

President's Message

Dear BHHS Family and Friends,

What a year 2020 was! As you know, our 2020 schedule to celebrate the historical society's 50th Year

Anniversary in style with programming of great historically significant topics, including the celebration of Maine's 100th Anniversary of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution and the roll of women's suffrage in Maine, along with our celebration of local ties to Maine statehood, had to be postponed!

With the roll out of the COVID-19 vaccine ongoing and 2021 group gatherings still in question, we are thinking we may need to investigate the potential of filming and making available informative programming in other venues. So we will let you know what we come up with in our spring newsletter!



In the meantime, your research library and museum will remain closed, except by special appointment, to research family genealogies and to check out museum displays. So please contact us if you would like to arrange a visit. Volunteers continue to work on various projects from accessioning donated items, researching email and phone inquiries, scanning photos, and on-going building projects.



In other news, we are delighted and grateful to have received donations from the Town of Buxton of: 1) artifacts and display cases from the Pleasant Point Archaeological Dig and; 2) an extensive genealogical book collection! So, as our curator said, "If you need to back track your anglo roots, we now have some references from across the pond as well!"

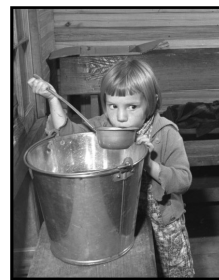
Plans are afoot to integrate and relocate this wealth of new genealogy resources into our existing collection. Our Librarian, Nancy Pierce, would welcome any volunteers out there with library experience to assist!

As we hunker down these cold winter days, please stay safe, and join us as we dedicate our energy to new challenges, new projects, and new growth in 2021!

Stay safe, warm, and well!

Jan Hill, *President*

Maine's Schools and Epidemics



Girl drinks from communal schoolhouse bucket and dipper (left) similar to the set on display (right) at the society's N. C. Watson One Room School at Buxton Center.

Maine has had to deal with epidemics before. In the early 1900s, tuberculosis and other diseases stalked the land. At the time the common practice in Maine rural one room schools was to have the teacher or a student bring a pail of water for the day's drinking. Everyone used the water with a common drinking dipper and thought nothing about it.

In 1908, the Technical World Magazine published "Death in School Drinking Cups". The article was widely distributed by the Massachusetts State Board of Health the next year. Sharing the dipper was very unsanitary and it became a great concern to educators.

In 1907, Lawrence Luellan of Boston invented the paper cup. It was patented in 1912. By 1919 the company that was selling them changed the name to *Dixie Cup*. It became very popular as a safeguard against disease. Kansas was the first state to ban the common dipper in public places in 1909 and many states followed later. (Continued p. 2)

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE	1
SCHOOLS AND EPIDEMICS	1
ABOLITIONIST FRANCIS HARPER IN MAINE	2
LOCAL HISTORY IS IMPORTANT	3
Volunteers Welcome	4
OUR GRATITUDE	4
STEAMBOAT BUILT IN HOLLIS	4
CAN YOU HELP?	4
A GENTLE REMINDER	5
NEW EARLY FAMILIES OF BUXTON BOOK	6
CABBAGE SOUP RECIPE	6
BHHS MARKS 50 YEARS	7
2021 MEMBERSHIP FORM	Back Cover

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WELCOME to **Alison Jones**, our new

2021 *Student Representative from Hollis!*

If YOU are thinking you might like to

volunteer for the Membership position, help in the library, or hear more about how you can help, please

contact Jan at 831-9356.



(Maine's School Pandemics, Continued from p. 1)

From 1854 to 1913 the Maine Department of Education was basically a one person operation, so it did not make rules about school operation. The Maine Legislature had to pass a law to outlaw the common dipper and bring in the paper cup as a much needed school reform.

By 1922 the legislature also passed a second great school reform of the early part of the century. It required attached, well ventilated toilets (outhouses or privies) for rural schools. The Watson School was modified by attaching the toilets to the back of the school, although today we have restored the building to its earlier configuration.

