

President's Message

Dear Members and Friends,
Happy 2019 Spring Equinox! We are delighted to welcome the astronomical first day of spring, also called the March or Vernal Equinox in the Northern Hemisphere, which falls this year on March 20! After the Spring Equinox, our Northern Hemisphere starts to tilt toward the sun as we get longer, sunnier days! Hooray!

This spring 2019, we are busy preparing for our first Research Library Open Hours coming up on **Thursday, April 4th from 4-8 P.M.** We look forward to visiting with you!

During the winter, several volunteers started organizing donated items stored in the portable class room sections of our building. Organizing the storage in the portables is a project that has been on hold since we moved 5 years ago, while we rehabilitated the original portion of the 1912 school building. There is a lot of organizing remaining to be done, so helpers are welcome!



Volunteers Barry Plummer and Betsy Clay prepare for the New West Buxton Exhibit Opening on April 27.

Music, refreshments and a chance to awaken from the winter doldrums is at hand by joining the celebration, as our second major exhibit,

"From Moderation Village to Downtown West Buxton 1840's to

1950's" premieres. Historic photographs and artifacts describe the transition of this Buxton and Hollis village spanning the Saco River as it morphed from farming and lumbering to a commercial and

industrial center. We hope that you will clear your calendars on **Saturday, April 27th** to attend this **OPENING EVENT** at your Buxton-Hollis Historical Society!

We have another year of interesting programming, so be sure to check our event listings and mark your calendar! Happy spring and we look forward to seeing you soon!!

Jan Hill, *President*



Steve Roberts and wife Linda Towle organize and pack treasures into boxes for storage.



(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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Bonnie Larrabee, *Print Communication*

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Robert Yarumian, *Clerk*

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Living History: Memories of a One-Room Schoolhouse *by Susan Kimball*

Shirley Walker still remembers exactly how much she was paid for her first job 81 years ago.

"I got fifty cents a week," she says proudly. "In the winter time I got a whole dollar a week because I had to carry wood and build more fires."

Shirley was just 11-years old and in the 7th grade in 1938 when she was hired as the janitor at the N.C. Watson school, a one- room school house in Chicopee Village.

"My two brothers used to do (the job) and they got a big salary," Shirley says with a laugh.

When her brothers moved on to the local high school she wanted in on that "big" salary. Shirley earned every penny.

"I had to sweep floors, bang erasers, build a fire, carry wood and carry water," she says. "That was the way life was back then."

It was hard work. And she loved every minute of it.

"Yes, I loved it. I could get up from my desk during the day and stoke the fire...I had more freedom (than the other students.)"

She'd wake before sunrise to walk the quarter mile from her home to school. In warm weather, says Shirley, it was "a skip and a jump." But in the dark, blustery cold of winter it must have felt like a long trek to the small clapboard building on Gillette Road.

Shirley would spend about ninety minutes getting things ready for the fifteen or so students who arrived at 8:30. If they showed up before that they had to wait outside.

"There would be kids banging on the window but I wouldn't let them in," she says, laughing.

The N.C. Watson School provided an education for children from first grade through 8th grade. There was just one teacher. The students in each grade rotated to the front of the room when it was their turn for lessons.



Shirley Walker

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2022 Buxton Sestercentennial Planning Has Begun!

Buxton's planning for the Town's "*Sestercentennial*"—that is, it's 250th Celebration of Incorporation is in its initial stages! Interim Chair is Buxton Selectman Chad Poitras.

Organizations, businesses, and individuals in Town are asked to be thinking of ways they may celebrate the event. The committee is looking for individuals and representatives from groups in Buxton to participate and volunteer to help plan a variety of activities—hoping there will be something for everyone!

To tickle your creativity, here are a few ideas from 1972 that the Town and citizens initiated for Bicentennial activities!

