



8 RIVER RD., P. O. BOX 34
BUXTON, ME. 04093

BUXTON-HOLLIS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

INCORPORATED 1970

Email: Buxton_Hollis_Historical_Society@yahoo.com

SUMMER, 2010



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E-mail

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yahoo.com](mailto:buxton_hollis_historical_society@yahoo.com)

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Please note our facebook page above,
if you would like to be our friend!

Photos and events are posted.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Greetings!

We have reached a milestone for the Buxton-Hollis Historical Society. This is our 40th year! In 1970 we organized in the Casco Bank building in West Buxton, just across the street from our current location. We started with the Buxton and U.S. Bicentennials in 1972 and 1976. We have gone on to the Hollis Bicentennial in 1998. Publications, exhibits, our research collection and a host of member volunteers have provided service to document and give access to our towns' history. In this 40th year we give thanks to the many members, friends and contributors who have made this possible.

We especially look forward to our annual meeting this November when we will review the accomplishments, recognize the long term members and plan for future service to our communities.

We are excited about a new project since our last newsletter. We have entered into a partnership with the Saco River Community Television of Hollis to produce a documentary of the History of Buxton. We will be writing and filming this summer and into mid-winter. We will only have an hour to hour and a half, but will pack in the significant turns of history. Please let us know if you have suggestions for scenes or subject matter. Still shots of important historical people and artifacts will be needed too.

We look forward to seeing you at our summer and fall activities!

Brenton Hill, *President*

WANT TO BE A MEMBER? *JOIN BHHS*

*JUST COMPLETE THE
MEMBERSHIP FORM
FOUND IN THIS NEWS
LETTER AND SEND,
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KATHY KENDRICK

P. O. BOX 193

BAR MILLS, ME 04004

LEVEL OF GIVING

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BHHS SOCIETY LIBRARY & MUSEUM HOURS

8 RIVER RD., RT. 112, WEST BUXTON

Non-Lending Library for Historical and Genealogical Research Primarily

Buxton, Hollis & York County

OPEN *FIRST FRIDAY AND FIRST & SECOND SATURDAYS*

1 - 4 P.M. APRIL TO OCTOBER

UPCOMING EVENTS AND PROGRAMS

Sat., July 24, 9 A.M. to 3 PM: BHHS sale and information table @ Buxton Community Day/Dorcas Fair, Tory Hill Church Common. Visit us at the fair to get information and items of historical interest and the second in the series and our newest Gibeon Bradbury note cards, "Wild Roses and Hummingbird". Lovely Crib Quilt Raffle.

Sat., August 14, 9 A.M. to 11 A.M.: Harold Smith, in conjunction with the BHHS, will host an Open House at "Mini-Mu", the museum he has built to hold his collection of vintage David Bradley tractors and early mechanical industrial and farming tools. The museum is located on Puckerbrush Lane, at 553 Long Plains Road (Route 22) in Buxton. (The lane is right across the road from Redding Oil Company). Parking is available down the lane. BHHS members will provide refreshments.

Sun., Sept. 19, 2 P.M. Please join us at the new Buxton Center Elementary School (912 Long Plains Rd., Buxton) for a celebration ceremony commemorating the closing of Buxton's four elementary schools (*Jack Memorial School, Eliza Libby School, S.D. Hanson School & Frank Jewett School*) and the dedication of the new *Buxton Center Elementary School*. Refreshments and tours of the new facility will follow the ceremony. Additionally, there will be an open house at the nearby *N.C. Watson One-Room School* on Groveville Rd., Buxton.

Tuesday, October 12, 6:30 P.M. at the Old White Church, 15 Salmon Falls Rd., Bar Mills: Leith Smith of the *Maine Historic Preservation Commission* & John Mattor of the *Hollis Conservation Commission* will update us on the archeological investigation at Pleasant Point and recent developments at the Indian Cellar properties.

Sat., Nov. 13, 6:30 P.M. 40th Anniversary Annual Meeting Buffet @ Bar Mills Community Church, Portland Rd., Buxton. Gather, view displays, celebrate our volunteers and review our 40 year history and achievements, plan for our future. Buffet \$15. Call Pat @ 929-4044 or Jan @ 929-8834 by Nov. 7th for reservations. Send checks to Pat Chase, 253 Haines Meadow Rd., Buxton 04093.

