



# BUXTON-HOLLIS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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

Celebrating 52 Years ♦ [www.buxtonhollishistorical.org](http://www.buxtonhollishistorical.org) ♦ 207.929.1684 ♦ Summer 2022

## Summer 2022 President's Message

Dear Members & Friends,

Summer is finally here! I hope we all make the most of every opportunity to enjoy and participate in our spectacular summer community activities being planned! So, with that intention in mind, we look forward to celebrating **Buxton's 250th Sestercentennial Anniversary on August 5th & 6th, and the Hollis Pirate Fest on August 13!**

Early on, BHHS planned to sponsor another "Spirit Walk" Tour of the South Buxton Cemetery as part of our Buxton 250th activities. However, given the number of other activities we are planning and other events, we felt it wise to postpone this special and popular theatrical production until sometime in the fall when there will be fewer enticing diversions! We are sorry for disappointing many of you who were looking forward to attending this event on August 5th as advertised, but hope to offer it later in 2022. We will keep you posted!

This year our BHHS sales table will be graced by Fred Boyle for a special **book signing** of his newest book, "**Early Families of Buxton, Maine**", which will almost literally be "**hot off the press**". Since Fred's interesting program in June on "*Writing Books of Early Families of York County*", we are considering resuming monthly programing in the fall.

In addition, we will be sponsoring a float in the parade, and presenting the acclaimed three hour Buxton Documentary DVD, "**Buxton, Maine An American Story**", produced by Saco River Community TV, and made possible by a grant from the *Narragansett Number One Foundation*. **The DVD will run continuously in the Tory Hill Church from 9:30-3.** We are very grateful to the church for hosting this event and encourage everyone who has not yet seen it to stop in, take a load off your feet for a few minutes, and check it out! Copies will be available for sale there, as well as at our sales table!



Are you unable to participate in BHHS activities, but would like to support our work financially through your membership or other gifts? Please send in your membership or other gift made out to: BHHS, P.O. Box 34, Buxton, ME 04093

## THANK-YOU FOR HELPING TO MAKE OUR CONTINUING WORK POSSIBLE!

In the meantime, we look forward to seeing you at our towns' August events!

Please stay safe and well!

Annual Meeting Details Pg.6

Best Regards,  
Jan Hill, BHHS President



## Family Bread Recipe (Kate Douglas Wiggin)

A little soda mixed in a silver spoon; two-thirds and a half as much again of cream of tartar. If the weather is hot, simply reverse the quantities and say nothing to the neighbors.

- 1 cup of Bar Mills flour
- 1 cup of Hollis flour
- 1 cup of Buxton flour, in the order named
- 1 cup new milch cow's milk
- 1 cup farrow cow's milk
- 1 cup ordinary milk; sweet if sweet; sour if it has turned

Bathe the hands carefully, and plunge them into the mixture, kneading it vigorously for an hour, being careful to stand in the draft of an open window all the time. Grease the pans well with cocoa butter or beeswax. Pour in the mixture if soft enough; crowd or

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push it in if it resists force, as it sometimes does with an inexperienced cook. Never allow the fire to go out when bread is baking as it often spoils it. Remove the pan, when, according to your best judgment, the bread is done, and never ask advice, as it is always unsettling. Keep the loaves in a tin cake box, where the children can run and get a piece whenever disposed. This recipe sometimes cures the bad habit of eating between meals.

*Taken from "Dorcas Dishes,  
A Little Book of Country Cooking"  
Copyright 1911*



## Our Online Resources

Your historical society has been building up our online resources. We are accepting appointments at 100 Main Street, but have not had regular open hours for the library and museum due to COVID. Posting many significant documents about Buxton and Hollis is another avenue for us to provide the history of the towns and their people.

