher from the Buxton Center Elementary School (30+ years) and who joined our Watson Committee two years ago, presented a recap of the how the Buxton Elementary third graders experience Buxton history lessons at the N. C. Watson School. She shared examples of what education was like in the early 1900's and how one room schools functioned in our small Maine communities. We are delighted to report there are now plans afoot to bus the Hollis Elementary 3rd and 4th graders to their BHHS N. C. Watson One Room School in May. We look forward to their visit!

Our Committee is committed to spreading the experiences of historic one room schools in our Hollis and Buxton communities. If you are interested in volunteering or have ideas of how you would like to see this shared local resource used, please contact me, Vicki Walker, Chair, N. C. Watson One Room School Committee at (207) 929-3662.



Hollis Elementary School Faculty meet at  
N. C. Watson One Room School



## Eben S. Kendrick, the 27th Maine, and Hollis Family Connections

*by Kathleen Kendrick*

At age 19, Eben S. Kendrick of Hollis enlisted in the 27th Maine Volunteer Regiment. His occupation was listed as “potter”. Born in 1842, he was the youngest child of Thomas Truxton Kendrick, Sr. and Mary Haley Kendrick. Eben’s father, Thomas Sr., had come to Hollis from Biddeford at the age of 13 to live with his sister, Sarah Kendrick Alld, and her husband, John Alld, who owned and operated the Alld Pottery on Pleasant Hill Road in Hollis. Thomas became an apprentice to his brother-in-law in the Alld pottery business and later started his own pottery business.

Thomas Kendrick and his wife, Mary, went on to have six children with Eben being the last. From the letters to and from Eben and his family there is a sense of the closeness and love they had for one another. Eben was the adored younger brother.

...Con't, pg. 4

**From Wikipedia:** *“The 27th Maine Infantry Regiment was a nine-month regiment (September 30, 1862, to July 17, 1863) raised for service in the Union Army during the American Civil War. One of eight regiments raised by Maine in the fall of 1862 under the call for men to serve nine-month terms, the 27th Maine was formed primarily of volunteers from York County, Maine. They went into camp at Portland, Maine, on 10 September and left for Washington, D.C. on 20 October 1862. They served as pickets in the defenses of the capital through their entire term.*

*On the request of President Abraham Lincoln, Secretary of War Edwin Stanton sent letters on 28 June 1863 to the commanding officers of the 25th Maine and 27th Maine regiments, asking for them to remain beyond their contracted service due to the invasion of Pennsylvania by Robert E. Lee and his army. Declined first by the 25th Maine, the 27th was then asked, and over 300 men volunteered to remain beyond their service time in the defenses of Washington during what became the Gettysburg Campaign. When Colonel Wentworth delivered the message to Secretary Stanton, he was informed that ‘Medals of Honor would be given to that portion of the regiment that volunteered to remain’. With the battle soon over, they left Washington for home on 4 July, reuniting with the rest of the regiment in Portland for their mustering out on 17 July 1863. Following the end of the war, when the promise to award medals to the volunteers was fulfilled, there was a lack of an agreeable list of those who stayed behind in Washington. This resulted in some 864 medals being made, and it was left up to Wentworth to distribute them to those members he remembered staying behind with him. These medals were later purged by Congress in 1917 as the actions of the regiment did not meet the criteria for receiving such a medal.”*

The story of the Medals of Honor issued to this group is told by John J. Pullen in his book “Shower of Stars”, a copy of which is in the BHHS Library and both Hollis libraries. There were a total of 949 men listed on the muster rolls for the 27th Maine. During their service, the regiment lost nineteen men by disease and one was killed by the accidental discharge of his musket.

After mustering out of the 27th Maine, Eben returned home to Hollis in 1863, where he remained for one year. In 1864, he again volunteered for service, enlisting in Co. G, 8th Infantry on September 25, 1864. He was engaged in the siege of Petersburg and was captured and taken prisoner at Fair Oaks Virginia on October 27, 1864, just a little over a month after he enlisted.

Taken to Salisbury Prison in North Carolina, where due to overcrowding, scarcity of food, and bitterness on the part of the prison commander, conditions by some accounts report the percentage of deaths exceeded Andersonville. Eben died there on Sunday, February 5, 1865, just 63 days before the war ended. (Note: Freedom Burnham from Hollis also died in the same prison camp about a week before Eben.)

On April 25, 1865 Eben Kendrick’s older sister, Abigail Kendrick Hanson and her husband, Josiah Hanson, had a baby boy they named Eben Kendrick Hanson. Abigail died when her son was seven. In 1884, Thomas T. Kendrick, Sr. gave his home which still stands on Pleasant Hill to his grandson Eben Kendrick Hanson. The home is no longer in the Hanson family today.

**Notes from Kathleen Kendrick:** \*I am very grateful to Gloria Bickford Hanson for opening my eyes to the history of this family, and to Janet Miles for sharing her notes from “Sadie’s Little Black Book”, filling me in on the family connections in this article. \*\*Hanson descendants no longer live in the Kendrick Hanson home on Pleasant Hill Rd. \*\*\*Also, The Alld and Kendrick Potteries are featured in the book, “*The Early Potters and Potteries of Maine*”, a much coveted and collected resource over the years.