Many Schools did not buy paper cups. Frugal Mainers often made their own cups from a sheet of paper. (See the link below to learn how to make your own: <https://www.wikihow.com/Fold-a-Cup-from-a-Sheet-of-Paper>)

"Francis Harper, An Abolitionist in Maine 1854" Book Review by Sue Schaller

A few years ago, friends loaned me Colin Whitehead's newly published novel, *The Underground Railroad*. This piqued my curiosity and the BHHS subsequently enjoyed the October 2019 Mark Allen Leslie program on the Underground Railroad in Maine. More recently, I've read the 801 pages of William Still's reissued volume, *Underground Railroad*, which is a compendium of letters, accounts and documentation of the time.

The reward for persistence was to discover references to Buxton in the last twenty pages. In the end of the volume were profiles of abolitionists and key figures in the UGRR. Here is my summary of one which recounted lectures in Maine by Frances Harper.

Frances Ellen Watkins Harper was born in Baltimore in 1825, a free black woman. [ed: There is no note of her being married, but Missus was sometimes conveyed as courtesy title – recall that the unmarried Mrs. Hughes on Downton Abbey was called Missus to connote the respect of her station.] Little is said about her childhood, but as an adult, she was noted to be an educated and Christian, woman, Mrs. Harper left Maryland for Ohio, a free state, to teach. After a year or so, not finding Ohio to her liking, she moved on to New York, where she became engrossed in helping the anti-slavery cause. Harper subsequently relocated to Philadelphia and became a lecturer. She began her time on the lecture circuit by visiting Boston and New Bedford, which was a prosperous port noted as the 'hot bed of fugitives' in Massachusetts where by invitation she addressed a public meeting on the subject of Elevation and Education of the Colored Race. Excerpts from Still's history describe her work below.

(Still, p. 783) After spending some weeks in Philadelphia, she concluded to visit Boston. Here she was treated with the kindness characteristic of the friends in the Anti-Slavery Office whom she visited, but only made a

(Continued p. 3)



Frances Ellen Watkins Harper—abolitionist, suffragist, poet, teacher, public speaker, and writer

Francis Harper, An Abolitionist (Continued from p. 2)
brief stay, after which she proceeded to New Bedford, the 'hot-bed of the fugitives' in Massachusetts where by invitation she addressed a public meeting on the subject of Elevation and Education of the Colored Race.

She described her experience: "Well, I am out lecturing. I have lectured every night this week besides addressed a Sunday-school, and I shall speak, if nothing prevents, to-night. My lectures have met with success. Last night I lectured in a white church in Providence. Me Gardener was present, and made the estimate of about six hundred persons. Never, perhaps, was a speaker, old or young, favored with a more attentive audience.... My voice is not wanting in strength, as I am aware of, to reach pretty well over the house. The church was the Roger Williams; the pastor, a Mr. Furnell, who appeared to be akin and Christian man.... My maiden lecture was Monday night in New Bedford on the Elevation and Education of our People. Perhaps as intellectual a place as any I was ever at of its size."

Having thus won her way to a favorable position as a lecturer, the following month she was engaged by the Anti-Slavery Society of Maine, with what success appears from one of her letters bearing date - Buckstown Centre, Sept. 28, 1854.

"The agent of the State Anti-Slavery Society of Maine travels with me, and she is a pleasant, dear, sweet lady. I do like her so. We travel together, eat together, and sleep together. [She is a white woman.] In fact I have not been in one colored person's house since I left Massachusetts but I have a pleasant time. What a difference between this and York! ... I have met with some of the kindest treatment up here that I have ever received. I have lectured three times this week. After I went from Limerick, I went to Springvale; there I spoke on Sunday night at and Anti-Slavery meeting. Some of the people are Anti-Slavery, Anti-rum and Anti-Catholic and if you could see our Maine ladies, --- some of them among them are among the noblest types of womanhood you have ever seen! They are for putting men of Anti-Slavery principles in office, ... to cleanse the corrupt fountains of our government by sending me to Congress who will plead for out down-trodden and oppressed brethren, our crushed and helpless sisters, whose tears and blood bedew our soil, whose chains are clanking 'neath our proudest banners, whose cries and groans amid our loudest paeans rise.'

