

BUXTON-HOLLIS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

INCORPORATED 1970 ♦ <http://www.buxtonhollishistorical.org> ♦ 207.929.1684 ♦ FALL 2015

The Royal Brewster Mansion: A Slice of History by Meg Gardner

The “Brewster Mansion” in Buxton is beautiful and exhibits an important architectural form just in its own right. However, perhaps even more important, its personal history mimics the entire history of the Town of Buxton, and even further, of Maine, New England, and the United States. Sandy and Bev Atkinson, its current owners, are dedicated to preserving its architectural importance and the stories of those who built it and also of continuing its traditional presence as a center of community life. These aspects have combined to make the building a significant symbol of the past, present, and future. The Royal Brewster Mansion was named to the National Register of Historic Places in 1975.

New England communities, including those that had begun to form along the Saco River, had been severely disrupted because of the violent King Philips War. Native Americans made a furious attempt to protect their lands from the encroaching white settlers. Although the war ended in southern New England in 1678, it continued further north, in what is now Maine, for many more years.

Eventually, however, the Native Americans were constrained (often because of epidemics such as smallpox that raged through their settlements, killing large numbers and



Interior room of the Brewster Mansion; photo courtesy of Peter Mills Photography.

weakening their defenses). It was at this time that the concept of rewarding military service from public assets was conceived. As a “reward” for fighting the war (and incidentally for losing most of their homesteads, possessions, and many

family members), the system of land grants was conceived. Tracts of land were awarded to various men who had served in



Peter Mills photo of early framed photograph of Brewster Mansion.

the war; thus was born the land grant known as “Narragansett Number One,” which later morphed into the town of Buxton.

The original “proprietors” could sell their land if they so wished. The lot on which Dr. Brewster’s house is situated was first owned by Ephraim Sands Sr., who was a carpenter and a “hewer.” He apparently gave it to his son Ephraim Jr., when the latter married. Ephraim Jr. sold the lot to Dr. Brewster, probably in 1790.

Dr. Royal Brewster arrived in the wilderness that was Buxton in 1795. The attraction driving him north was Dorcas Coffin, the daughter of Doctor Paul Coffin, a prominent theologian and minister. The Reverend Doctor Coffin had been called to be the pastor of the Old South Church at Buxton Lower Corner, where he stayed for nearly sixty years. He was known for his theological tracts and his many journeys even further into the wilds, serving the spiritual needs of settlers who had moved into remote parts of northern New England.

Dr. Brewster was the son of another medical doctor, Dr. John Brewster, Sr., and was born in Hampton, Connecticut, in 1770. The need for doctors was critical in the sparsely populated area in the wilds of the northern territory, which was still a part of Massachusetts. Both his charming young bride and the challenge of practicing medicine in this raw environment must have appealed to the young man. The house he built for Dorcas and himself was a handsome Federal style home located diagonally across from the Old South Church

(Continued on page 6)

Right: "TD" clay pipe (circa 1750) smoked by Martha Abby Littlefield of Hollis in the 1930's;
Bottom: Photo of the 1868 signature of Joshua L. Chamberlain, Brigadier General of the 27th Maine.



BHHS OFFICERS

Janice Hill, *President*

Barry Plummer, *Vice-President, Buxton*

Marguerite Gardner, *Vice-President, Hollis*

Vicki Walker, *Secretary*

Betsy Clay, *Treasurer*

BOARD MEMBERS 2015

Steven Atripaldi, *Curator*

Stacey Barnes, *Graphic Design & Composition*

Stacey Gagnon, *N.C. Watson Chair*

Marguerite Gardner, *Print Communication*

Brenton Hill, *Past President*

Janice Lane, *Social Media Director*

John Meyers, *Audit Chair*

Nancy Pierce, *Librarian*

Roberta Ramsdell, *Hospitality Co-Chair*

Robin Randall-Milliken, *Membership*

Bette Robicheaw, *Hospitality Co-Chair*

Robert Yarumian, *Clerk*

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

THE ROYAL BREWSTER MANSION:

