

President's Message

Greetings Members and Friends,

We welcome the June 21st Solstice and the beginning of summer after a very busy spring 2018! Again this year, we have teamed up with Bonny Eagle Middle School teacher, Kristin Klin, 6th grade Cunningham Clan Leader AND this year's Educate Maine's *York County Teacher of the Year*, to work with students on their local history projects. Students were charged with making a children's book on a local history topic. Quite a number of students have made email inquiries with us and come to do research at our Buxton-Hollis Historical Society research library. One parent arrived with a car load of students, certainly keeping our volunteers hopping while assisting students, all searching for information on different topics! It has been a great way to introduce students to the resources of their historical society while making history come alive, and to encourage them to be good citizens by helping them feel connected to their communities. When complete, their books will be posted on our historical society web site.



Teacher Kristin Klin



Bonny Eagle H.S. student Mia Kovacs researching in the BHHS Research Library.

We also received a letter of inquiry and visit from Mia Kovacs, a Bonny Eagle freshman, who, in her Earth & Space Science class, is learning about different types of energy and how it has impacted surrounding areas and communities. Brent Hill, one of our volunteers (and a recent C.M.P. retiree), helped Mia locate information on her chosen topic, Skelton Dam, which was opened in 1948 and caused Saco River gorges to flood, among other things.

We celebrate our young local historians and their teachers, who have the wisdom & insight to assign such thoughtful and multifaceted projects!

We also are grateful to the *All That Dance Studio Competitive Dance Team* and their Director, Darcy Leavitt, for their participation in Maypole dancing for the third consecutive year at our BHHS Victorian White Party! Many thanks to BHHS members for making colorful floral crown wreaths for dancers to wear!

What a wonderful way to welcome spring and commemorate renown historical figure, Kate Douglas Wiggin's "white parties" held at Quillcote in Hollis. (The event took its name from the white clothing worn by women in and around 1900.) We appreciate, as well, the lovely renditions sung by the *Bonny Eagle Select Chorus* led by Director Alan Thomas. A big THANK YOU, as well, to Carla Turner for making the south lawn, as well as the private Kate Douglas Wiggin library, of this historic site open to the public. Extra benefits this year once again included visits to (and feathers from) three rather shy resident peacocks!

Happy summer to you all,

Jan Hill, President



BHHS Members in "Whites" at Quillcote Victorian White Party
 Front Row: Jan Hill, Roberta Ramsdell, Nancy Pierce
 Second Row: Betsy Clay, Sue Schaller, Janice Lane
 Back Row: Barry Plummer, Brenton Hill



(L-r) Janice Lane, Jan Hill, Nancy Pierce, Meg Gardner, Bertie Ramsdell, Betsy Clay, Barry Plummer (Brent Hill was behind the camera lens)

BHHS OFFICERS

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Nancy Ponzetti, *Vice-President, Hollis*

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Pass the Word: Bluebird Benefit Bash at the Brewster Barn Saturday, August 18, 2018



It’s coming! It’ll be here soon! Get your treasures ready! BHHS looks forward to seeing you on August 18th at our annual fascinating, fun, and fortune fundraising event at the beautiful Brewster Barn bluebird benefit at Tory Hill. We have a sterling cast of evaluators who volunteer to assist in this event by examining your old and valued treasures (or perhaps trash). According to our erudite author of “The Coming Programs” column, these three antiques experts are a “trifecta,” a modern term which I thought refers to winning a horse racing bet by naming the first three winners in the correct order. However, I don’t believe we are going to do much betting at the BBBBBB, unless it is done on the side and under the table.

In spite of this lost opportunity, we are delighted to have a trio of antiques experts who are known by name and reputation. They are Steve Center of Centervale Farm Antiques, one of the largest antique market places in New England; Kevin Keraghan, who has been active in the antique business and in estate work for more than thirty years; and Rachael Gurley, owner of Gurley Antique Gallery in Scarborough, who is carrying on the show promotion tradition of her mother, Nan Gurley, one of the dominant antique dealers and show promoters for decades in New England.

