

President's Message

Dear BHHS Family and Friends,

We in Maine and the U.S. live in a Republic and for our form of government to survive, citizens must be aware of and willing to **accept personal responsibility for *behavior that does not harm others***. Freedom can only be maintained if citizens accept that responsibility. I remember telling our oldest child, a 12 year old at the time, after he complained we were not giving him enough freedom, that we would relax our strict control when he demonstrated that he could make consistent responsible choices. It didn't take him long to get the message that he could earn more freedom and maintain that freedom by being more responsible. It seems to me that, like our then 12 year old, many today are so focused on "freedom" that they ignore the "responsibility" that naturally accompanies it.

The Board of the Historical Society has been taking the COVID-19 pandemic very seriously. We are doing our best to responsibly follow the directions of our governor and state health leaders, all of whom we can be very proud, as they strive to help us save lives by limiting the scope of this very contagious disease through **simple responsible steps of wearing masks to protect others, washing hands frequently, limiting gatherings to under 10 people, and maintaining at least 6' distance from others.**

- ♦ In an effort not harm ourselves and others, BHHS will remain closed to the public this fall, except by **SPECIAL APPOINTMENT ONLY** to a limited number of visitors. A small number of volunteers may meet to accomplish special projects, following recommended pandemic procedures.
- ♦ Masks will be worn and hand sanitizer will be used by all volunteers while visitors are in the building, and both are required by visitors to protect other visitors and museum staff.
- ♦ Visitors must verify that they do not feel sick, are not caring for someone who is sick and have not been exposed to anyone who tested positive for COVID-19 in the past two weeks.
- ♦ Museum volunteers will collect information from visitors in order to assist with contact tracing should volunteers or visitors test positive for COVID-19.
- ♦ If any volunteers or visitors test positive for the disease the society library and museum will discontinue the limited visitor policy until the situation is resolved.
- ♦ Appointments should be scheduled 1 week in advance. To schedule an appointment, email bhhs@buxtonhollishistorical.org or leave a message at (207) 929-1684 or call (207) 929-8895.



Please **STAY SAFE** and **THANK YOU** for helping others to **BE SAFE** through your responsible choices. We are all in this together!

Be Safe and Well,

Jan Hill, President

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 Vicki Walker, *Secretary*
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We will miss *Bonnie Larrabee* as our Membership and Print Communication Chair. A BIG THANK YOU to Bonnie for a doing great job! If YOU are thinking you might like to volunteer for the position or hear more about what it involves, please contact Jan at 831-9356.



Suffrage in Maine

2020 marks the 100th anniversary of the 19th amendment to the U. S. constitution which states:
"The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex."

This simple change was a long time coming. Suffrage was one of the three parts of the progressive movement. The other two were temperance and abolition of slavery which were both addressed before suffrage.

The Women's Rights Convention was first held in Seneca Falls, New York in 1848. Its resulting declaration pointedly started like the Declaration of Independence, but with a difference.

"We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men and women are created equal, ..."

Maine women started organizing for the vote in the 1850s. In 1857, the same year as the Dred Scott decision on fugitive slaves, Bangor women petitioned the legislature for a Maine constitutional amendment, but the legislature ignored their petition. Also that year national leader Susan B. Anthony spoke in Bangor and Ellsworth at rallies organized by Ann Greely of Ellsworth. By 1865 women factory workers were marching for suffrage in the Lewiston independence day parade. The Maine Woman Suffrage Association was founded in Augusta in 1873, but the legislature voted down their petition that year and many other times. It was not until 1917 that the Maine legislature would pass a Maine

constitutional amendment for suffrage, but it was voted down 36,713 to 19,428 in statewide referendum that fall. At that point Maine women turned their efforts to a national amendment, led by people such as Gail Laughlin, the first woman to practice law in Maine and the Vice President of the National Woman's Party.

The national constitutional amendment passed and in 1919, Governor Carl Milliken called a special session of the legislature to ratify the 19th amendment. It passed there by only 72 to 68. Finally, in August 1920, Tennessee, the necessary 36th state, ratified the amendment and it became the law of the land.



Gov. Carl Milliken signs Maine's ratification of the 19th Amendment in November 1919. From right to left: Florence Whitehouse, Grace Hill, Mabel Connor, Katherine Reed Balentine, Gertrude Pattangall and Anne Gannett.