A SLICE OF HISTORY..... 1

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE..... 2

REPORT ON THE AUGUST 15TH CRUISE DOWN THE RIVER..... 3

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION..... 3

UPCOMING EVENTS 2015..... 4

GENEALOGY BUS POLL..... 4

FOCUS ON BUXTON CENTER..... 5

WHO HAS THE BETTER STATUS?..... 7

2015 MEMBERSHIP FORM..... back cover

President's Message

Where to begin? So much has been happening on so many different levels! We have been very busy this summer with hosting visitors to our library, answering requests for genealogical and historic house information, indexing records, trying to get caught up on accessioning numerous donations, preparing for programs, as well as enjoying our major fund raising event--the successful, lively and very entertaining Box Lunch Auction held in July. For views of BHHS event photos at no cost, go to <http://petermillsphotography.zenfolio.com/boxlunch2015>. THANK YOU, Peter!!!

Our Eagle Scout project volunteers, Daniel Smith and helpers, have completed patching and painting one of the left side second floor rooms. It looks awesome! Thank you, Dan and crew! Dan is also planning to replace the decking of the handicap entrance this fall as part of his project. Once the weather cools we will continue work on the second floor where our first exhibits are being planned. We also have a committed crew of library volunteers who assist patrons in our research library and office and a wonderful new student volunteer, Lily Carter, who has been of great assistance this summer on special projects. Many thanks to ALL our volunteers for contributing their time and talents to enliven and enrich your BHHS!

Recent exciting donations of note include an early circa 1750 Thomas Dormer "TD" clay pipe and photo of Martha Abby Littlefield of Hollis who frequently was seen smoking it in and around 1935 by Rita Anderson. Another very noteworthy donation is a framed 1868 State of Maine Testimonial for Jonathan "John" Martin of Buxton for his service in the 27th Maine, for "maintaining the integrity of the Union", "the liberties and peace of the people", for his "patriotism, fidelity, courage and suffering in the common cause" signed by highly acclaimed Civil War Brigadier General and 32nd governor of Maine, Joshua L. Chamberlain. We are deeply honored by the trust of those who have donated these and other precious artifacts to our collection.

BHHS is planning dedications of Buxton Center sites this fall on Saturday, September 12, including memorial landscaping at the *National Register 1802 Elden Store* AND a new sign at the *N.C. Watson One Room School Museum*. (See details on upcoming events page.) We hope to see you there! Following the dedications, perhaps you would like to join us at the regularly scheduled drop-in bean supper from 4:30 to 6:00 P.M. at the adjacent Buxton Centre Baptist Church!

We also hope you will attend our October program on *architectural salvage*, particularly given its relevance to the needless waste and destruction of significant area historic landmarks and community assets, most notably the looming demolition of Hanson School in Buxton Center. You won't want to miss the **November 7th BHHS Annual Meeting Dinner** Meeting with speaker Brent Hill who will present an excellent program on the *State's Bar Mills Bridge Report*. (See info inside.) For the potluck dinner that evening, you will be using for the first time our recent donation from Silvex, Inc.— 72 5-piece place settings of gorgeous Oneida "Michelangelo" stainless flatware! We are overwhelmed with the generosity and support of Silvex!

Our first comprehensive museum display, the *Bar Mills Exhibit*, is shaping up well. We will have exhibits for Saco River Telegraph and Telephone Company, Roger's Fiber Mill, local stores and blacksmiths, as well as other mills and local people. If you have very interesting items that you might be willing to loan pertaining to Bar Mills Village, either the Buxton or Hollis side of the Saco, please let us know.

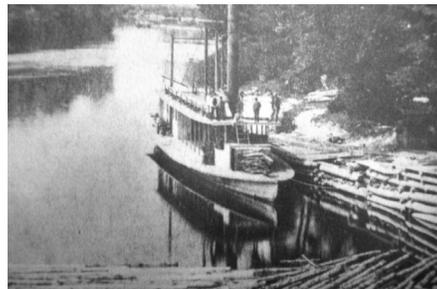
Best regards,
Jan Hill, President

Report on the August 15th Cruise Down the River

by *Jan Hill*

The kayak/canoe trip following the route of the historic Minnie Ha Ha River Boat down the Saco River from West Buxton to Bar Mills was awesome! The

river boat was in service shortly after the railroad reached Bar Mills in 1855, carrying lumber from the mills at Moderation Falls to a wharf in Bar Mills where it was loaded onto railroad cars for further transport. When it didn't carry a commercial load, the river boat functioned as a pleasure craft, ferrying people to picnics up and down that part of the Saco.