This is the biggest fund-raising event of each year for BHHS and is vital to the continued operation of our building, collections, and programs. Please mark your calendars and watch for more detailed information. We are counting on you to keep history alive and well in Buxton and Hollis. Thank you - *Meg Gardner*



The Brewster Barn, location of the Bluebird Benefit Bash

Salmon Falls (West) National Historic District

by Nancy Ponzetti

Swelling with pride and joy at our present possessions, my sister and I wanted to name the place...The outcome of our discussion was that the home should be called *Quillcote*, the house of two pen-women...We tried to incite an epidemic of naming the few houses in the community. We had no difficulty in coaxing the Widder Akers to call hers *Twin Elms*, nor the Widder Dunn hers *The Brick House*, as it was the only one on the street.”¹



Quillcote, *Twin Elms*, and *The Brick House* are three of the ten structures in Hollis that constitute the Salmon Falls (West) Historic District. One of twenty-six sites on the National Register of Historic Places in York County, Salmon Falls (West) was named a national historic district in 1987. Contributing buildings in the district include the Isaac Lane House, Moses Davis House, Dr. William Sweat House, *Quillcote* (originally the Jabez Bradbury House), the Moses Dunn House, the Dr. Albion Bradbury House, the Isaac Merrill House, and the Salmon Falls Village Library. Two other dwellings on the Salmon Falls Road are considered non-contributing buildings to the historic district. While Lane’s and Bradbury’s homes were begun circa 1794, the other houses in the district were begun between 1820-1840. Architecturally, the homes are one-and-one-half-story capes to two-story Federal/Greek revival style dwellings.

On Saturday, July 14 from 10:00 A.M. until 1:00 P.M., the Buxton Hollis Historical Society will sponsor a tour of *The Brick House* built by Moses Dunn and the gardens of the Isaac Merrill House on



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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
 (Please check our website calendar.)

The BHHS newsletter is proudly sponsored by **Chad E. Poitras Cremation and Funeral Service**
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 498 Long Plains Road, Buxton
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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. 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.

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.

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!

A LOOK BACK IN TIME



Peddler Max Dondos shown with his horse and wagon beside the Odd Fellows Hall in West Buxton c. 1910. Follow BHHS

on Facebook for more Buxton-Hollis photographs.

Upcoming Events 2018

Tues, June 19, 7 P.M.: “Your Father Still Fears That New England will be Depopulated: Mainers & the Rush for California Gold” with Jan Eakins, past Trustee of the Maine Historical Society & Professor of the Osher Life Long Learning Institute of Portland. Drawing on diaries and letters of some of over 300 Mainers Eakins explores why more than 2000 headed west in 1849 and why thousands more followed. Eugene Bradbury and Francis Emery are two such local adventurers. *Are you aware of or have any information on any of your ancestors who participated? BHHS, 100 Main St, Bar Mills. *Suggested donations \$10; Seniors \$8.*

Sat., July 14, 10 A.M. to 1 P.M.: “House & Garden Tour” - Join us for a house tour of the Salmon Falls West Historic District’s *Brick House* built by Moses & Louisa Elden Dunn & then walk a short distance up Salmon Falls Rd. to the lovely gardens of Belinda Pease at the Isaac Merrill House. One of only two National Register Historic Districts in the Buxton Hollis area, Salmon Falls West has a scenic Saco River location. To begin your tour experience, first register in the barn at **9 Salmon Falls Rd., Hollis** to join owners and hosts Jane and Maynard Charron on this BHHS sponsored house and garden tour. **Suggested donations \$12; Seniors \$10.*

Sat., Aug. 4, 9-3: Come visit our volunteers at our **sales and information table at the Tory Hill Church Craft Fair** on the church lawn, corner of Rt. 202 & 112 across from the Royal Brewster Mansion, 8 Brewster Place, Buxton. Our BHHS Research Library, Museum & Store at 100 Main St., Bar Mills will be closed from 9-Noon!