N.C. Watson One Room Schoolhouse Report

by Vicki Walker

Summer 2020, the year N.C. Watson Schoolhouse saw its second flu pandemic. Even though the Schoolhouse wasn't open to the public our Scouting volunteers have been busy. Lilly Guadiano is harvesting her second-year garden behind the school. Here is a report from Lilly:

"The garden has been doing very well this summer despite the lack of rain. This year's addition of two new garden beds has allowed me to deliver many bags of vegetables to the food pantry every Friday, and I have even brought vegetables to another food pantry during the week because there have been so many. Thank you to all the people who have donated and helped me continue to expand the garden and reach more people, it wouldn't be possible without the help of the community!"

The pictures don't do the garden justice. There are carrots, beets, onions and tomatoes still going strong.

Sam Kovac, project manager for his Eagle Scout Project, has done a lovely job of creating a natural looking path from the rear of the property. It joins the path from the Buxton Elementary School to the wheelchair ramp at the back of the School. There were several Scouts who participated and all their work is appreciated.

Hopefully, next spring we will be able to begin a new schedule for visitation as well as become more of a resource for area public and private schools. Be safe, everyone.



The BHHS newsletter is proudly sponsored by

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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; in 2020, only spring and fall issues have been published. 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.

ONLINE RESOURCES

With Covid-19 limiting personal contact we encourage our members and the public to use our online resources as much as is practical.

They are:

Our web page at <https://buxtonhollishistorical.org>

It includes information about our other resources and services including links to our video programs at

<https://buxtonhollishistorical.org/onlineResources/videoHistoryLinks.html>

as well as inquiry contact forms.

Facebook at Buxton Hollis Historical Society

Telephone messages at 207-929-1684

A LOOK AT HISTORY

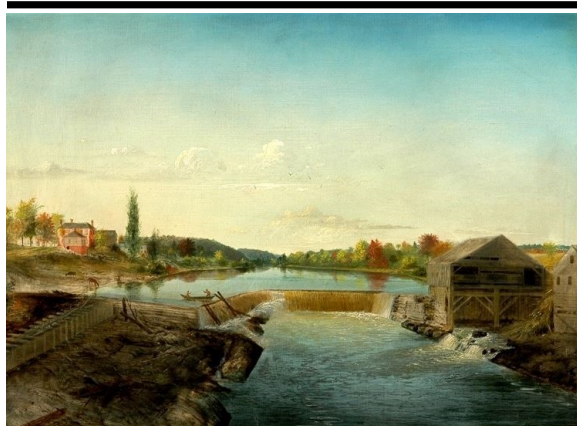


Women's suffrage movement sheds light on the power of voting.

Annual Meeting—Thursday, November 5, 6 p.m.

Our bylaws require an annual meeting to elect officers. Due to the pandemic we will hold a short Zoom business meeting this year without our usual program or dinner. We have a free account that limits us to 100 participants for a 40 minute duration. Please contact the society at 929-1684 (answering machine), 929-8895 (Jan Hill), Facebook, or our web site to make a necessary reservation. You need a smartphone or internet PC connection with a free Zoom application installed and email. Let us know if you need technical assistance. When you provide your email address we will send you a meeting link. Please sign on between 5:50 and 6 PM so we can start the approximately 30 minute meeting at 6 o'clock. See you at the meeting!

Gibeon Elden Bradbury Art Exhibit



The Saco Museum, 371 Main Street, Saco has an exhibit that opened this summer on Gibeon Elden Bradbury (1833-1904), artist of the Saco Valley. It includes 80 of his paintings, studies and sketches. He was a lifelong resident of the Salmon Falls Road, Buxton side. Our members who have seen the exhibit highly recommend it. The museum is open Tues. to Thurs. noon to 4, Friday noon to 8 and Saturday 10-4. The exhibit runs to the end of December.

This is a Gibeon Elden Bradbury painting of the Salmon Falls Dam on the Saco River painted from the old bridge. The Buxton side sawmills are on the right. The Moses Dunn house in Hollis is on the left.

Local Ties to Maine Statehood

The journey to Maine statehood would not make a good movie because it too so long and there were so many issues and people in different roles. It took about 35 years of effort to bring about a final Maine vote in 1819 and then passage of the Missouri Compromise to achieve statehood in 1820. Locally, Buxton voted 365 to 11 for statehood. The vote was similarly lopsided in Hollis although the statewide totals were 17,091 to 7,132.