Minnie Ha Ha lumber ship

Our BHHS paddle was a leisurely 2.5 hour adventure with an historical, ecological and social focus. At one rest stop, we learned from Sue Schaler, one of our very informative kayakers, about some of the flora, fauna and soils along the river banks. We mostly had the river to ourselves, except for the wildlife...cranes, turtles, fish and assorted birds. Brent Hill informed us of historic milestones along the river, including where the Buxton and Hollis woolen mills were in West Buxton until 1938 and 1936



Minnie Ha Ha excursion at West Buxton

respectively, the location of the steamboat landing at West Buxton and where Smith's Bridge (all wood early toll bridge) was located, as well as the history of Rolf's Island. We heard the humming of the corona from the 345 kV transmission lines as we floated under them and saw the remains of the Sorting Boom above Bar Mills. We enjoyed seeing a number of houses/docks along the river and noted Haines Meadow Brook as a tributary. We passed by the earliest known campsite in Maine, about 9,000 years old! We noted, too, a smaller boom for the steam saw mill above Bar Mills and paddled between the scenic railroad piers in the river. (The tracks connecting Buxton and Hollis were taken out circa 1962). Finally, we waved hello to those awaiting us at our landing spot at Burt and Barbara Pease's property above the 1956 dam, joining other BHHS members and friends for a "scrumptious" BBQ hosted by Burt and Barb in their wonderful barn across Depot Street. About 20 photos were on display there, including the Minnie Ha Ha! Our thanks to Burt and Barb for hosting this very special event! Rick Martin took photos of our river trip and Janice Lane took photos of the BBQ, available on our website. Those participating want to do another section of the river next year! Perhaps you will join us?

VISIT OUR HISTORY CENTER

100 Main Street, Route 4A, Bar Mills, Maine
 OPEN:
 Thursdays 4:00–8:00 p.m.
 Saturdays 9:00–12:00 a.m.
 Except holiday weekends

ABOUT OUR NEWSLETTER

The Buxton-Hollis Historical Society Newsletter is published typically in the spring, summer and fall. The purpose of BHHS is to develop, inform and foster a network of citizens and institutions, in the Buxton-Hollis area of Maine and beyond who unite in thought and action in collecting, preserving and publishing the early and late history of the towns of Buxton and Hollis. Contact information provided on page 1.

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!

PRESERVATION BRIEFS

1-14



recognizing and resolving common preservation and repair problems prior to working on historic buildings

- cleaning and water-repellent treatments for masonry
- repointing mortar joints
- conserving energy
- roofing for historic buildings
- historic cable buildings
- dangers of abrasive cleaning
- historic glazed architectural ornaments
- aluminum and vinyl siding on wood frame buildings
- repairing historic wooden windows
- exterior paint problems on historic woodwork
- rehabilitating historic storefronts
- historic pigmented structural glass (Humble and Carrara Glass)
- repairing and thermal upgrading of historic steel windows
- new exterior additions to historic buildings

PRESERVATION BRIEFS

BHHS has recently acquired National Park Service Preservation Briefs 1-24 now available for public reference in our Research Library and soon to be made available at both the Buxton and Hollis Town Offices.

VISIT US ONLINE

Be sure to check out our webpage (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 to see the online version of the BHHS newsletter.

NOTE CARDS FOR SALE

We have two beautiful new Gibeon Bradbury floral note cards this year and are planning a gift pack of six assorted cards for holiday sales. Visit our Museum Store!