Items of interest include: census lists for many years, transcribed and sorted alphabetically by Burt Pease; links to online Vimeo sites for many of our programs, thanks to Saco River Community TV; vital records; our family catalog, referencing documents to people; a catalog of scanned local obituaries; brief biographies; Kate Douglas Wiggin books; the one room schools of Buxton and Hollis; an historic timeline, and other links that we like, such as the Maine Old Cemeteries Association, the National Register of Historic Places, the Maine State Archives, and the Maine Historical Society. Please take a moment to check out our website at

<https://www.buxtonhollishistorical.org/onlineresources.html>.

Let us know if you have suggestions or can help with more content for our site.

## The Indispensable Box

Around 1900, Buxton and Hollis were manufacturing centers for the often overlooked, but indispensable product: wooden boxes. Buxton had the Page Box Company at Bar Mills from 1892-1925. Hollis Center had the L.L. Bradbury Box Shop from the early 1900s. Both had railroad sidings for shipment around the country and the world. Both depended on local wood and skilled sawyers.

Wooden boxes held every sort of product, were universally used and very recyclable. They were always shipped as shooks. A shook is a flat part of the box. Like many cardboard boxes today, shooks were shipped flat for economy of shipping space and latter assembly.

When is the last time you bought something in a wooden box or heard the word “shooks”?

## ***BHHS OFFICERS***

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## *Book Signing by Frederick R. Boyle*

On Saturday, August 6, from 9:30 A.M.- Noon, at the Buxton-Hollis Historical Society sales table on the Tory Hill church lawn (corner of Rts. 202 & 112 in Bar Mills), we are looking forward to hosting a book signing of "Early Families of Buxton", the latest of acclaimed genealogist, Frederick R. Boyle's "Early Families" series. Another among several books in this "Early Family" series, this book will contain about 60 sets of genealogies of Buxton families whose roots go back to the mid-18th century. Included are the Atkinsons, Boyntons, Bradburys, Dearborns, Eldens, Emerys, Lanes, Redlons, Sawyers, Woodmans, and many more!

A native of Boston, Mass., Fred grew up in nearby Medford. He has degrees from Colby College (B. A.), Boston University (M.A. in Ed.), and Harvard University (Certificate of Advance Graduate Study C.A.G.S.).

From 1985-2005 Boyle was a Certified Genealogist through the Board for Certification of Genealogists in Washington, D.C. Previous to this he was a Certified Genealogical Record Searcher through the same organization. For the last seven years of his 30 year teaching career, Fred was Director of the Education Without Walls program. Since retirement from teaching he has authored several books and is still an active Professional Genealogist specializing in searches of families in Maine, New Hampshire, and Massachusetts. From 1985-2011 he was a trustee of the Springvale Public Library where he served as an advisor for its extensive genealogy collection. He is a member of the New England Historic Genealogical Society and the Maine Historical Society.

We are happy to report that Fred has recently begun research on yet another book in his "Early Family" series entitled, "Early Families of Dayton & Hollis".



Family  
Tree

## Our New Workspace



Kathy Larry (right) scanning documents



Vicki Walker accessioning donations

We are now using our renovated basement as a new central workspace. When we were not having meetings due to COVID, we used our large meeting room as a workspace for our volunteers, but we have now consolidated our operations to the cool (in summer) and dehumidified basement. Our volunteers call it the "clubhouse" for the good times we have there. It includes a kitchenette with a coffee pot, refrigerator, and break table. The work tables support four computers for accessioning of donations, scanning documents, scanning photographs, and organizing our obituary catalog. Our archival shelves are nearby for easy filing.

If we are all in the basement, the front door may be locked. Just ring the new doorbell to get our attention. If you are interested in helping with our preservation activities, let us know. The more the merrier!



# One Early Buxton Family

One early founding family of Buxton is not included in Early Families of Buxton for an interesting reason.

Hugh Moore (1742-1814) and wife Margaret Nesmith (1748-1823) were born in Londonderry, New Hampshire. Both sets of parents were from Northern Ireland. In 1775 they intended to settle in Falmouth, Massachusetts (now Portland, Maine), but on arrival they found that the day before the city had been burned by order of British Captain Henry Mowat in retaliation for the port's support of the Patriot cause.