Still's narrative of Ms. Harper continues: "Having read the narrative of Solomon Northrup [12 Years a Slave}, she was led to embrace the Free Labor doctrine most thoroughly" and spoke on Free Produce - produce farmed by free people of color. Still (Continued p. 5)

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Local History Is Important...

Local History is important because we either learn from it or we repeat it! Buxton and Hollis have the distinction of strongly supporting anti-slavery efforts and the Union cause in the Civil War.

We remember our local Civil War heroes and heroines—people like Rebecca Usher, a Civil War nurse from Usher Mill Road in Hollis, Captain Joseph F. Warren of Hollis and Buxton, and Major John D. Hill of Buxton who sacrificed for and served "a just cause". We need to remember the



Deputy Sherriff holding a Klu Klux Klan robe and hood found in Hollis in 1963

darker side of our natures so we do not take that path again. The Klu Klux Klan existed in our two communities promoting anti-immigrant and anti-Catholic ideas. By 1924, Maine Klan membership was 50,000 and it was a potent political force.

Road names in Buxton were not officially standardized until the Egri system was established after 1986. In the 1950s Buxton, the town still used "Nigger City Road" for a town road that had just one black family on it. The name was casually accepted. Today, historical societies and the Maine Archives and Museum (MAM) organization are speaking out against racism. If you are interested in online workshops, MAM has two different ones on February 24 and March 24. See <https://www.mainemuseums.org/>

Volunteers Welcome

If we have interested volunteers, I can find a few projects! In particular an interesting box of broken crockery that came out of the walls of the former Temm property on Rt. 202 by the barrel shop.

There are sewing projects as well. We work a few hours, one afternoon a week, masked, well spaced, and warmly dressed (since the heat takes time to come up). Feel free to email me or call my cell at 251-5491.

Cheers,

Sue Schaller

STEAMBOAT BUILT IN HOLLIS

The Saco River at Bar Mills (Buxton side) looks just like this today except for the sternwheeler steamboat, Enterprise, built in Hollis, at the landing. The year is about 1867. Her Captain in 1870 was Henry Rideout of West Buxton. She primarily carried lumber from West Buxton sawmills and at times up to 400 passengers for excursions.

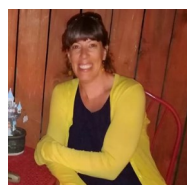


We have not yet discovered the location of the shipyard somewhere between the West Buxton and Bar Mills dams.

There was also a later steamboat named Minnie-Ha-Ha captained by James Towle of Bar Mills in 1880. The railroad bridge with the pier (at left) was built between 1865 and 1868 at a cost of \$9,000.

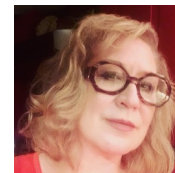
The railroad operations ended in 1961 when the rails were removed and the steel railroad bridge was taken down. The late 1860s granite piers remain today in the river.

Our Gratitude



Our GRATITUDE to Stacey Barnes for her several years of creative, timely, and wonderful graphic design of our BHHS newsletter and program flyers! We will miss her as she moves along to new adventures. Go Stacey!

And a big WELCOME to our new *Graphic Design and Composition Chair*, Mary MacLeod-Jones, who so graciously volunteered to step into the position. We are so very delighted to have you on board, Mary!



CAN YOU HELP?