Upcoming Events 2015

Saturday, September 12, 3:30 PM: "Dedications at Buxton Center"

Please join us in Buxton Center for the dedication of the nearly completed landscape and memorial plantings at one of Buxton's most important historic National Register public buildings. Originally built to house Elden's Store and later the S.D. Hanson Coat Shop, this building was central to what was once Buxton's "industrial hub." This project has been made possible by a grant from the Narragansett Number One Foundation and was led by the Buxton-Hollis Historical Society, with the assistance from the Town of Buxton. (Corner of Rt. 22 & Haines Meadow Rd). Following the Elden Landscape dedication, we hope you will walk a short distance across Rt. 22 to join us in dedicating the beautiful new sign at the N.C. Watson One-Room School Museum (and check out the spruced up landscaping there as well!). Designed by neighbor Anthony Taylor and the N. C. Watson Committee, this new sign was planned with longevity in mind. It was made possible by private and public donations. Following these short ceremonies, we suggest you consider rounding off your Buxton Center history experience by dropping in to the adjacent historic Buxton Centre Baptist Church for their regularly scheduled bean supper held from 4:30 until 6! (** Note: If you would like to purchase a memorial planting for the Elden landscape project, please call 929-1684 to leave a message or contact Jan Hill at 929-8895.)

Tuesday, October 13, 7 PM: "Architectural Salvage" ...with Alice Dunn, owner of Portland Architectural Salvage

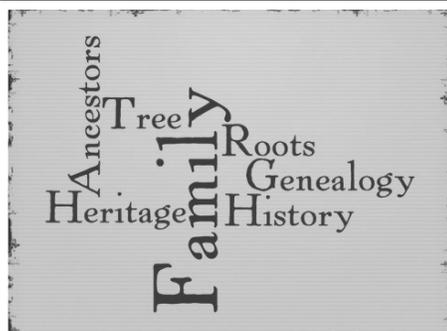
Many of our area's historic buildings are in danger of demolition, even though the tide is turning nationally towards rehabilitating and re-purposing. As with the train station in Portland, it may be too late for some of our National Register eligible rural treasures. Alice will discuss how elements of demolished structures are often re-used. We have asked her to discuss the challenges and advantages of re-purposing and to comment particularly on the old Odd Fellows Hall in West Buxton, which she purchased to save from demolition a few years ago. Suggested donations: \$10, Seniors \$8

Saturday, November 7, 5 PM: Annual Potluck Supper Meeting: "Bar Mills WWI Memorial Bridge" ...presented by history buff and past BHHS president, Brenton Hill

We have received the *final historical report on the Bar Mills bridges from the Maine Department of Transportation*. It was done by a consultant from Boston with the help of the DOT archives *and* with review, important factual corrections and information from BHHS files via Brenton Hill, past President of your Buxton-Hollis Historical Society. The report documents the history of the many bridges that tied our two communities of Buxton and Hollis at Bar Mills and the significant design uniqueness and innovation of the present 1938 bridge. (Tolls on the 1824 bridge were 2 cents for pedestrians and 6 cents for carriages, wagons and sleighs, but only when the toll booth collector was on duty.) Many pictures of the prior bridges and nearby Bar Mills that we have assembled, together with the construction pictures of the existing bridge, the construction drawings for the new bridge to be completed by the end of 2016 will be shown. In addition, **we will also be discussing and showing photos of our recently acquired 2013 C.M.P. Archeological Report** indicating a *National Historic Register eligible site over five thousand years old in Hollis*. Photos of some of the dig and artifacts found will be shown. These reports are presently on file at our BHHS office and with the Maine Historic Preservation Commission in Augusta. You won't want to miss this informative program! To reserve your seat please contact Bertie Ramsdell 929-4529. Suggested donations: \$10, Seniors \$8

***Please note that suggested donations are used to support on-going capital improvements to our new history center building.**

Genealogy Bus Poll



Are you just beginning to work on your family tree? Reached a point where you have gathered all you can from the local libraries and archives? Want to go to other archives but do not want to deal with driving and parking? Join us on the Genealogy Bus!

BHHS would like to schedule a bus trip sometime this fall. It will need to be a weekday as the bus company has no weekends available. We will also be looking at a trip or two in the spring of 2016. In order to find out preferences, we have created an online poll. If you would like to complete this poll, please visit <http://goo.gl/forms/ap94FqKovg>, pick up a poll at BHHS, or call us at 929-1684 for more information.

Focus on Buxton Center

Saturday, September 12, at 3:30 p.m.