A Re-dedication of the *Old Buxton Powder House*—Shown right is (1960-63) Selectman and speaker for the event, Eugene L. Hebert, opening the door to the freshly restored historic building for Chairman of the Powder House event, Charlotte B. Peabody.

It is hoped that many groups in Town will create a float for a **Big Parade!** Here is an example of a float from the 1972 Bicentennial parade! *Can you identify any of the lovely "Miss Maids of Buxton" on the float?* (The sign of the Buxton Bicentennial Seal shown in the photo has been stored by the historical society over the years, and now resides at society headquarters, perhaps just waiting for an opportunity to be rehabilitated and re-purposed!?!)

Daniel Collomy was Chairman of the "*Musket Shoot*" held at the present Hannaford site at the corner of Rt. 202 and Portland Rd.

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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

Funeral Home ☎ Cremation Provider

498 Long Plains Road, Buxton

929-3723

www.maineFuneral.com

Chad Poitras, BHHS member

"A local resident serving locals with dignity and respect"

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 HANDWRITTEN DITTY

One of our volunteers, Linda Towle, came across a little handwritten ditty while going through one of our button collection boxes yesterday:

"A little girl went into the bakery shop. She said to the baker, "My mother found a fly in the raisin bread."

The baker said, "Tell her to bring it back, and I'll give her a raisin!"

Upcoming Events 2019

SATURDAY, APRIL 27, 9 A.M. – 2 P.M.: Please join us for the OPENING of our second major exhibit *“From Moderation Village to Downtown West Buxton 1840’s to 1950’s”*. View historic photographs and artifacts that describe the transition of this Buxton and Hollis village from farming and lumbering to a commercial and industrial center. Music and refreshments. *BHHS, 100 Main St., Bar Mills, ME. *Suggested donations \$10; Seniors \$8.*

TUESDAY, MAY 14, 7 P.M.: *“Early Gravestones in Buxton & Hollis—the Genius of Bartlett Adams”*. In 1800, 24-year-old Bartlett Adams moved to Portland and established the area’s first stone-cutting shop. He supplied hearthstones and mantelpieces to area homes, but his more lasting – and visible – impact can be found in the early cemeteries throughout southern Maine. He and the other carvers in his busy shop produced hundreds of slate and marble gravestones, a nice variety of which survive today in the South Buxton Cemetery and at least a half-dozen other nearby burial grounds. Join cemetery historian and author Ron Romano as he shows images of the artwork and symbolism of the early gravestones found in our towns’ cemeteries and shares the triumphs and tragedies of the region’s first resident stone-cutter. Ron will have copies of his books available for autographing and sale at this talk! *BHHS, 100 Main St., Bar Mills, ME. *Suggested donations \$10; Seniors \$8.*

TUESDAY, JUNE 18, 7 P.M.: *“Add Comfort, Cut Costs and Carbon, Build Community: the Benefits of WindowDressers Interior Storm Windows”* with Miriam Rubin. Simple, attractive, and inexpensive interior storm windows reduce heat loss through those drafty old windows to make your home more cozy, save on your heating bill and reduce your carbon footprint. Nearly 100 homes in our area are already benefiting from the addition of these window inserts, built by local volunteers with support from a Maine non-profit organization, *“The WindowDressers”*. Local insert-building workshops are happening throughout Maine. They are the marriage of an old-fashioned New England barn raising party and a pop-up factory where friends and neighbors come together for a common cause, a productive day, a great meal, and a lot of laughs. No special tools or skills are needed. *WindowDressers* provides all the equipment, materials and training. Learn how you can get inserts for your home and join in this important and uniquely satisfying endeavor. Miriam is a Buxton resident and experienced *WindowDressers* volunteer. *BHHS, 100 Main St., Bar Mills, ME. *Suggested donations \$10; Seniors \$8.*

SATURDAY, JULY 20, 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 (in between house numbers 102 and 106). 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.*

SATURDAY, August 10: BHHS will be participating in *“Dorcas Fest—A Buxton Community Event”* on this day. Along with other local organizations, your historical society will be sponsoring an event this year: tours of the National Register Royal Brewster Mansion from 1–3 P.M. There will be re-enactors on the Helen Bruce Park, a Town-sponsored parade and fireworks sponsored by the *Narragansett Number One Foundation*. Details of these activities and more will be available in our summer newsletter. You will want to be there for these exciting offerings with something for everyone, so be sure to mark your calendar and reserve the day now!