Harold Smith's Love For Old Equipment Translates into "Mini-Mu"

Harold Smith of Buxton knows Buxton and Hollis pretty well. One might even call him an expert. His family has lived here for many generations, and he was the postmaster in Hollis for thirty years. He has a genuine deep affection for the people and the place—past, present, and future. He also has a lively curiosity about how things worked in the old days. The result has been the development of "Mini-Mu," built to accommodate his increasing collection of David Bradley tractors and expanded to include a fascinating

collection of devices and tools that predate our mechanized age.

Sometimes a collection is just too big for a glass case in the front hall, and the David Bradley tractor collection is in this category. As Mr. Smith acquired tractors, he needed a way to locate them in a suitable viewing space so that the history of their development could be appreciated. The company had been manufacturing other farm machinery, but in the 1950's they added tractors to their production, building them through the 1960's. The tractors are all walk-behind garden

tractors. A number of ingenious attachments, such as rototillers, were built to be used with them. A prime example is a generator that was powered by the tractor.

"Tuffy" is a favorite in the collection. George H. Davis, a long-time farmer, entered the mechanical age in 1954 when he purchased Tuffy brand new. The tractor was used by three generations of Davises and was always dependable. It was eventually sold to Carlton Berry who used it for several years before it found its final resting place in the Mini-Mu. It still runs, as do all of the tractors in the museum.

A rare Cunningham Garden Tractor, which was produced only from 1944-46, is also on view. Cunningham had copied its engine from Briggs and Stratton. In spite of the general belief that copying is the strongest form of flattery, Briggs and Stratton was not amused by the Cunningham maneuver. They won their legal protest and put Cunningham out of business.

These tractors would never pass today's safety standards. All of the belts were exposed. One of them required the operator to wind a rope around the engine to start it; Anyone standing in front of the tractor was subject to being run over.

One accessory is a "saw rig" that sawed logs into shorter pieces to be used for firewood. The idea was a timesaver, no doubt, but no one thought of putting shields Around the saw blades for safety's sake.

Exhibits were found by excavating, as is true of any museum. Mr. Smith's Great-grandfather, James Smith, and his Great-uncle, George Cleveland Smith were coopers. When the sills of the old family house on Skip Road needed to be replaced, several cooper tools were discovered under it. Included in this find was a howel which was used to smooth and round out staves, a chive, which was used to level the top of the barrel, and a croze which was used to cut the "V" shape grooves for the barrel cover to fit in and slide closed.

The collection also includes several hay cradles, one of which is "5 fingered" instead of the more common "3 fingered" cradle; old corn shellers, boring tools and a variety of old logging tools. There is even a spinning wheel passed down through the family and tucked under the eaves of the upstairs loft.

The Mini-Mu will be open in cooperation with the Buxton-Hollis Historical Society on Saturday, August 14, from 9 AM to 11 AM. Stop by to visit with Harold and his daughter, Becky Smith, and let some of our local history live for you. (Special thanks to Becky Smith for help with writing this article.)

Meg gardner, Staff Writer

Projects in The Works

► BERT PEASE IS IN PROCESS OF TRANSCRIBING HOLLIS LIGHT INFANTRY DOCUMENTS.

► BRENT HILL IS DOCUMENTING ALMON & CYNTHIA BARNES JEWELRY SHOP, CIRCA 1872 IN WEST BUXTON (HOLLIS SIDE). DOES ANYONE HAVE ANY PHOTOS OR INFORMATION ?

► TIME CAPSULE DOCUMENTS NEEDED FOR NEW BUXTON CENTER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL!

► REPAIR & INSTALLATION OF REPLACEMENT WEATHERVANE FOR OLD BUXTON CENTER POWDER HOUSE IS IN PROCESS.

