

## Board of Directors' Message

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ear Members and Friends,

In order to give our hard-working President, Jan Hill, a break for the Summer, we, the Board are sending you greetings and wishes for a happy summer.

We are pleased to report a successful grand opening of our second major exhibit, *"From Moderation Village to Downtown West Buxton 1840's to 1950's"*.

It premiered Saturday, April 27th with close to 70 people attending. Everyone enjoyed live music and song provided by the "Billy Billy" duo, along with a wide variety of refreshments. Both exhibits, *"All Roads Lead to Bar Mills"* and *"From Moderation Village to Downtown West Buxton"* are on-going exhibits on the second floor of the Headquarters Building.

Equally enjoyed was the May 14th program, *"Early Gravestones in Buxton & Hollis-the Genius of Bartlett Adams"* by Ron Romano. There was much information that was new to the audience and several people were happy to hear of some of their family headstone histories. Interest was sparked to visit our many resting places in Buxton and Hollis. Of particular interest to Mr. Romano was a stone in the Martin Titcomb Elwell Cemetery on Route 22 in Buxton. It is made of marble, is an eight-sided cylinder shape and rotates to reveal different names on each side. He reported he had never seen anything like it.

We are looking forward to our July 20th walk in Hollis' Googins Woods, led by John Mattor, President of the Hollis Conservation Commission, and the barbecue at the Pease barn that follows. Please check details in the Upcoming Events 2019 section of this newsletter.

Until next time, best wishes, from the Board of Directors



Brent Hill, Barry Plummer, and Beth Plummer



"Billy Billy" duo warming up



Harold Smith at the Post Office exhibit



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

### **BHHS OFFICERS**

Janice Hill, *President*

Barry Plummer, *Vice-President, Buxton*

Nancy Ponzetti, *Vice-President, Hollis*

Vicki Walker, *Secretary*

Betsy Clay, *Treasurer*

### **BOARD MEMBERS 2019**

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Stacey Barnes, *Graphic Design & Composition*

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Bonnie Larrabee, *Print Communication*

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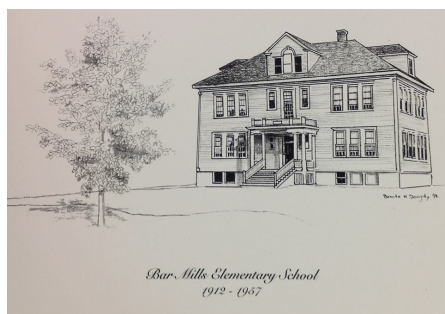
Bette Robicheaw, *Hospitality Co-Chair*

Vicki Walker, *N.C. Watson Chair*

Robert Yarumian, *Clerk*

### **INSIDE THIS ISSUE:**

BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MESSAGE.....	1
N. C. WATSON ONE ROOM.....	2
CLOTHING INDUSTRY OF BUXTON CENTER....	3, 5
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.....	3
UPCOMING EVENTS 2019.....	4
HISTORY OF NOTE.....	5
MEMBERSHIP DUES.....	5
2019 MEMBERSHIP FORM.....	back cover



Bar-Hills Elementary School  
1912 - 1957

# **N.C. Watson One Room Schoolhouse Report**

*by Vicki Walker*

The NC Watson Committee has had a busy spring. With many hands-on deck, our cleaning date on April 15th went quickly thanks to Beth and Barry Plummer, Brent Hill, Susan Kimball and myself, Vicki

Walker. Our outside clean up of pricker bushes, dead trees and fallen branches was all completed in a day, April 4th. A huge Thank You to Big Guy's Landscaping who had a crew of 4 men cutting, chipping and cleaning up as fast as debris hit the ground and all within budget. This new cleared space has inspired Lilly Gaudiano,



one of the Girl Scouts who helped with NC Watson outside work and window



-washing last year, to create some raised beds for vegetables. She and her small crew spent a morning raking and prepping an area to place the raised beds. She is in the process of seeking donations to fill the beds which were donated and put together by Dennis Walker and helper, Scott Ferguson, pictured here with Lilly. The ultimate goal is to raise fresh vegetables

for the Buxton Food Pantry which shares the driveway with the NC Watson School and the Buxton Center Church. This project is a learning experience and opportunity to create a tradition. For those who wish to help or donate please contact Vicki Walker, [vickiwalker@sacoriver.net](mailto:vickiwalker@sacoriver.net) or 207-929-3662.

Also, this spring we invited the May Bean Supper crowd from the Buxton Center Church to visit; the Church has a weekly free luncheon and social time Mondays 11 am to 1 pm. We invited this group, as well, and got to hear stories of folks who had attended one room schools from northern Maine. On June 3rd and 4th, the 3rd grade classes walked down from the Buxton Center Elementary School to have their "lessons" in the school like in olden times. Doris Hicks, a 3rd grade teacher, kept the classes on their toes! On June 3rd in the afternoon, we had a group of 3rd graders from the Portland Christian School visit on a field trip, joined by two families of home-schooled children. The children were interested and it was a valuable experience for all.

We are in the process of developing a program for the general public. Please look for more information as details develop. If you have an interest in one room schools, have an experience to share, and/or wish to volunteer, please contact Vicki Walker, [vickiwalker@sacoriver.net](mailto:vickiwalker@sacoriver.net) or 207-929-3662. Our hours generally are the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of the month from 1p -4pm.