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SATURDAY, AUGUST 10, 10 A.M.: BHHS will participate in the *Hollis Pirate Fest* again this year with our sales and information table. Be sure to mark your calendar now for this exciting community event! More info to follow in our summer newsletter!

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 will be available for sale and autographing following Leslie’s presentation. 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, ME *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 are always appreciated!

**** Please note that suggested donations are used to support on-going capital improvements to our
Buxton-Hollis Historical Society history center building.
THANK-YOU for your support!!!**

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"There was a lot of benefit in that," says Shirley. "I think by the time I got out of 8th grade I could have turned around and taught school. You heard all the other kid's lessons."

The N.C. Watson school was built in 1900 to replace an old brick school building that had deteriorated. It was named after the father of Miss Tabitha Watson, who donated fifty dollars to the Town for its construction provided they'd name the building after her father, Naaman C. Watson.

When Shirley Walker was a student there the building had no electricity and was heated by a giant woodstove. There was no indoor plumbing--just two outhouses attached to the back of the building.

"At lunchtime we'd all walk home and then back to school again," Shirley says.

Shirley's janitorial job ended in 1940 when she left to attend Buxton High School. Today, at age 92, she still has fond memories of the school that launched her education and laid the foundation for a strong work ethic. After graduating from high school, Shirley worked for Sears Roebuck in Boston and then spent forty-five years as the office manager at Saco River Telegraph and Telephone Company.



N.C. Watson School, Groveville Road
(Behind Buxton Centre Baptist Church)

Buxton Center

Open 2nd & 4th Saturdays of each
month, 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

From May–October

Contact: Vicki Walker

Cell: 207-929-3662

EMAIL: VICKIWALKER@SACORIVER.NET

The N.C. Watson School closed in 1942 and was used by the town of Buxton for many years. In 2003, the Buxton Fire Department was planning on burning it down. Lou Emery, past president of the Buxton-Hollis Historical Society, along with Marshall Pease and others, spearheaded the effort to save the building and move it to its current location in Buxton Center. The building is maintained and operated by the Buxton-Hollis Historical Society.

For anyone wishing to take a step back in time, the Historical Society opens the town's only remaining and beautifully preserved one-room school house on the second and fourth Saturdays from May through October and offers tours and educational programs. For more information, call 929-1684.

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Finally, here is a photo of Harold Smith (Right) accepting first prize from Barry Plummer, Master of Ceremonies in *the "Brothers of the Brush Mustache Contest"*, chaired by Sharon L. Elwell, at "Awards and Contest Night". Sharing Master of Ceremony duties was Louis H. Emery (standing background right). *Awards & Contest Night* was held in the S. D. Hanson Gym where we are told there was a big crowd. Among other awards given were those for the *Miss Maid of Buxton Contest*, *Senior Citizens*, *Longest Married Couple*, and *First Baby of the Bicentennial Year*.

Four full days of scheduled activities culminated with a Water Carnival on the Saco River at West Buxton, an unveiling of a plaque at Pleasant Point Cemetery with speaker Rev. David Smith, and in the evening an outdoor Band Concert by Chandler Band of Portland at Weymouth Park.