► DISPLAY OF STELLA GERRY PLUMMER BUTTON COLLECTION COMING TOGETHER GRADUALLY

► NEW NOTE CARDS, SECOND IN GIBEON BRADBURY FLORAL SERIES NOW AVAILABLE

SPECIAL NOTICE

Sun., September 19th

There will be an

OPEN HOUSE

at the

N.C. Watson School

in conjunction with &

following the 2 P.M.

Celebration Ceremony

Commemorating the

Closing of Four Buxton Schools—

Jack Memorial, Eliza Libby,

Frank Jewett, S. D. Hanson

&

Dedication of the New

Buxton Center Elementary School

PLEASE STOP BY !

N. C. Watson

One-Room School

Groveville Rd., Buxton Center

Regular Hours Open

First and Third Saturdays

April 17 to October 2, 2010

1 - 4 P.M.

FMI Groups/Programs

Call Lou or Lucille @ 727-3766

Country Doctoring Quality Health Care A Way of Life in Buxton & Hollis...

Accessing quality health care was an issue of great concern to the generations before us just as it is today; history repeats itself. When "Old Dr. Wiley" (as my mother always referred to him) retired, the citizens of Hollis and Buxton found themselves in an uncomfortable void when they needed medical attention.

Dr. Wiley had met their needs for many years. He had delivered most of the adults and children in the two towns. Trekking through all kinds of disasters, he had delivered baby after baby, including my mother and her eleven siblings. In 1924, Dr. Wiley purchased a large home in Bar Mills (Hollis side) which had been built by Captain Paul Woodman. He converted the home to a well-equipped facility, thus establishing the "Buxton and Hollis Community Hospital," as discussed in 2009 article on Dr. Wiley. The two towns then had a proper and convenient focal point for medical care. In 1940, management of the hospital was turned over to the *Buxton-Hollis Hospital, Inc.*, although Dr. Wiley continued his association

with it for some time, eventually spending the last days of his life as a beloved resident/patient there.

Dr. Wiley had withdrawn from active practice during the 1940's because of declining health. The loss of his services left a vacuum at the little community hospital. Dr. Eppinger of West Buxton was available and, according to some sources, provided excellent care. However, he was a recent immigrant, an Austrian of Jewish descent and the local citizenry was uncomfortable entrusting their medical problems to him. When there were no responses to notices of a "practice opening" in local papers, the Buxton-Hollis Hospital Association board decided to recruit further afield, and turned to advertising in the Journal of the American Medical Association. The advertisement from the Buxton-Hollis Hospital attracted Dr. S. Dunton Drummond's attention, and he sent a query to the Board of Directors.

We might speculate that his recent marriage to Betty (Elizabeth) Jane persuaded him that a small town in Maine would be a good place to settle down. Dr. Drummond may also have felt an affinity for small-town Maine because

he had not always been a city boy. He was born and raised in Virginia, where his ancestors had been original settlers of the Jamestown Colony. His father died when he was young, and his mother, a nurse, moved to New York in order to find work. Young Dunton graduated from high school when he was only sixteen years old. Lying about his age and growing a moustache in order to look older, he entered Columbia University.

By 1940, Dr. Drummond had graduated from Columbia University and the Long Island College of Medicine in Brooklyn, New York, and had interned for a year at the King County Hospital in Brooklyn. He was commissioned as a Lieutenant Commander when the United States engaged in World War II. A primary assignment was serving as a ship surgeon stationed off the coast of New Zealand. After he had finished his tour of duty, the young doctor completed a residency at St. Luke's Hospital in Newburgh, New York, and opened a practice on Long Island.

The Association responded immediately to Dr. Drummond's query. Their letter to him describes the pleasant character of the area and the opportunity to work in a well-equipped local hospital, carrying on the country doctor legacy from Dr.

Wiley. They delicately explain as there is no local doctor available except an Austrian Jew and that many in the area would "prefer an American."

Dr. Drummond accepted the offer with alacrity, traveled to Hollis, and began his practice in 1950. In 1952, he and Betty bought the Nathaniel Miller house right beside the hospital.