Eben S. Kendrick



Medal of Honor given to those 27th Maine volunteers who stayed behind in Washington as requested by President Lincoln



# Dad's Storybook: The Paul Hanson Stories

By Donna Hanson, Jones' Crossing, Hollis ME

The Covid outbreak on Friday the 13th of March, 2020 was the end of my dream job planning travel. It certainly wasn't the first pandemic in history, but my first experience with unemployment. You can only re-paint your whole house so many times.

One rainy day, I found myself up in the attic, poring through a couple boxes of vintage postcards, old Hollis yearbooks, ancient family photos and cartons of warped 35mm slides that I'd inherited. I pulled a few out, scanned them and emailed them to my Dad, Paul Hanson, to find out "who ARE these people and why are they wearing such fancy hats?" He replied with an interesting story about his Great Uncle Leon Hanson, the cheese monger. Leon Hanson made his money in Southern Maine buying cheese from local dairy farmers, loading them on the train that ran through Hollis, selling them wholesale all over northern New England. Because he traveled so much, he was a kind Uncle to send postcards back home to his nieces, Bernice and Mildred, on Pleasant Hill (J. Ansel's sisters). I have a boxful from exotic places like Bar Harbor, Rumford and Aroostook County.

One's memory plays tricks on you, stories get altered through the generations, and the youngest of the Hanson clan likely has never even used a pay phone. I knew it was time to somehow record Dad's stories for family posterity and comedy. He's quite the character.

This article should really be entitled "How to Keep Your Octogenarian Father Out of Trouble During A Pandemic". Best \$100 I ever spent: a subscription to Storyworth, an online program for families to record memories. You have a year to write your stories, then you receive one (1) published, hard-bound book with a color cover photo and can order more copies as needed at [www.storyworth.com](http://www.storyworth.com)



Photos found in attic  
Hanson kids on Maude and



Hanson brothers in their  
Navy uniforms

So far we have printed three editions with almost 100 copies total! Thank you to the BHHS members and neighbors who loaned old newspapers, helped fill in the blanks and make corrections. There are similar programs available, but frankly, anyone can create their own journal or collect stories using the video/camera on your cellphone and a laptop Word program. Some programs may be more user-friendly than Storyworth, but it worked for us: every Monday morning, the program would email Dad a question. You can use their suggestions or write your own.

Dad would type his answers and they'd be automatically uploaded. I'd then go online, correct his spelling, and add photos and additional history I collected from a variety of sources. The questions included "What Was It Like at Hollis High School? Tell Us About the Fire of '47. What Technological Advancements Were Made When You Were Young?" I scanned the photos at home and used an app program called SlideScan to get fairly distinguishable photos by just holding the slides individually up to a vintage, white glass light shade that I also found in the attic ;)

One photo or story very often triggers more memories. And for me, more questions. When I read my grandmother's essay on the cottages her father, Cecil Haley from Deerwander, built in Pine Point, I went searching for photos of the neighborhood from that time period to accompany our old OOB postcards. At the Harmon Historical Museum, I learned more about Lindbergh's landing and race cars on the beach. On the Scarborough Historical Society website, I discovered old photos and an interesting scuffle between the early 20th century locals: the clammers vs. the salt hay farmers. Do you know why the park on the Hollis Plains Road is called California Fields? Did you know the West Buxton bridge used to be half covered bridge, half metal bridge? And 117 didn't always go straight through to Deer Pond? This inquisitive daughter did NOT. So that's how we got to 300 pages in four months.

Con't. from pg. 5...

You actually have a year to complete your book and the program allows you to invite others, such as family members, to chime in. We didn't take advantage of this option, because it's too easy to inadvertently erase something, some family secrets may be best left in the closet, and my brother and I wanted this book to be primarily Dad's recollections. It's fascinating however, that the man who would often forget his new housekeeper's name remembers everyone who lived on Pleasant Hill growing up and what they drove (my Dad's a car guy). He also remembers a slew of stories he heard around the cribbage table from his parents and grandparents. Sometimes he'd get stuck though. When he couldn't remember which Navy ships his brothers were on in the 50's? "Well go find out! They're just up the road." And didn't my Dad love interviewing people to jog their memories.