As we rehabilitate rooms upstairs at the historical society, it appears we have space for an additional exhibit about our river villages of Salmon Falls, Union Falls, and perhaps Bonny Eagle. **If you have images or small artifacts that are helpful in showing their history we would like to scan a copy, have a donation, or borrow items.**

Please consider helping with this most interesting project. (See sketch of Salmon Falls Village below by artist Gibeon Bradbury about 1863)



Frances Harper, (Continued from pg. 3)

continues: "After Still having thus alluded to free labor, she gave a short journal of the different places where she had recently lectured from the 5th of September to the 2th of October, which we mention here simply to shoe the perseverance which characterized her as an advocate of her enslaved race, and at the same time show how doors everywhere opened to her: Portland, Monmouth Centre, North Berwick, Limerick (two meetings), Springvale, Portsmouth, Elliott, Waterborough (spoke four times), Lyman, Saccarappo, Moderation, Steep Falls (twice), North Buxton, Goram, Gardner, Litchfield, twice, Monmouth Ridge twice, Monmouth Center three times, Litchfield second time, West Waterville twice, Livermore Temple. Her ability and labors were everywhere appreciated, and her meetings largely attended. In a subsequent letter referring to the manner that she was received, she wrote, 'A short while ago when I was down this way I took breakfast with the then Governor of Maine.'

Other notes at the end of the volume describe Mrs. Watkin's success as a speaker: (Still, p 795)
 "Without a moment's hesitation she started off in the flow of her discourse, which rolled smoothly and uninterruptedly on for nearly two hours. It was very apparent that it was not a cut and dried speech, for she was as fluent and as felicitous in her allusions to circumstances immediately around her as she was when she rose to a more exalted pitch of laudation of the 'Union', or of execration of the old slavery system. Her voice was remarkable – as sweet as any woman's voice we ever heard, and so clear and distinct as to pass every syllable to the most distant ear in the house".

Without any effort at attentive listening we followed the speaker to the end, not discerning a single grammatical inaccuracy of speech, or the slightest violation of good taste in manner or slightest violation of good taste in manner or matter. At times the current of thoughts flowed in eloquent and poetic expression, and often her quaint humor would expose the ivory in half a thousand mouths. We confess that we began to wonder, and we asked a fine-looking man before us, 'What is her color? Is she dark or light?' He answered, 'She is mulatto; what

they call a red mulatto." The 'red' was new to us. Our neighbor asked, 'How do you like her?' We replied, 'She is giving your people the best kind and the very wisest of advice.' He rejoined, 'I wish I had her education,' To which we added, 'That's just what she tells you is your great duty and your need, and if you are too old to get it yourselves, you must give it to your children.'"

**** Notes on the Anti-Slavery movement, and the lecture circuit visits of Mrs. Frances Ellen Watkins Harper. Source: Underground Railroad, a record of facts, authentic narrative and letters, by William Still, originally published 1878, reissued 2015 by African Tree Press, Clifton, NJ.**

"A Gentle Reminder..."

Even though we have been closed because of the Covid-19 pandemic, the business aspects of the historical society have continued, along with our normal operating expenses. We are gladly accepting your membership dues by mail. (If you are already up to date, *we thank-you!*)

YOUR CONTINUING SUPORT IS

GREATLY APPRECIATED!

**** And Please Note:**

For those of you who receive your newsletter by U.S mail and are wondering what the number is on your address label to the right of your name —

It indicates the year through which our records show your dues have been paid!

THANK YOU!

New “Early Families of Buxton” Book in the Works

The historical society has been approached by Fred Boyle of Sanford for assistance to assemble genealogy of the *Early Families of Buxton (1790 to 1900)* for one in a series of genealogies he has done on early families of Sanford-Springvale, Alfred, Lyman, Waterboro, and Shapleigh-Acton. (We hoped he could include Hollis, but he feels that since Hollis families are included in some of his other books and the hardcover Buxton book will run to about 100 Buxton families and 640 pages, it would not be possible.) A target publishing date is fall 2022. We think this will be a great resource for us.

Please let us know if you have birth, death, marriage, and family group information of Buxton families starting in 1790 that you would like to share. Corrections from some published information would be very helpful.