Sat., Aug. 11, 9-3: **Hollis Pirate Fest** -Visit us **at our sales & information table at the Hollis Sports Complex**. See hollispiratefest.com or hollisrec@gmail.com for more information. Also, don’t forget that our BHHS Research Library, Museum & Store at 100 Main St., Bar Mills will be open for business from 9-Noon too!

Sat., Aug. 18: “Bluebird Benefit Bash in the Brewster Barn” - Mark your calendars and reserve your seat now for this entertaining & informative evening with a trifecta of antique specialists who will do their best to give you an opinion of value of one of your treasures: *Steve Center* of Centervale Farm Antiques acclaim, one of the largest antique market places in New England; *Kevin Keraghan*, active in the antique business & estate work for the past 30+ years; and *Rachael Gurley*, owner of Gurley Antique Gallery in Scarborough, who is carrying on the show promotion tradition of her mother, Nan Gurley, one of the dominant antique dealers and show promoters for decades in New England.

Bring your item (1 per couple, please) early (time to be determined) to be evaluated while you enjoy the social hour and tour the magnificent grounds of this National Register venue. A light summer buffet, concluding with your choice of delectable homemade pies will be served at 5 P.M. \$25/person. Checks in advance made out to *Buxton-Hollis Historical Society*, C/O of Beverly Atkinson, P. O. Box 277, Bar Mills, ME 04004. FMI, call Bev 929-6495. *All proceeds to benefit BHHS capital fund projects.

Sat., Sept. 15, 9:30 A.M.: “Cook’s Brook Paddle followed by Bar Mills, Buxton BBQ” - Bring your kayak or canoe, your safety gear, sunscreen and water for an excursion up scenic Cook’s Brook, a relaxed flat paddle. We’ll put in at Pleasant Point Park off the Simpson Rd. in Buxton and return to the same spot to take out, then proceed to the Bar Mills residence of Burt & Barbara Pease at 59 Depot St., Bar Mills for an enjoyable BBQ in the barn! Hamburgers, hot dogs and beverage provided. *Please bring a side dish or dessert to share!* *Donations to benefit BHHS capital projects always appreciated!

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Tues., Sept. 18, 7 P.M.: “Building the American Dream Home by Mail: Kit Houses in Greater Portland” with architect, Julie Larry, Director of Advocacy for Greater Portland Landmarks. The *American Dream* of home ownership was fostered by reformers, developers, and building material companies in the early 20th century. This program will discuss the history of kit home manufacturing in this country and illustrate the variety of styles available from manufacturers and the various ways you can identify a kit home. You may even be living in a Sears Catalog House or have in your older home an architectural feature, such as a mantel, purchased by mail. BHHS, 100 Maine St., Bar Mills. *Suggested donations \$10; Seniors \$8.

Tues., October 16, 7 P.M. Getting in the mood for the often gruesome subject of the Halloween season, we will explore “Reconsidering the Lizzy Borden Murder Case: The Role of Ethnicity and Gender - *Explore this 1892 landmark law case & American Society*” with Joseph Conforti, author of seven books on New England history and culture and Distinguished Professor of American and New England Studies Emeritus at the University of So. Maine, as he reviews the famous murders and trial, as well as how issues of ethnicity and gender help broaden our understanding of what happened. BHHS, 100 Main St, Bar Mills. *Suggested donations \$10; Seniors \$8.

