

President's Message

Dear Members and Friends,
GRATEFUL THANKS to your dedicated BHHS Board members for pitching in to assist this spring and summer to publish our summer newsletter and do all the work of regular operations while your president was under the weather! We are all very fortunate to work with such committed and caring volunteers and friends.

While it has been a busy and eventful summer, we dealt with the high and potentially dangerous temperatures of July by postponing our planned July 20th stroll in Hollis's Goggins Woods and Annual BBQ in the Burt and Barb Pease Depot Street Barn to a safer, more temperate and enjoyable **Saturday, September 7. We hope you will join us, whether for the stroll or the BBQ or both!**

PLEASE NOTE also that our previously scheduled *BHHS sponsored August 10th Tour of Buxton's Royal Brewster Mansion was postponed* due to unforeseen circumstances. We hope that you will join us another year for this unique and wonderful event! In the meantime, we participated in the Buxton parade that day, and hope you were able to visit the BHHS sponsored Artisan tables on the Helen Bruce Park in Buxton during DorcasFest, AND our BHHS table at *Pirate Fest in Hollis* that day as well!

You may be interested in checking the *August 2019 edition of the Memories of Maine Magazine* for the article on well known and respected early local artist, Gibeon Bradbury. Your historical society contributed information and photos.

We are progressing on our image scanning project being led by Brent Hill. To date, we have 643 images scanned and cataloged and we are hoping for donations or loans of others to add to our collection. Please consider what historic photos YOU might have and be willing to donate or loan to us for scanning.

You may have heard on the news that the *Maine Bicentennial Celebration* has already begun with four state events. FYI, your BHHS Librarian, Nancy Peirce, has researched the election and found Buxton voted in favor 365 to 11 and Hollis voted in favor 174 to 1. The statewide vote was 17,091 to 7,132. The ballots were not secret ballots. Rural community members who depended on their neighbors more than government sought consensus in their public decisions.

We look forward to seeing you at our fall programming, including: a tour with Matt Albrecht, owner and founder of *River Cooperage and Millwork of Buxton in September*; a program by Mark Allen Leslie, on his novel "*True North: Tice's Story*", a Publishers Weekly Featured Book on the Underground Railroad in October; and our Annual Meeting Potluck with speaker Robert (Butch) Yarumian III discussing his and Ed Churchill's new book on ownership of beaches in southern Maine in November. (See more details in the *Upcoming Events 2019* section of this newsletter.)

Best Wishes to you all for a Happy Leaf Peeping Season!

Jan Hill, President



Left to right: Mia Kovac, Bonnie Larrabee, Betsy Clay, Jan Hill, Nancy Pierce. Front: Ella holding Axel Hill.



(l-r) Bonnie Larrabee, Nancy Pierce, Mia Kovacs, Jan Hill, Barry Plummer, Bette Robicheaw, Betsy Clay, Roberta Ramsdell, Janice Lane, Vicki Walker, Brent Hill

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Nancy Ponzetti, *Vice-President, Hollis*

Vicki Walker, *Secretary*

Betsy Clay, *Treasurer*

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Bar-Hills Elementary School
1912 - 1957

Buxton 250th Anniversary in 2022

by Brenton Hill

In the Hollis 1998 Bicentennial book (which we sell) there are many interesting stories by the older generation remembering their parents and grandparents stories of the town. In his 1872 address, Mark Dunnell had similar memories in his Buxton Centennial address. By 1972 in the Buxton Bicentennial address, Lester Smith also spoke of his parents and grandparents. His father was Hurlin Smith of Groveville who died at 102 years in early 1972. We are now planning on the Buxton 250 celebration and are open to your ideas of how we can address our history. Here are some excerpts from the Lester Smith address.

Grandmother Sarah Smith: "Sarah was a hard working Christian woman. She not only cooked and fed her family, but spun wool for their clothes. Each farm had a flock of sheep for wool and mutton. She toiled long hours daily without a single convenience that we have today. During the winter she worked at a coat shop at Buxton Center owned by Samuel D. Hanson. Workers in the coat shop got to work at 7 A.M. and worked until 6 P.M. They drove the six miles with a horse and wagon, pung or sleigh." "It was not uncommon for Sarah Smith to bake 35 pies at a time and store them down cellar. Many of the pies were mince because Buxton people always ate hot mince pie for breakfast. Mince pie on top of oatmeal, baked beans or fried potatoes for breakfast was what a man needed to hoe corn, mow hay, cut wood, saw logs, cut ice, break roads (pack it for sleighs) or press hay (for storage)." "The pies were baked in a brick oven which was part of a giant 5 foot fireplace which is intact today (1972) in the Carl and Lorraine Estes house (on Waterman Road).