The Moores headed west to Buxton for land to farm with their daughters, six year old Elizabeth and one year old Mary. Four more daughters and a son were born in Buxton. There were no roads or paths to get there. They followed blazed trees to Chicopee in Buxton, where they lived in a log cabin, until they could build a house next to it.

Hugh served three years in the Continental Army, with his service credited to Windham, N. H. They were founders of the "Methodist Church of Gorham, Buxton, and Standish" in 1798 with the early services held in their home. They died at ages 72 and 75 respectively, after many years of farming in Buxton.

The reason why they are not in "Early Families of Buxton, Maine" is that they are in the book "Early Families of Standish", even though they never lived in Standish! In 1824, the neighborhood east of Bonny Eagle Pond petitioned the relatively new Maine Legislature in the capital, Portland, to become part of Standish because they were too far from the center of Buxton government at Tory Hill, but were close to Standish government at Standish corner (Now Routes 35 and 25). The Legislature approved the change and the Moore farm and family cemetery located on their original Buxton town Lot 4, Range H, 3rd Division, (now on the Dow Road) have been in Standish since then.

Buxton later moved town government to Buxton Center in 1871 for better centralized access at the crossroads which had seen a boom in growth due to the Samuel D. Hanson Coat Shop.

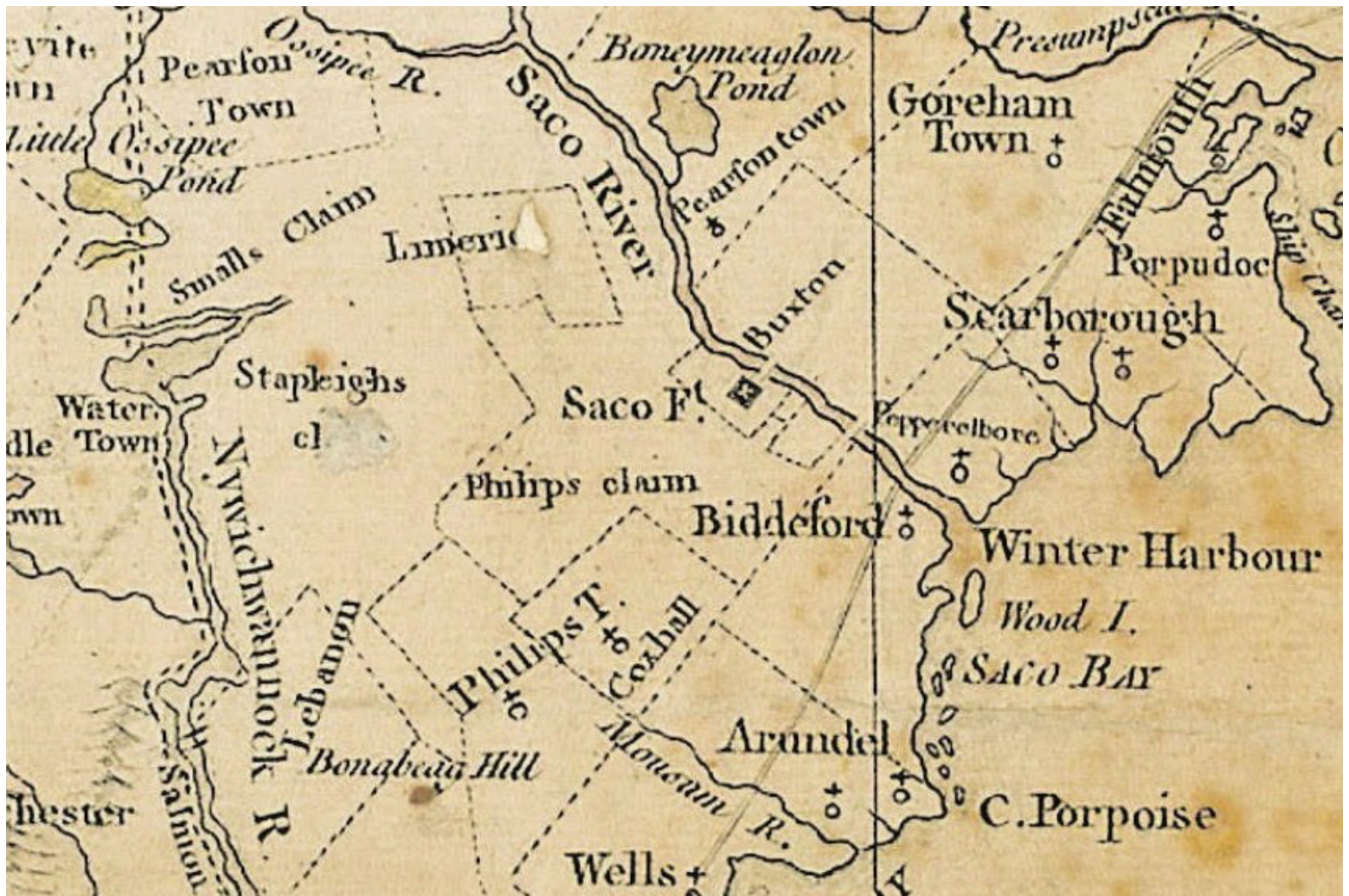


Chicopee Corner circa 1935 with Methodist Church on Right

## Where Did the Early Families of Hollis Live?

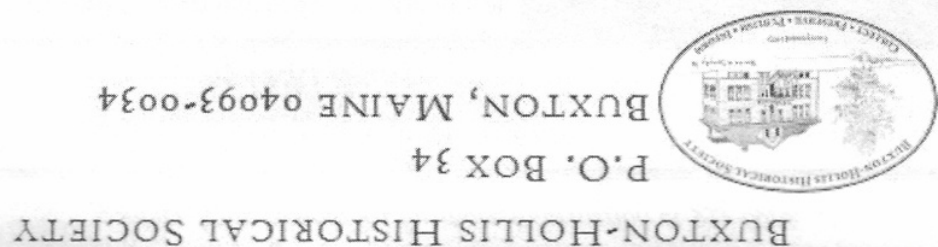