Sat., Nov. 3, 5-9 P.M. BHHS ANNUAL MEETING & POTLUCK DINNER: Join members and friends as we break bread together, elect officers for the 2019 year, and enjoy the informative and fascinating program of the evening “**The Wabanaki Confederacy: The Wabnaki or “People of the Dawn,”** presented by noted teacher and popular historian, Nancy Ponzetti. The Wabnaki are the first people of the area of Northeastern New England and Maritime Canada, living here for over 12,000 years. At one time, there were more than 20 nations of the Wabanaki Confederacy. There are only four nations still in existence in Maine: the Maliseet, Micmac, Passamaquoddy, and Penobscot; more than 16 nations were completely destroyed. To reserve your seat at the table and let us know your potluck contribution, please R.S.V.P. Roberta Ramsdell at 929-4592. *Suggested donation \$10; Seniors, \$8

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

New Planned 2019 Village Exhibit

Next year we will have a new West Buxton Village Exhibit in our remaining two large rooms upstairs. We are forming a new project committee and are looking for volunteers. The Bar Mills Exhibit will continue to be open this year and next.

We are now soliciting donations and loans of artifacts, pictures and any other historical items that show this important Hollis and Buxton village in the period from about 1830 to 1953. A possible title is “From Moderation Village to Downtown West Buxton”. We are looking for local items relating to the lumber industry (and Dow/Lord/Hargreaves families), the woolen industry (and Berryman, Tracey, Illingsworth families), the carding mill on carding mill brook, retail stores (Davis, Bryant, Rosenberg, Plummer), blacksmiths (Joe Sands), Thomas Bradbury Jr. stove shop, barber shops (Townsend), jewelry stores (Barnes family), Saco River Creamery, the Elm Hotel, the Tarbox Hotel, Masons/Eastern Star, Odd Fellows/Reberras, Buxton and Hollis Savings Bank, Casco Bank, West Buxton Fire Department including firefighters, CMP hydro operations and the local operators, Shy Beaver and Cold Spring Trout ponds, West Buxton Airport, West Buxton Post Office, churches, West Buxton School (Buxton), West Buxton School (Hollis), Hillcrest School and Shadigee School.

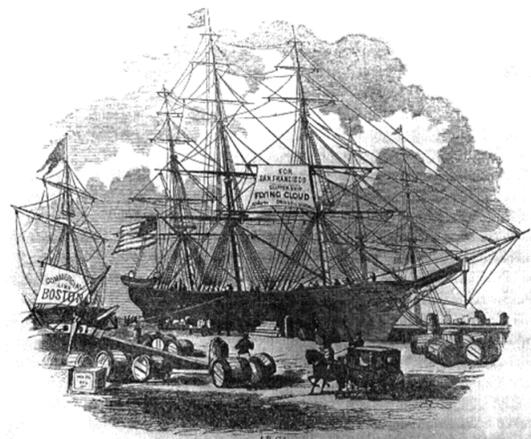
We have much to cover! Please contact us through email, telephone, Facebook or our web page if you can make a contribution to our West Buxton history.

Gold Fever

Save the date of June 19th and go for the gold! Yes, BHHS's program features Jan Eakins, who will tell us about an opportunity that was even more promising than the Powerball and Megamillions together! The talk of the town during the mid- Nineteenth Century among the more adventurous folk here in Maine was "Go West Young Man (and many women)". They opened their enthusiasm and empty pocketbooks and headed for the mines in California and other parts of the vast, dangerous, mostly unexplored western parts of the still raw country.

Jan Eakins, our guest speaker, is a distinguished architectural historian and popular lecturer. She currently is hard at work writing her book *A Chance World, Lost Stories of Maine and the California Gold Rush*. Ms. Eakins holds degrees in historic preservation and cultural history, mass communications, and journalism. Among her many other interests and activities, she teaches courses in Maine history and in mass media at Osher Lifelong Learning Institute in Portland.

There were two young men from Buxton-Hollis who followed the gold: Eugene Bradbury and Francis Emery.



House and Garden Tour: The Salmon Falls (West) Historic District National Park Service, National Register of Historic Places Program

A property must meet three criteria in order to be eligible for consideration for an appointment to the National Register for Historical Preservation. The property, whether an historic district or a single building, is evaluated based on its age, integrity, and significance. In Maine, nominations are submitted to the Maine Historic Preservation Commission for an initial evaluation; a determination is then made about whether the property meets the standards set by the National Register of Historic Places.