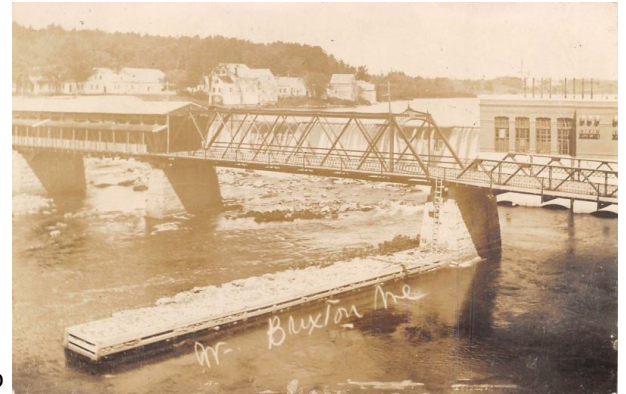
It is fascinating to note all the creative activities listed in the Buxton Bicentennial 1772 - 1972 Souvenir Book and to imagine how much fun citizens had in planning and celebrating the milestone. Buxton citizens are invited to step forward once again to help plan together the up-coming 2022 Sestercentennial! Please contact BHHS member and Selectman Chad Poitras at 929-5191 if you have ideas and/or would like to be part of the fun!



Season Opens with Second Major Exhibit: The Evolution of Moderation Village

As our “All Roads Lead to Bar Mills” Village exhibit at 100 Main Street has been well received, we have decided to leave it up for a while longer and install a new exhibit across the hall. We selected Bar Mills for the first exhibit because of its history and because the village included both of our society’s Towns. Likewise, the village of West Buxton is on both sides of the Saco River, and the exhibit “From Moderation Village to Downtown West Buxton 1840’s to 1950’s” includes both towns in this “Moderation Falls” village.

The story of “Moderation” spans the transition from sawmills to woolen manufacturing to the introduction of electricity to area farms and villages over a 100 years. The downtown generally thrived with industry and diverse retail stores, while occasionally set back by fires, floods and recessions. There were more people in the village in those early years than there are today. Folks were very social and civic minded with their various organizations, including the Odd Fellows, Rebeccas, Masons, Eastern Star, Fire Department, churches, schools, library, Magazine League, West Buxton Social Club, West Buxton Service Club, theater, speakeasy, and baseball team. Please come see their stories. **Exhibit opens April 27, 9-2.**



West Buxton Bridge 1930's.

Note that each Town constructed half the bridge: Hollis built the wooden half and Buxton built the steel half!

Membership Dues

I have recently become membership Chairman for BHHS and noticed that a number of members are not up to date with their dues. We need an effective system for alerting members to their term of membership. In an effort to create such a system and increase membership, I thought a friendly reminder might help, so some of you may have recently received a letter requesting an update of your dues. We have also begun to issue membership cards stating term dates of membership as dues are received.

Our by-laws state that dues shall be based on a calendar year, and payable by April to remain an active member. If a member doesn't pay their dues for two consecutive years, their membership will be terminated at the end of the second year.

Membership dues help to keep us going. This newsletter, for example, is for reaching out to you, our members and friends, spreading an understanding of our organization, and our purpose. BHHS is run by volunteers working together to preserve the early history and late history of our towns of Buxton and Hollis.

Please be patient with us if any letters went out in error. We are closed from November to April and some records may not have been updated. I am confident that, with some time and effort we can catch everyone up with their memberships. Please pass the newsletter along to friends, family or neighbors. We know there are a lot of people who may be interested in our endeavors to preserve our history and may want to become a new member.

A reminder that your membership entitles you to a 10% discount at the Historical Society Museum Store, newsletters 3 times a year, free access to all exhibits, the library for genealogy research, and your membership may be tax deductible.

THANK YOU for your continuing cooperation and support!

Bonnie Larrabee, Membership Chair



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)

Annual Dues Level

Individual (\$10) _____
Family (\$20) _____
Patron (\$50) _____
Sustaining (\$100) _____
Couple (\$500) _____
Other _____
Paid Lifetime _____

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!

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

Cell _____

Phone: Home _____

Email address: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Street Address: _____

Name(s): _____

Today's Date _____