There were many issues pushing for statehood. One was that there was resentment that Massachusetts had taken over Maine and treated it like its colony. Others thought Maine was larger and had much more potential with its long coastline and timber resources. The rise of the Democrat-Republican party in Maine while Massachusetts was still dominated by the Federalist party was very significant, but the key catalyst for separation was the War of 1812. The Federalist government in Boston was better funded than the U.S government, but made no effort to protect Maine. The British occupied Castine and all of eastern Maine until several years after the war. They also raided the southern coast. In response, Buxton, Hollis and other towns built powder houses for their militias which were called out for British ship sightings. The powder houses contained gunpowder, musket balls, camp kettles and other military equipment. The Hollis powder house was built in a field off the Dennett road which used to go through toward Hollis Center. The Buxton powder house was built in a large field off Long Plains road near Buxton Center. It still remains as only one of three to survive in the state. It is open to the public via a heavily wooded path from Long Plains Road. Take a short walk to see our visible tie to statehood. The image is from about 1920.



Hopefully, virus permitting, next year the historical society will have the expanded version of this story as an in person program with more about the people and passions of the events.

Blanche Dean

Blanche Partridge Dean (1881-1975) shown in her Buxton Town Clerk home office at Dearborn Hill in 1941. Blanche Dean was the first woman in Maine elected to public office in March 1921 after women were first allowed to vote in September 1920. She had been doing much of the town clerk job as the assistant clerk while her husband, Charles, and father-in-law, Supply Dean, were in the office before her. Town records as early as 1914 are in her handwriting. She was elected Buxton Town Clerk for 1921-1927 and 1934-1951. In 1958 she was elected to the Maine Legislature.



Her early years were spent on a River Road farm. She helped with haying and each Monday in the summer a fish monger from Portland would deliver lobsters for the family. The lobsters were 6 for 25 cents! Her Partridge parents moved the family to Buxton Center in 1888 so the children could go to Buxton's first high school there which opened that September. She was a 1897 graduate of Buxton High School at age 16. After high school, she taught in Buxton and Baldwin grammar schools until marriage in 1901.

Membership Notes

COVID-19 has strained finances for many of us. The historical society will not be able to have a major fundraiser this year. Also we have had no donations at meetings, the library or the museum while we have been closed. We anticipate very few sales from our store this year. That leaves our income dependent on continued flat Buxton and Hollis town support and your memberships. We have sufficient reserves to ride out this crisis, but your membership support is more important than ever before. Please keep your membership current and if able think about volunteering for some of our work as we are able to do it safely.

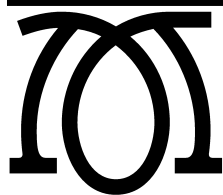
We are less visible this year, but are remaining active to support the many historical inquiries we get from Facebook, our web site, email and on the answering machine. We are also continuing with reduced volunteer work for accessioning donated items, scanning images (about 1,000 now), converting old VHS programs to digital format and renovating our dry basement space for archiving and workspace. We have continued to receive and catalog donations. We will add content to our newsletter and move more services to digital access, but we look forward to putting on programs and seeing you in person as soon as we are able.

A History of Hollis, Maine 1660-1976

by Martin Jewett and Olive Hannaford

Through the generosity of the Martin Jewett family the historical society was given over 150 copies of our most important book of Hollis history. This 211 page hardcover book covers the history of the town, its early deeds, the founding families, genealogies, early homes, industry and civic organizations. It has been a long time since we have had copies of this seminal book to sell. Please contact us at our web page or 929-1684 to reserve your copy for \$40. We also sell the complimentary Hollis Bi-Centennial book for \$20. BHHS members receive a 10% discount.

Enigma Puzzle Content Winner Announced



Meghann Ridley placed first in the “Enigma Puzzle” contest. Meghann is a speech-language pathologist, executive function coach, and founder of Learning Beyond Limits in Falmouth. Learning Beyond Limits provides in-person and online support to students and their families across Maine. Individualized sessions target the communication and organizational skills needed for independence in school and life. For more information on the strategies and tools that Learning Beyond Limits provides to students please visit www.learningbeyondlimits.com.