We who live in Hollis and Buxton are fortunate to have several properties that have been named to the National Register. The accolade serves to remind us that our past is worthy of preserving and protecting and that its history provides a solid foundation reminding us of who we are, where we began, and what we must strive towards in order to continue to support our freedoms. The Buxton-Hollis Historical Society is pleased that we are able to invite you to tour two lovely properties in the Salmon Falls (West) Historic District in Hollis: the interior of the Moses Dunn House and the gardens of the Isaac Merrill House. See Event Listings FMI.



(continued from page 3)

Salmon Falls Road, Hollis. Registration and the tour begin in the barn at 9 Salmon Falls Road.

The two-story, ten room *Brick House*, circa 1830-1840, was the home of Moses and Louisa Elden Dunn and probably replaced a frame house that first stood on the property in the 1820s. Dunn was a store owner at Salmon Falls, prominent in town affairs, and widely known. The Duns occupied the house until their deaths when it was sold to William Moulton whose wife established the tea room in the Salmon Falls Village Library.

A short distance from *The Brick House* is the Isaac Merrill House, a one-and-one-half story 1820s cape. Merrill was the son of John and Rebecca Lane Merrill and the nephew of Isaac Lane, owner of the oldest dwelling on the road, and the person responsible for the building of the first bridge to connect Hollis and Buxton. Isaac Merrill was a merchant, Justice of the Peace, mill owner, and first president of the Salmon Falls Debating Club established on November 18, 1839. Merrill and his wife Lucy Merritt Merrill lived in the house until their deaths.



The little community of houses on the Hollis side of the Saco River that Kate Douglas Wiggin and her sister Nora Archibald Smith decided to name constitute one of Maine's over 187 separate National Register Historic Districts "that are significant in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering, and culture."² Please join us on July 14 as the Buxton Hollis Historical Society celebrates the Salmon Falls (West) Historic District.

Notes

1 Kate Douglas Wiggin, *My Garden of Memory* (Boston, MA: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1923), 269-270.

2 http://www.maine.gov/mhpc/national_register/index.html.

Notes from the N.C. Watson School Committee by Vicki Walker

The Committee and volunteers have been busy cleaning inside the building. Girl Scout troop 1752 members have been very helpful with the exterior grounds. They have also proved very helpful in washing all the exterior windows. We had a clean-up of the land behind the building and cleared up a lot of bottles and cans, trash, and fallen limbs and cut down sucker bushes. The MSAD 6 District has been most helpful by cutting a hole in the rear fence in preparation for a gate. There is some more landscaping to be done and then we hope that the Elementary School in back of the N.C. Watson School will have easier access for students to come and visit. We envision a raked path, zig-zagging down to join with the handicapped ramp at the rear of NC Watson.

We have secured a new, to us, front door, which will be a big improvement over the old leaking wooden door currently there. We have purchased a new flag, which will be flown when the School is open. There are some minor repairs that still need to be done and we will be working on them.

Please stop by with the whole family on the second or fourth Saturdays of the month. We will be there from 1:00 to 4:00 PM through October. If you have any questions or are interested in having a private viewing and tour please contact Vicki Walker, Chair at 207-929-3662 or vickiwalker@sacoriver.net.



Clare Flore with baby girl Cygnus & Vicki Walker in front of N. C. Watson One Room School.

THANK YOU!

Questions? Please call 929-1684 and leave a message OR visit *Contact Us* on our website www.buxtonhollishistorical.org

Send to:
Buxton Hollis Historical Society
Attn: Membership Chair
P.O. Box 34
Buxton, ME 04093

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Annual Dues Level

Note- membership year runs from January 1 thru December 31.
(Please Print Clearly)

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BUXTON-HOLLIS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. BOX 34

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