This was a wise move, as Dr. Drummond was on call "24/7." In today's terms, he was not just the "first responder," but often the "one and only" responder to a medical crisis. His duties included office hours, regular house calls, nursing home visits, and his duties at the hospital. He was also on the staffs of Maine Medical Center and Mercy Hospital in Portland and of the Webber Hospital (Southern Maine Medical Center) in Biddeford. He was a superb diagnostician, relying on his own knowledge, a lot of common sense, his varied experience, and a thorough knowledge of medicines. Perhaps most important, the doctor knew his patients both in and out of the office. He never stopped thinking about a patient's problem, even after the examination was over, until he had solved the problem. He was a life-long student, reading and researching in his every spare moment.

Stories of humor about Dr.

mond's expertise and sense of humor are legion. On one occasion, two men started fighting. One thing led to another, and one of the men bit off his opponent's ear. Dr. and Mrs. Drummond took flashlights to the scene of the fight. They searched for the missing ear until they found it. Dr. Drummond hastened back to his patient, who was waiting at the hospital, and successfully reattached the ear to its proper place, where, I believe, it remained.

Dr. Drummond sometimes took drastic measures in order to persuade people to move along. One outstanding occasion happened prior to a ball that was being held as a fundraiser. A large group of friends gathered at the Drummond house for pre-ball cocktails. They had such a good time socializing there that they simply were not interested in getting to the ball on time. Dr. Drummond brought a horse into the house, thinking that this maneuver would drive the guests out of the house and on to the ball. Alas, the plan backfired. All of the guests thought a horse in the house was great fun, they were even less inclined to leave, and they were all late to the ball.

Paying for health care was as large an issue forty and fifty years ago as it is today. Although the costs seem insignificant compared with current hospital bills, many

people had just as much difficulty scraping up enough money to go to the hospital or to see the doctor. A hospital room for a day cost \$9 in 1953. Remembering that the average weekly wage in 1953 ranged from about \$55 - \$80, it is easy to recognize that a stay of several days would cause a serious financial hardship. Dr. Drummond, however, never turned a patient away if he or she could not pay for his services. His practice was to send out two bills. If there was no response after the second notice, he threw the bills away. Some patients showed their appreciation by bringing him non-monetary items such as freshly caught trout or an apple pie.

When Dr. Drummond retired, the Buxton-Hollis Community Hospital became obsolete. People traveled away from their local communities to Portland and to Biddeford and beyond for their health care needs. The immediacy and familiarity of the country doctor was broken. We have adjusted to the new methods, and to the new jargon, of "health delivery services," but sometimes something seems missing in the translation.

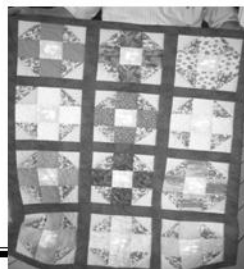
Meg Gardner, Staff Writer

Mary Coffin

Print Donated

The Board of the Historical Society would like to thank *Richard & Beverly Atkinson* for their recent donation of a lovely framed print of young Mary Coffin, daughter of Rev. Paul Coffin. We look forward to displaying it for all to enjoy!

Thank-you to Marion Layman, granddaughter of Nettie Stevens Young, has sent us another lovely quilt to be used as a fund raiser this year. It is a crib quilt in various beautiful shades of purple with off white lambs and lots of purple pansies. Thank-You, Marion! The board hopes that members are willing to sell chances again this year! For anyone with a new grandchild, it would be a special prize! Raffle tickets are included in this newsletter for any interested in winning this beautifully worked crib quilt. Tickets are \$1.00 each or 6/\$5.00. Please send your tickets and money to Jan Hill, 190 Haines Meadow Rd., Buxton, ME 04093.



"The Artist on the Saco":
Gibeon Eldon Bradbury

CARD SERIES CON'T...



"Wild Roses & Hummingbird"

The second in a series of six lovely floral note cards, *Wild Roses & Hummingbird* by Gibeon Eldon Bradbury will debut this summer at the Buxton-Hollis Historical Society sale table on July 24th at Dorcas Fair (9-3 PM, Sat.) / Buxton Community Day. Courtesy of Beverly and Richard (Sandy) Atkinson of Bar Mills, the first card offered in 2009 was Bradbury's "Trillium, Lilies and Violets." Cards are \$1.25 each or 4 for \$5.00. They will also be available at the Society Museum and the Saco Museum.