CO PRESERVE means “to keep safe from injury, harm, or destruction “ and “to keep alive, intact, or free from decay ,” according to the venerable and reliable Merriam-Webster Dictionary. Rising to this challenge, members of the Buxton-Hollis Historical Society are dedicated to protecting and to maintaining historical “places that matter” in the two communities. Two long term projects that have been part of this effort will be highlighted at Buxton Center on Saturday, September 12th.

THE N.C. WATSON SCHOOL has a handsome new sign that will also be dedicated at Buxton Center on September 12th. The sign was designed by Mr. Anthony Taylor with guidance from the N.C. Watson School Committee. Mr. Taylor subcontracted the building of the sign and painted and lettered it, (a painstaking process). He also supervised its installation.

The last one room school in Buxton that was still in its original form as a schoolhouse, the N.C. Watson School was originally located in the Chicopee section of Buxton. It was built in 1900 and served the elementary schoolchildren of that area of Buxton until it was closed in 1942. For many years after its retirement as a school house the Chicopee Fire Department and others used it for various activities. Eventually through disuse, it deteriorated to the point of abandonment by the Fire Department.

The Buxton-Hollis Historical Society was able to save the building from destruction by forming a School House Committee. Louis Emery, Chairman of the committee, arranged for BHHS to take ownership of the building from the Town of Buxton and to effect the enormous undertaking of moving it across town to its present location and restoring it. Mr. Emery had attended a similar school himself, as had many of the project’s supporters. Lucille Emery, his wife, had been a teacher. It was she who wrote a sample curriculum for the one room school museum.

This venture was successful because of the cooperation between BHHS, the Town of Buxton, Mr. Anthony Taylor, MSAD #6 and Narragansett Number One Foundation which generously responded to a grant request from BHHS for funding to move the building. Volunteers and contractors contributed time and labor to the enormous task of putting the building back together in spite of what some might have considered insurmountable repairs. The particular location was made possible by a fortuitous combination of land owned by Mr. Anthony Taylor joined by lease to that of adjacent

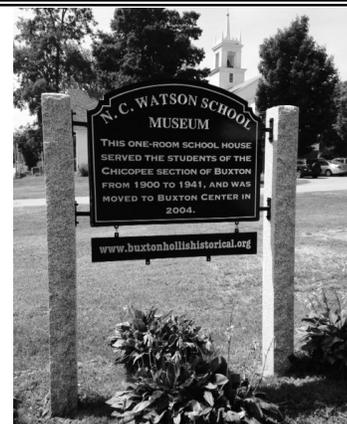
MSAD #6 property. Of course, many Chicopee residents were saddened to have the building relocated outside of the village where it had stood for a hundred years.

N.C. Watson School again serves the Town of Buxton and beyond as a slice of history in its new role as an interactive museum. Mrs. Lucille Emery, a retired teacher, has developed an interesting curriculum for one-room teaching, adjusting the same study topics to each grade level so that they can be taught simultaneously. Many community members have donated slate blackboards and old books, pictures (George Washington and Abraham Lincoln) and old-fashioned desks with inkwells, to authenticate the interior. A recent addition was the old (non-working) stove from the former Buxton Town Hall, which was also located at Buxton Center. Although schoolchildren are invited to visit so that they can experience the peculiarities of school life a hundred years ago, for some visitors N.C. Watson School provides a nostalgic return to their own childhood learning experiences in a one room schoolhouse. Pay a visit to the N.C. Watson School and then go to its neighbor, Buxton Center Elementary School. Contemplate the difference.

THE ELDEN STORE was a prime example of “repurposing” buildings long before this term entered the jargon of people who frugally find new uses for old things. Built in 1802 by Nathan Elden, initially it was indeed Elden’s Store (and sometimes post office): a gathering place at the Center’s four corners where people could find provisions, catch up on the local gossip, and perhaps informally arrange business transactions.

When the railroads came into Buxton and the depot was built down the road, the entrepreneurial Mr. Samuel D. Hanson, a tailor by trade, took advantage of the opportunities offered by the Civil War and started up a manufacturing operation that helped clothe the Union Army. Mr. Hanson purchased and converted Elden Store for his new business, and the Hanson Coat Factory became very prosperous.