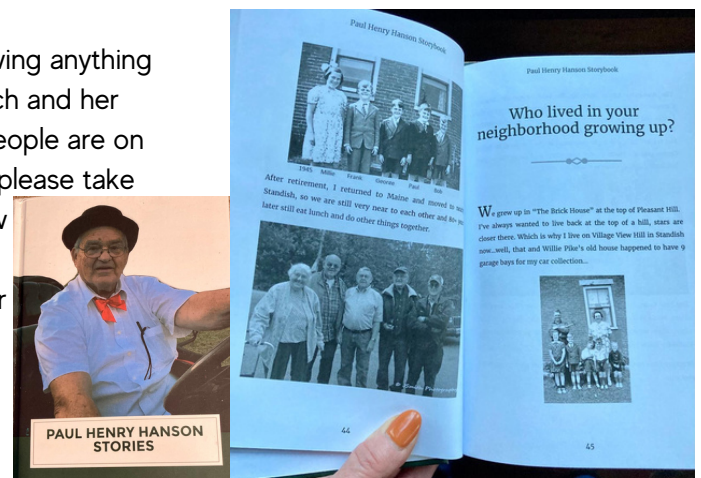
Here's an excerpt from the chapter "How Did You Get to School?": "Bob and I would walk down over Pleasant Hill to Albert Hanson's. His daughter Inez drove the school bus to both the River Road and Hollis Center grammar schools. Which was actually an Army Dodge Power Wagon with a bench added and the passenger seat removed to get kids on and off. It held 8 kids. She picked us up, Leona Smith on the Cape Road, then on the Haley Road for the Huffs, the Bensons and Don Hanson kids for a full load over to River Road School. Then Inez continued down the River Road and picked up kids to go to Hollis Center School on the Cape Road (formerly Schoolhouse Painting Co, now a private residence).

Everything ran smoothly... until the day Inez got sick. Her mother was elected to take her place, but she didn't like driving that truck. Asked me if I would take them. I was only 14, but I was familiar with the route and the truck, so her mother set beside me and I drove that day. Perhaps no one breathed the whole route, but hey, no one was late that day!"

Dad's Storybook project had a surprise bonus for me: I didn't grow up in Maine, so before Google Maps, I found it frustrating to follow directions from my older relatives. No, I never met Len Smith or Annie Woodman - or been in their houses - so how can I possibly "turn a piece right down from their house"?! How could I know where 'the 'ol' Bradbury box shop USED to be' if IT'S GONE NOW?! That fall of 2020 Dad took me for a very slow (for him), guided tour through downtown Hollis Center with a hand-drawn map he had made. (Dad's a retired engineer, he flunked English at UMO, but at 83 was still drawing an excellent map.) He pointed out every building, what used to be there back in the 40's, and some enlightening stories. I now know who Harold the postmaster was, why the Bradbury's were so influential, where the old, old post office and railroad station were located, plus a host of things I didn't really NEED to know - like what happened to the poor man who drowned in his own well. You'll find his map, along with the stories I found fit to print, starting on page 135.

Dad didn't know the answers to all my nosy inquiries. Why do old folks refer to the end of my driveway as Jones' Crossing? Well we did a little research and that mystery is now solved on the last page of the Chapter entitled "How did you get your middle name?" - along with some great old photos of the Portland-Rochester train crossing the Saco River, the Palmer house on Salmon Falls (Frank & Gloria's Old House), some Saco River history and terrifying photos from the '36 Flood that probably Great Auntie took just as the West Buxton bridge was washing out. Doesn't one story literally invoke a flood of history!

Kudos to my Great Auntie Mildred Woodbury for never throwing anything out, and for her painstaking record-keeping, genealogical research and her trusty Brownie camera - and to anyone else who records who people are on each photo! If you and your elders haven't marked your photos, please take advantage of this next blustery Maine winter and DO IT. See how many stories you remember! If you need some inspiration to get started recording your own family stories, you'll find a copy of our father/daughter Covid project for loan at the BHHS Library and both Hollis libraries.





## Bridge Work Continues To Connect Our Towns Over the Saco

We know today how important our bridges across the Saco are to connect our two towns. We have Bonny Eagle, West Buxton, Bar Mills, and Salmon Falls bridges. Bar Mills and Bonny Eagle bridges have seen recent construction. The 1948 Salmon Falls Bridge is scheduled for a new deck and sidewalk and the 1938 West Buxton Bridge has just entered into a planning cycle for replacement.

Two hundred years ago we were fortunate to have three bridges, although they often washed out in floods or burned. They were: 1) Smith's Bridge, from Bean Road extended in Hollis to the bottom of the hill below the Rocky Dundee Road in Buxton; and 2) the Usher Bridge from Usher Mill Road in Hollis to Woodman Road in Buxton. By 1824, the new Maine Legislature authorized the Usher Bridge to be a toll bridge. The third bridge, the Salmon Falls Bridge, was located about where the stone abutments from a later bridge remain today. The Salmon Falls Bridge was the first Saco River bridge built in our area in 1795. It was also the only one not destroyed in the 1936 flood.

This Union Falls Covered Bridge (circa 1860's) on the left was dynamited and burned in 1921 for a very brief scene in an early movie.



The image above is from a recent message by Dan Dixey to the Buxton-Hollis Historical Society on Facebook. It is an image of the covered bridge at West Buxton under construction by the town of Hollis from the center of the Saco River to the Hollis side about 1895 after the flood of 1895 took out the prior bridge. The steel bridge at left was built by the town of Buxton. Both went out in the flood of 1936 with the Hollis side woolen mill and all of Lyman Street in Hollis. Also at left is the large Buxton side woolen mill that burned in 1939. On the far bank, barely visible between the heads of the two men on the bridge is the steamboat landing. This is the only photograph we know of that shows the steamboat landing. The stone bridge at the left in the picture was there before 1865, as we have a photo of it without its covered bridge after the fire of 1865. The good old days had their share of fires and floods.