Did you know that the early families of Hollis lived in Hollis, Dayton, and a small slice of Limington? Hollis used to be much longer and larger. An early nickname for it was "Ropewalk". A ropewalk was a long narrow building used to make long ropes. (A few ropewalks still exist in the world.) Like a ropewalk, Hollis was once very long compared to its width. However, it assumed its present more compact boundaries when land was split off to Limington in 1797 on the north end of town by petition of Abner Chase and others, and when the town of Dayton split off in 1854 on the other end of town. John Goodwin, Thomas Day, and others petitioned the legislature for separation based on the long travel needed to do town business. The new town was named after the separation organizer, Thomas Day.

See below for a very rough, but interesting 1784 map of our area with mid-1700s information. Hollis was created from the Major William Phillips claim and was incorporated as Phillipsburg in 1798. The Phillips claim goes from Biddeford to Limington, which was included in the Francis Small claim. The map effectively shows how what became Hollis was spread along the Saco River. The 1728-1759 Saco Fort shown was about a quarter mile below Union Falls (now Skelton Dam). "Coxhall" became Lyman. "Pearfon" (Pearson) Town is Standish. "Falmouth" became Portland. "Pepperelboro" is Saco. "Arundel" is Arundel and the Kennebunks. "Goreham Town" is Gorham. Note that "Boneymeaglon Pond" is now Bonny Eagle Pond.



Mid 1700's Map of Hollis & Buxton area





## Buxton-Hollis Historical Society Membership Year 2022

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

Today's Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email  
address: \_\_\_\_\_

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

### **Annual Dues Level**

☐ Student (\$5)  
☐ Individual (\$10) ☐ Sustaining (\$100)  
☐ Family (\$20) ☐ Paid Individual Lifetime (\$450)  
☐ Patron (\$50) ☐ Paid Couple Lifetime (\$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](http://www.buxtonhollishistorical.org)

**THANK YOU For Your Support!**