(continued on page 7)



N.C. Watson Museum

(Continued from page 1)

(often called “Tory Hill Church”), where Dorcas’s father Dr. Coffin preached.

Both the inside and the outside of the Brewster Mansion, which was completed in 1805, have a symmetrical plan as is typical of the Federal style. All of the windows in the main house are twelve-over-twelve panes with interior shutters. The front door has full-length sidelights and an arch. A Greek Revival portico was added at some later time.

The floor plan inside the house also conforms to the symmetrical plan favored by this period and style. Both floors have center hallways joined by graceful double flying stairways, each flanked by two rooms, for a total of eight rooms in the main house. Each room has an original fireplace, with the exception of the one rebuilt about fifty years ago in the present dining room.

A large barn and a carriage house were connected to the house. When the poor doctor was called out in the middle of a winter night for some emergency, it must have been easier that at least he could hitch up his horse to his chaise in relative comfort before braving the cold. This chaise was instantly recognizable in the area and appears to have been much admired.

Some historians speculate that the house was built by Captain Joseph Woodman, Jr. Captain Woodman owned saw mills and land bordering the Saco River. He was also one of the more prominent (and wealthy) men in the community.*

Dr. Brewster’s older brother, John Jr., was congenitally deaf and was unable to speak, although he had been taught to read and to write. His talent for painting was encouraged by the family. When he moved from Connecticut to Buxton to live with his brother, he continued to work as an itinerant painter and traveled throughout the area and the New England seaboard painting portraits, for which he charged fifteen dollars. Many of his paintings remain in both private and prestigious museum collections; he is considered one of the most important early American portrait painters. One of his portraits was that of Dr. Paul Coffin. The painting “disappeared” many years ago and was thought to have been lost. This past summer the painting was unexpectedly advertised for sale by a popular auction house. Bev and Sandy Atkinson, the current owners and “caretakers” of the Brewster mansion, were able to acquire Dr. Coffin’s portrait and to return it to Buxton.

The communities of Buxton-Hollis have participated in many delightful events held at the Brewster Mansion over the years. One of these is the annual Buxton-Hollis Historical Society’s Box Lunch Social Auction. Bringing forward the old concept of auctioning off decorated box lunches with varied and delectable offerings inside – may the better man win his sweetheart’s lunch – this charming custom has become a high

point of summer for many of us. It is held in the barn attached to the Brewster Mansion. This magical barn is beautifully decorated and provides an especially charming setting for sampling delicious Ballet of Angels Brewster wine during an initial social hour and later for our persuasive and witty auctioneer, Bruce Buxton, to lure us to bid higher. If you do not wish to participate in the auction, but would like to enjoy the fun and festivities of this special event, plan to attend anyway, eat the lunch you bring, and make a donation of your choice instead!



A look at some of the box lunches available for auction; photo courtesy of Peter Mills Photography.

The Buxton-Hollis Historical Society quite recently acquired the 1912 Bar Mills Elementary School Building by lease from MSAD #6 to use as its history center. The center houses a non-lending genealogical research library, museum, exhibitions, and programs. The auction is a major source of financial support for this effort. Consider attending next year’s auction. Many wonderful door prizes are offered and you will meet lots of very nice folks, have a chance to talk with the Atkinsons about the mansion and grounds, and laugh at the antics of our very entertaining auctioneer, Bruce Buxton. Above all, you will be supporting the Buxton-Hollis Historical Society while you enjoy a delicious lunch in a unique and friendly setting.

The Brewster Mansion has been and continues to be an integral part of community life and activities in Buxton from the time Dr. and Mrs. Brewster began their family life there two hundred years ago.

*To read more about Capt. Woodman and his accomplishments from the biographical book *Genealogical and Family History of the STATE OF MAINE*, compiled under the editorial supervision of George Thomas Little, A. M., Litt. D., published 1909, please visit the online version of the newsletter at <http://bhhsnewsletter.weebly.com/>.

Who Has the Better Status: Teacher or Pupil

Rules for Teachers - 1872

- Each teacher will bring a bucket of water and a scuttle of coal for the day's session.
- Men teachers may take one evening each week for courting purposes, or two evenings a week if they go to church regularly.
- Women teachers who marry or engage in unseemly conduct will be dismissed.
- After ten hours in school, the teacher may spend the remaining time reading the Bible or other good books.