"Chopping timber was always winter work. My father would milk five or six cows morning and night, carry water to them in pails, feed them hay and cottonseed meal and clean the manure from the gutters with a shovel in order to be in the woods at sunlight and work until sunset. Often he walked two or three miles each way to the timber lot." "Many a night I have seen my father come home from pressing hay or cutting timber and then saw wood with a bucksaw for our three wood stoves. Now I know why he went to bed at 8 P.M. because that Big Ben alarm went off at 4 A.M. sharp."

NC Watson One Room Schoolhouse Report

by Vicki Walker

Summer has flown by at the one room school house. Lilly Gaudiano has had a very successful first year garden. It has been a learning experience and she already has plans for next year's garden. This picture (below) was early in the season. The beds are now full to over-flowing. Lilly intends to donate the harvest to the Buxton Food Cupboard located at the top of the picture. We are in the early stages of having the school house painted! Sam Kovacs from Boy Scout Troop 349, Buxton will be submitting a plan for his Eagle Scout Service Project to paint the building. It is a very exciting project. We still have September and October for our open hours, the 2nd and 4th Saturdays from 1-4. We also hope to be open during the Bean Suppers at the Buxton Center Church, our wonderful neighbors. If you see the open sign flying, please stop by. Also, we are available to be open for any special occasion you may have. Please contact Vicki Walker at 207-929-3662. Happy Fall!



VISIT OUR HISTORY CENTER

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

OPEN:

April 4 through October 31

Thursdays 4:00—8:00 p.m.

Saturdays 9:00—12:00 a.m.

Except holiday weekends

(Please check our website calendar.)

The BHHS newsletter is proudly sponsored by
Chad E. Poitras Cremation and Funeral Service

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Chad Poitras, BHHS member

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ABOUT OUR NEWSLETTER

The Buxton-Hollis Historical Society Newsletter is published three times a year, typically in the spring, summer and fall. Its purpose is to inform a network of citizens and institutions of the work of BHHS and to foster an appreciation of the importance of Buxton and Hollis history.

VISIT US ONLINE

Be sure to check out our webpage

(www.buxtonhollishistorical.org) and Facebook page, both managed by our own "Molly Woodman" for event photos and more news than we have room for here.

Additionally, visit www.bhhsnewsletter.weebly.com to see the online version of the BHHS newsletter.

DONATIONS NEEDED!

We have many local resources available for research at our research library and museum due to generous donations over the years. Two things very helpful and interesting to genealogical researchers are needed--**Saco River Telegraph & Telephone phone books before 1965** and **Bonny Eagle High School yearbooks**. If you have either of these items or know of someone who might donate them we would be very glad to accept them for our collection and future use!

A LOOK AT HISTORY



A snow roller, reminding us that winter is coming soon!

Upcoming Events 2019

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 9 A.M.: STROLL THE BEAUTIFUL GOOGINS WOODS NATURE PRESERVE guided by John Mattor, President of the Hollis Conservation Commission. We will gather at 104 Pleasant Hill Rd. in Hollis. Following the walk, a BBQ lunch will be waiting for us in the Burt and Barbara Pease period barn overlooking the beautiful Saco River at 59 Depot St., Bar Mills. Hamburgers, hot dogs and beverages provided. Please bring something to share. R.S.V.P. would be helpful BBQ only 831-9356 **Donations always appreciated to support BHHS capital improvements.*

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 7 P.M.: "THE BARRELS OF HISTORY" – Meet with Matt Albrecht, owner & founder of *River Drive Cooperage and Millwork*, at this 600 Narragansett Trail, Buxton, ME business for an informative and entertaining tour & presentation. Working with companies from all over the world, both large and small and everything in between, *River Drive Cooperage & Millwork* buys, sells, reconditions, repairs, and recycles oak barrels. Discover the story behind wooden barrels and why they're still in use relatively unchanged after thousands of years. Explore and sample, too, the distinct differences in flavor that each wood imparts to the products aged within! *600 Narragansett Trail, Buxton. *Suggested donations \$10; Seniors \$8.*

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 15, 7 P.M.: THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD with *Mark Allen Leslie*, winner of six national magazine writing awards. Hundreds of Maine residents put their lives and fortunes in peril by connecting to the famous Underground Railroad that helped runaway slaves. From Kittery to Fort Fairfield, Mainers conspired to break the law— the *Fugitive Slave Act of 1850*—forming a network of illegal “safe houses,” hiding slaves from slave hunters and scurrying them to Canada. If caught, these Underground Railroad “conductors” and “station managers” faced fines and jail. “Slavery was the one issue that has been able to tear America apart, and that included Mainers”, writes Leslie. In his novel, *True North: Tice's Story*, a Publishers Weekly Featured Book, he weaves a tale of the dangers and differing perspectives of this time in history. Books available for sale and autographing following. *100 Main St. (Rt. 4A), Bar Mills, ME* **Suggested donations \$10; Seniors \$8.*