"Bradbury's
paintings
remind us to
savor the
beauty
and
complexity of
a flower."

STEEPLE & WEATHERVANE

Most Recent Renovation of Historic Buxton Centre Baptist Church

A petition drawn up by a distinguished company of 68 Buxton inhabitants was presented to the Proprietors Committee in October of 1798. The list of petitioners reads like a "Who's Who" of early families in the area: Woodman, Bradbury, Elwell, Lord, Came, Elden, Denmet, Atkinson, Harmon, Palmer, Libby, Woodsun, Boothby, Rankin, and Redlon, to name a few.

The church was incorporated in 1799, and the "Baptist Church of Buxton and Saco" began to organize itself. In spite of the transient nature of its early ministers following the retirement of its first settled minister, Elder Abner Flanders in 1829, the membership at Buxton Center Baptist grew. In 1831 a new building was erected at a cost of \$2000 to \$3000. The new church building was a little smaller than the original, but its architecture was somewhat more elaborate.

In the spring of 1845, a steeple and bell were added, "calling the worshipers to the house of God with tones of inspiration."

Time takes its toll, however, and by the time the Rev. J. M. Burttt was called to be the minister of the Buxton Centre Baptist Church in 1871, the membership decided that they needed to update the building. The initial plans were moderate, but under

the Rev. Burttt's leadership the congregation decided to make more extensive changes to the building. They mounted what we would now call a capital campaign with great success. According to a Portland Press article dated May 24, 1872, "...the result is that the church, now completed, is one of the pleasantest without and most delightful and attractive within of any village church in the State."

It was during these renovations that the church was raised and a brick basement built that was tall enough to accommodate a vestry room and minister's study. According to the Press Herald article the basement was "...constructed at the expense of two worthy sons of honored mothers, of sainted memory in the church."

A large number of improvements and repairs to the

church building were completed during the next hundred years. Most of them included modernization, such as installing electric lights, central heating, a kitchen, and bathrooms with flush toilets.

In 1966, however, a change was made that was neither pragmatic nor useful, but simply just beautiful. Members of the former Blue Point Congregational Church offered the Buxton church trustees seven stained glass windows. The men of the church responded to the challenge of removing the windows, transporting

them to Buxton, and installing them in the sanctuary. Each wonderfully colored and crafted window represents a beloved Biblical story or symbol.

Recently the steeple that dated from 1845 showed alarming signs of deterioration. The congregation began a steeple renovation fund and sponsored bean suppers, rummage sales, plant sales, and other activities to raise money for the project. The estimated cost of repair and renovation and the rapid decay of the steeple, belfry, and the roof around required greater resources in a shorter period of time than the congregation could manage by itself. The church turned to the *Narragansett Number One Foundation* for help. The Foundation responded by awarding the church a substantial grant in 2003 for restoration of the steeple and bell tower.

In June 2004, the contractor, *Limerick Steeple Jacks*, removed the top of the steeple tower and the weathervane to begin the restoration work. Upon doing so, it was discovered that the church roof, including the main support timbers for the spire, needed extensive structural repairs.



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FMI @ 727-3766.

The finials could not be repaired, so new ones exactly replicating the originals were constructed.

A new bell cradle was also fabricated. Additional repairs to the roof of the steeple, the floor under the bell, and the four corner boards were necessary.

The weathervane had been completely dismantled and was scattered throughout the church in various closets and cubbyholes. Some pieces were even found in the belfry. Amazingly, every part was found, and Ryan Weeman, a church member, metalworker and owner of *Gorham Machine and Fab*, reconstructed the weathervane, arranging for a friend in Auburn to do the necessary lead work.

It is with great joy that in July, 2010 the steeple, the bell, and the weathervane were once again back together for church members and townspeople alike to enjoy and appreciate, standing tall over the old church and restoring its graceful New England charm to Buxton Center.

Meg Gardner, Staff Writer
Jan Hill, Editor