Punishments for Pupils

- Boys and girls playing together: 4 Lashes
- Playing cards at school: 10 Lashes
- Coming to school with dirty faces and hands: 2 Lashes
- For misbehaving to girls: 10 Lashes
- Climbing for every foot over three feet up a tree: 1 Lash



Hollis Center Elementary School 1889: Front row: N/A, Joseph Guilford, Arthur Carl, William Whitten, Percy Bradbury. Second row: Swett Moulton, Fred Dyer (Bradbury), Algie Hanson, Flora Carl, Ed Swan, Tracy Whitten, Lester Moulton, Queenie Bradbury, Sam Bradbury. Third row: John Carson (teacher), Frank Guilford, Lottie Burnham, Lucina Haynes, Addie Bradbury, Eva Hanson, Lizzie Whitten, Frank Leavett.

“The little schoolhouse with its flagpole on top and its two doors in front, one for boys and the other for girls, stood on the crest of a hill, with rolling fields and meadows on one side, a stretch of pine woods on the other, and the river glinting and sparkling in the distance. It boasted no attractions within. All was as bare and ugly and uncomfortable as it well could be, for the villages along the river expended so much money in repairing and rebuilding bridges that they were obliged to be very economical in school privileges. The teacher's desk and chair stood on a platform in one corner; there was an uncouth stove, never blackened oftener than once a year, a map of the United States, two black-boards, a ten-quart tin pail of water and long-handled dipper on a corner shelf, and wooden desks and benches for the scholars, who only numbered twenty in Rebecca's time. The seats were higher in the back of the room, and the more advanced and longer-legged pupils sat there, the position being greatly to be envied, as they were at once nearer to the windows and farther from the teacher.”

-Kate Douglas Wiggin, *Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm*

(continued from page 5)



The Elden Store

Perhaps part of the reason for this was that he initiated modern business practices. The sewing machine had not been widely accepted when he first began, but Mr. Hanson invested in machines very early and taught his employees how to use them. He also incorporated the practice of “outsourcing” piecework to women in the area, a mutually beneficial arrangement.

Meanwhile, the original Buxton High School (1888-1912) was located nearby. It outlived its usefulness and the Town found it necessary to build a new high school. The new school was located across the road and up the hill; it was built in 1913. In 1915, Mr. Zenus Hanson made an irresistible offer to the Town to help finance the new school. He would give Buxton \$5,000, but there were two stipulations if the Town accepted his gift. The first was that the school must be named for his brother, Samuel D. Hanson. The second was that if the school was no longer used for educational purposes, the Town of Buxton must forward the \$5,000 gift to the American Baptist Mission Society. The Town of Buxton gratefully accepted the \$5,000, agreeing to Mr. Hanson's two stipulations.

**To read the rest of the article, please visit the online version of the newsletter at <http://bhhsnewsletter.weebly.com/>.

2015 Membership Form

BUXTON-HOLLIS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Annual Dues Level:

Membership calendar year: January 1 through December 31, 2015

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual | \$10.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family | \$20.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Patron | \$50.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining | \$100.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Founder | \$500.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other | \$ |

Please note on your check the calendar year for which you would like your dues applied.
Donations are tax deductible and are gratefully accepted!

Name _____

Street Address _____

Mailing Address _____

Phone _____

Cell _____ Work _____

email _____

- Send my newsletter electronically Send my newsletter via snail mail

BUXTON-HOLLIS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

100 MAIN STREET, ROUTE 4A

BAR MILLS, BUXTON, MAINE 04093

Mailing Address:

P.O. BOX 34

BUXTON, MAINE 04093

Questions?

Call or email Robin Randall-Milliken
rrandall@securuspeed.us OR
leave a message at 207-929-1684

Please make your check out to:

Buxton-Hollis Historical Society
and send to:

Robin Randall-Milliken, Membership Chair
39 Stonewall Crossing
Buxton, ME 04093

BUXTON-HOLLIS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. BOX 34

BUXTON, MAINE 04093-0034