Congratulations, Meghann! She has won a pair of engraved Buxton-Hollis Historical Society coffee mugs. Thanks to everyone for your participation!



Meghann Ridley, M.S., CCC/SLP

Indian Apple Baked Dish:

An Indian Pudding with Apples

1. Scald 3 cups of milk and sift in 1/2 cup of cornmeal.
2. Stir rapidly and simmer for 5 minutes.
3. Remove from the heat and add:
 - 1 tsp cinnamon
 - 1 tsp salt
 - 1 1/2 cups brown sugar (see note below)
 - 2 cups of cold milk
 - 2 Tbsp melted butter
 - 4 cups of apples (peeled, cored and cut in eighths)
4. Blend well and pour into a buttered baking dish to bake at 300 degrees for 4 hours.



****This old recipe was said to feed 8, but would go further as a dessert.**

Note: The simplest forms of Indian Pudding do not contain eggs. Also, the amount of sugar can be reduced to 1 cup or even 3/4 cup with the added sweetness of the apples we have available now.

Source: *The Early American Cookbook*, Kristie Lynn and Robert Pelton, 2005.

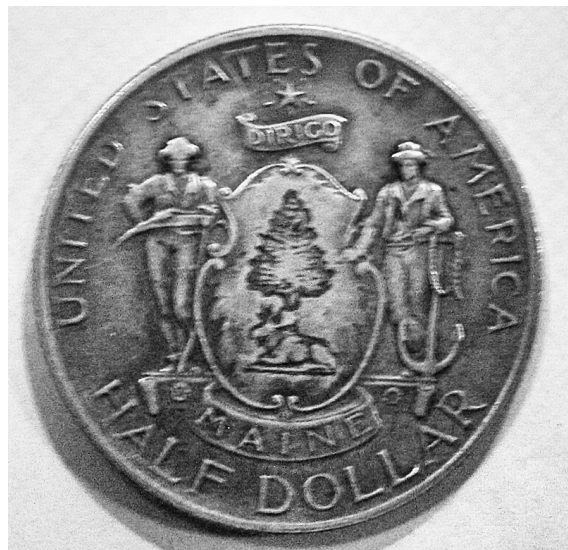
Maine Centennial Coin

As we celebrate Maine's Bi-centennial we also remember the Centennial of statehood in 1920. The photograph is of a Maine Centennial half dollar issued for the celebration. It shows the Maine State seal.

Today the US mint issues many variations of our currency such as the 50 state series of quarters, but the 1920 Maine half dollar was a very special commemorative coin at the time.

It was collected by Harry Rowe who owned a Buxton and Gorham farm on the town line. His father was Albion Rowe (1850-1935). Albion, like many Buxton and Hollis residents may have been named for Albion Keith Parris. Parris was a long time and effective proponent of Maine statehood. He was a judge, Senator and Governor in addition to several other offices.

He was such a beloved Democrat-Republican politician that he had many babies named for him. Such Buxton and Hollis people include A.K.P. Lord who owned the sawmills in West Buxton and A.K.P. Meserve, a Bar Mills doctor.



Bar Mills Magazine League

This is a formidable group of ladies on the Usher Mills Road in Bar Mills before 1913. They subscribed to magazines as a group, passed them around and discussed interesting articles. There was a similar group in West Buxton.

Rebecca Usher (1821-1912), sitting front left in black, is the only one we can positively identify. She was a

Civil War volunteer nurse who later ran her father Ellis Usher's considerable estate. Like the suffrage early leadership, she did not live long enough to vote.

Here are the people in the photograph from the list on back. They are all from Bar Mills village. Please let us know if you can identify them. Mrs. Ambrose (Laura born 1869?) Weeks, Miss Fannie Dyer, Mrs. William Dyer, Miss Ripley, Mrs. Milliken, Mrs. Coffin, Mrs. Ada McKenney, Miss Rebecca Usher, Miss Bradish and Mrs. Charles McKenney.





BUXTON-HOLLIS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. BOX 34

BUXTON, MAINE 04093-0034

Buxton-Hollis Historical Society Membership Year 2020

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

Annual Dues Level

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

____ Today's Date

____ Name(s):

____ Street Address:

____ Mailing Address:

____ Email address:

____ Phone: Home

____ Cell

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