# The Clothing Industry of Buxton Center

*This article is reprinted from the Buxton High School's "The Crescent" and originally written by Ralph Sawyer, class of 1912.*

In the early days the people of Buxton, like the people of all newly settled towns, wore "homespun flax and wool." The wardrobe was scanty for even as late as the General Muster, a son of a prosperous family, having been summoned drill found himself in the afternoon without the required military suit, so mother and two sisters, spun, wove, cut and made, the white trousers for him to wear to training the next morning. Times gradually changed so that while the majority of men wore homespun as late as 1840, still the garments were not made by the mistress of the house, but by a tailor or tailoress, who came to the house annually, staying several days; or by a tailor who did the work at his own home.

One of the best known of these tailors was Mr. Stephen Hanson of, what was then Elden's Corner, now Buxton Center.

About 1805 or 1810 Mr. Samuel Hanson, son of Stephen Hanson, went to Boston, where he was employed by George W. Simmons. When he came home on a vacation he brought with him two dozen coats for his mother and sister to make. These coats were of a thin alpaca-like material in a small brown and white, and blue and white plaid, were cut away at the front and were piped with brown or blue. The work was so well done that after Mr. Hanson went back to Boston other packages of coats were sent to the little shop in Buxton. It was not long before the bundles increased in size so that it was thought wise to give work to some of the neighbors. Several girls had already learned the trade at Mr. Hanson's shop before work came from Boston and now others came and worked a month to fit themselves to carry work home.

At the time there was no P. and R. railroad, so all goods were sent to what is known as the Eastern station in Saco and were brought from that place in a team by Mr. Charles Hanson. Many of the older citizens remember the regularity with which this team made its trips and the long row of horses hitched before the tailor's little shop waiting for it to arrive and distribute its load.

(continued on page 5)

## 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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498 Long Plains Road, Buxton

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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](http://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](http://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!

## TID-BIT



Reported by Brent Hill,  
"We now have over 600 image scans in our digital archive. They include a little of everything Buxton and Hollis, but with concentrations on Bar Mills and West Buxton for our two exhibits."

# Upcoming Events 2019

**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. 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, 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!

**SATURDAY, August 10: "Dorcas Fest—A Buxton Community Event"** – Regrettably, due to unforeseen circumstances, **the BHHS tour of the Brewster Mansion has been cancelled**; we extend our sincere apologies to those who were already looking forward to this much anticipated event. Please note, however, that, at this point, all other Dorcas Society activities are still planned to take place, so please keep this date on your calendar and enjoy the festivities.

**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, 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 always appreciated!*

*(continued from page 3)*

Very soon the dividing of packages of work into small bundles of two or four coats and the distributing of work took so much time, that it left no time for the family to sew; it was also found that alterations were sometimes necessary on the work let out, so it was thought best for Mr. Samuel Hanson return to Buxton Center and to move the business from the little shop to the brick store so long known under the name of "Hanson and Company." This occurred in 1843. The store at the time was a square brick building; the wooden parts having been added at two different times as the business increased.

At first the lower floor was used for the distribution of the work and another member of the family, Mr. Ansel Hanson, moved his grocery business from a small store on the opposite side of the street into a new one. The upper floor was occupied by a few workmen.

There were no sewing machines, for the Elias Howe, the first double thread machine, was not in use until 1848, so all work was done by hand; edges, collars, and pipings were all finely backstitched. So even were these stitches that when today we occasionally find a stray garment, we marvel at the beautiful workmanship.

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## History of Note

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Recently discovered in Buxton Hollis Historical Society's first newsletter of 1970, the following article concerns the front entrance of our current Headquarters at 100 Main Street, Bar Mills. This is one of the earliest actions successfully taken by the BHHS. Forty-nine years later we are still reaping the rewards of this action!

### **"Entrance to Bar Mills Building Preserved"**

During the summer of 1970, it was proposed by the architects who were working on remodeling the old Bar Mills Schoolhouse, which now houses the administrative offices of S.A.D. #6, to remove the porch entrance. Members of the Society's Board of Directors took immediate action and asked school directors to attempt to restore this porch as it was originally. Largely through the efforts of our vice-president, Philip Berry who serves as a member of the S.A.D. #6 Board of Directors and on its maintenance committee, school officials decided to retain the entrance as it has been for so many years. The remodeling work of the exterior has been completed and a nice job has been done of restoration and preservation of one of our old schoolhouses."

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## Membership Dues Update

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Great strides have been made toward updating BHHS's membership. Since the previous newsletter went out, I have dug deeper into our list and mailed letters to those we have not heard from for several years. Responses have started coming in.

As mentioned, many times, your membership is very important to us, if we are going to succeed as an organization, in preserving our history. With your continued membership and the support of our volunteers we can keep rolling through history, as everyday something new happens and history is made.

Our goal is to preserve our history and have the means to share it with all. Please share this newsletter with your relatives or neighbors. We are always welcoming new members.

**Bonnie M.J. Larrabee, *Membership Chair***

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# 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 [www.buxtonhollishistorical.org](http://www.buxtonhollishistorical.org).

**THANK YOU!**