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 5 P.M.: "BHHS ANNUAL MEETING & POTLUCK DINNER" –

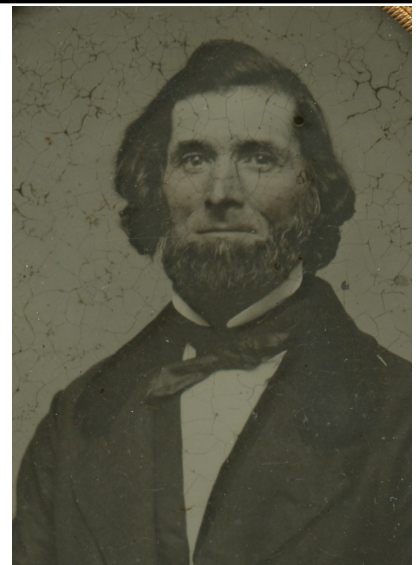
Join our own BHHS Honorary Life Member and speaker of the evening, Robert (Butch) Yarumian III, of *Maine Boundary Consultants of West Buxton*, as he presents his soon to be published informative book co-authored by Ed Churchhill, former Maine State Museum Director, on the ownership of beaches in southern Maine—the title to be announced soon. His presentation will follow a scrumptious pot luck dinner enjoyed by BHHS members and friends, and a short business meeting to elect BHHS officers for 2020. Butch will have copies of his book available for autographing and sale at this talk! Please let us know what you are bringing to contribute to the pot luck! *100 Main St. (Rt. 4A), Bar Mills* **Suggested donations \$10; Seniors \$8.*

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7, 9 A.M.-1 P.M.: BUXTON-HOLLIS HISTORICAL SOCIETY CHRISTMAS OPEN

HOUSE. Visit your Museum Store for unique 2019 holiday shopping gift ideas for that special someone, including a Bar Mills Memorial Bridge tree ornament! While you're there, too, take a peek at our newest major exhibit, *"From Moderation Village to Downtown West Buxton 1840's to 1950's"* AND sample goodies and beverages in the Research Library to sustain your energy during your day's shopping experience! *100 Main St., Bar Mills* **Donations always appreciated!*

The Usher Family

Descendants of the Abijah Usher family of Hollis and Bonny Eagle made a recent visit to the historical society for family research. They brought several interesting family photographs which we scanned. See the above image of Abijah Usher born 1813. He was the grandson of the first Abijah Usher who came from Massachusetts in the



Left to right: Robert Anderson, Iva Usher, Robert Sanborn, Constance Jones

1700's. We were able to fill in some gaps in their family history and provide great photos and information from the 1936 Hollis High yearbook. Also, we had a photo of the senior class on their New York and Washington DC trip in April that year. These annual class trips were a rite of passage and major civics events for both Buxton and Hollis students. Their mother, Consatance Jones, described in her diary the extensive fundraising the class did to fund that bus trip and her careful assembly of her outfit for the trip. The family was especially thrilled to, for the first time, see the image of their mother, Constance Jones, on the trip as they only had the diary description. See the photo excerpt above with her fourth cousin Iva Usher. Yearbooks are a great resource for us. Your historical society has all the Buxton and Hollis High yearbooks, but needs more Bonny Eagle more yearbooks. We have about 30% of them.

Report on the Hollis Pirate Fest

August 10th was a fun family day at the Hollis Sports Complex. The weather was perfect and the Pirates were out in full force. There were fun games, prizes for the young ones and wonderful live music all day for everyone. The BHHS table had many visitors from places near and far. Doris Hicks and Vicki Walker had a great time talking with long-time residents as well as new residents and visitors. The only down side of this year's festival was the lovely breeze which turned into hurricane force winds. Maybe that is a slight exaggeration, but when the canopy began to hover off the ground and all the items on the table began to fly off, it was time to pack up while we still could. We look forward to attending next year's Hollis Pirate Fest and hope to see you there!



BUXTON-HOLLIS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. BOX 34

BUXTON, MAINE 04093-0034

Buxton-Hollis Historical Society Membership Year 2019

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

Today's Date _____

Name(s): _____

Street Address: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Email address: _____

Phone: Home _____

Cell _____

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

Annual Dues Level

_____ Student (\$5)
_____ Individual (\$10)
_____ Family (\$20)
_____ Patron (\$50)
_____ Sustaining (\$100) _____ Other _____
_____ 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

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

THANK YOU!