William Fogg of Buxton
by artist Gibeon Bradbury

Cabbage Soup

From the West Hollis Sunshine Club, Recipes from 1914 - 1984

This recipe is from the cookbook produced by the West Hollis Sunshine Club. The recipes are from 1914 - 1984. Although we do not know when the recipe was created, it sounds both easy and delicious. Of course, one can always add extra ingredients to jazz it up....



Cabbage Soup

1 lb. beef or stew meat
1 large head cabbage, coarsely shredded
1 large (29 oz.) can tomatoes
juice of 1 lemon
1/2 tsp. pepper
1 tsp. paprika
3 Tbsp. sugar

Cut meat very thin. Add all ingredients except lemon juice and sugar, with enough boiling water to cover all. Simmer for about 2 hours, then caramelize sugar in a heavy pan over low heat and add to soup with the juice of 1 lemon. Cook for about 20 minutes more and serve with crusty French bread or Italian bread. Season to taste. Can substitute 3 1/2 cups fresh tomatoes for canned.

Recipe submitted by Ellie Perseille



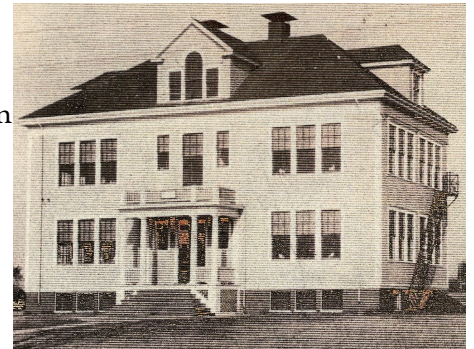
Buxton-Hollis Historical Society Officers
 Seated: Mrs. Florence E. Lane, Treasurer; Miss Margaret H. Jase, President; Mrs. Glenna M. Morrison, Secretary. Standing: Dr. Lucian H. Scammon, 1st Vice President; Mr. Philip P. Berry, 2nd Vice President.

BHHS Marks 50 Years

2020 marked the **50th Anniversary** of the Buxton-Hollis Historical Society. It's organizational meeting was held on May 27, 1970. The society had very busy early years as it prepared for the Buxton Bi-centennial in 1972. The photo on the left shows the first officers.

One of the society's first efforts was to successfully advocate for an

appropriate rebuild of the front steps of 100 Main Street, at the time MSAD 6 headquarters, and formally the Bar Mills Elementary School, eventually becoming the home of the historical society. The replacement steps were not exactly like the original ones (shown in the photo to the right), but are in keeping with the 1912 building.



In March 1971, the society campaigned for two Buxton warrant articles. The first was for the town to accept the Elden Store building from MSAD 6. The district had been using the former store and agricultural education building for storage. The article passed allowing the society and town to renovate the upstairs as a meeting room for the society. The society planned to renovate the first floor for a museum, but that never happened. The town had an opportunity to have a local doctor. With an expenditure of \$17,000, the town established a doctor's office downstairs for a time, then the Police Department, and finally Emergency Management before its current use as a food pantry.

The historical society moved from Elden Store to the Old Town Hall in 1995, then Moderation Center in 2007, and finally to 100 Main St., Bar Mills in 2013.



The second warrant article in 1971 was for the town to accept the "Pleasant Point Reservation" from the State. That article fortunately also passed, so now we have Pleasant Point Park with the monument to which the Society contributed, recognizing the town's earliest burials there. The first settlers only had field stones to mark their burials.

The society has had a number of dedicated officers over the years and has remained active, evolving to not only preserving artifacts, buildings, documents, and places, but also providing more opportunities for historical and architectural education.

THANK YOU! Your support preserves
the PAST for OUR FUTURE!

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☐ U.S. Mail

Today's Date: _____
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Membership Year 2021
*Please note that our membership year runs from January 1 through December 31.
(Please Print Clearly)

Buxton-Hollis Historical Society

BUXTON-HOLLIS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Questions? Please call (207) 929-1684 to leave a
message OR visit www.buxtonhollishistorical.org