

Buxton and Hollis Timeline : Wild Frontier to Farms, to Factories to Today

Prehistory and early exploration to the coming of Massachusetts

11000 BCE	Glacier over Maine melts, geologic rebound starts
9000 BCE	Maine has arctic tundra landscape
7000 BCE	Paleoindian hunters follow game to Maine, earliest Maine artifacts found by river in Bar Mills
1500	Fishing fleets regularly visit Maine coast & Grand Banks after John Cabot visit in 1497
1605 July 12	Samuel de Champlain meets Native Americans at mouth of Saco River. They call river "Chouacoit"
1614	Capt. John Smith visits Maine coast. Promotes settlement when back in England
1616	Richard Vines & William Phillips at Winter Harbor (Biddeford Pool)(11)
1617	75% mortality rate estimated in worst Maine Indian epidemic, Smallpox also in 1631,33,39,49,70,77,79,91 1729 & 1733(13)
1622	Sir Fernando Gorges granted Maine. First to title it "Maine"(10)
1623	Christopher Levett explores mouth of "Sawco" river with directions from local English fishermen
1652	Massachusetts annexes southwestern Maine

Wild Frontier, Indians and War from early settlements to Fall of Quebec in 1759

1661	Major William Phillips purchases Waterboro, Alfred & Sanford from Sagamore Fluellan(11)
1664 May	Little Falls Plantation (Hollis) purchased by Major William Phillips from Sagamores Hobinowil and Mogg Hegan, recorded 1669 (1)
1668	Francis Small buys from Sagamore Captain Sunday the Ossipee Lands; Limington, Limerick, Cornish, Newfield, Shapleigh
1675	Soldiers mustered on Dedham plain promised land for their efforts in fight against Narraganset Indians (King Philip's War) (5)
1677	Massachusetts buys balance of Maine from Gorges heirs
1724	Attack on Norridgewock, Father Rasles War 1722-1727
1728 -1759	Saco Block House (Truckhouse or fort and trading post) established below Union Falls (then Hollis, now in Dayton) (1)
1733	Narraganset grantees meeting on Boston Common assigned land, Narraganset No. 1 (Buxton) to Philemon Dane and 119 others
1733 Summer	John Gains and Jonathan Fellows view Narraganset No. 1 (Buxton) & No. 7 (Gorham) for the grantees
1743	Fort at Salmon Falls abandoned and settlers fled to more fortified settlements(6), Maine population 12,000(10)
1744	Thirteen men stationed at Saco Block House. Increased to twenty on declaration of war (1)(King George's War)(2)
1745	Sir William Pepperell of Kittery captures Louisburg
1749 Oct. 16	Peace Treaty with Indians, peace proclaimed in Boston May 10, 1749
1750	First Buxton sawmill on Stackpole Brook by Joseph Woodman, later also a gristmill
1750	Narraganset Proprietors petition Biddeford (included Saco) to build cart road to Narraganset No. 1
1750 Jan 11	First colonial child born, Rebecca Woodman at fort in Salmon Falls(7)
1753	John and Andrew Gordon driven from Little Falls (Hollis) by Indians(1)
1754 Summer	Standish Proprietors in Falmouth vote to build blockhouse at present Standish Corner (Rt 25 & 35), completed that summer
1755 Spring	War between France and Great Britain starts again
1755	Indian raids on New Boston(Gray), North Yarmouth, New Gloucester and in 1756 on New Marblehead (Windham)(9)
1759	Saco Block House abandoned with return of peace after fall of Quebec, peace in Europe in 1763, Maine Population 24,000(10)

Farming Communities from Fall of Quebec to Coming of the Railroad in 1855

1761	Sawmill and grist mill built in Buxton on Little River (Leavitt's Brook or Cemetery Brook)
1761	Narraganset Proprietors call Paul Coffin as first minister in town
1772 14-Jul	Narraganset No. 1 incorporated as Town of Buxton, Paul Coffin named it after Buxton, England
1777	Mrs. Martha Elden Kimball killed last wolf in Buxton(6)

1780 -1781	First Hollis sawmill and grist mill at Ridlon's Mills on Ridlon's Brook (from Wales Pond)(2)	
1781 15-May	First Little Falls Plantation meeting at home of Capt. John Smith (17)	
1781	Buxton votes to hire first schoolmaster and to pay in corn	
1782	Nathaniel Goodwin builds sawmill on Swan Pond Creek in Goodwin's Mills(2)	
1783	Massachusetts abolishes slavery	
1784 (1780s)	Christopher Gilpatrick has tannery on Deering Ridge in Little Falls (2)	
1789	Massachusetts adopts school district plan for operation of local schools (12)	
1790 circa	Corn taken in part payment of taxes in Little Falls(1)	
1791	First vote for state office in Hollis, 27 votes for Governor John Hancock	
1791	Salmon Falls Bridge begun	
1791	First Buxton schoolhouse, school previously held in teachers' homes	
1793 -1870s	Wentworth-Bickford Pottery on Haines Meadow Road in Buxton(4)	
1795	Sawmills at Salmon Falls and Bar Mills(2),	
1795 circa	Paul Coffin first area Postmaster at Buxton Lower Corner	
1798 Feb.	Phillipsburg (later Hollis) incorporated as town in honor of Major Phillips(1)	
1800	7 of Maine's 161 town have "grammer" (high) schools(12)	
1800 (1800s)	Granite quarries on Claeb Bradbury Lot west of Rt. 117 in Hollis, some quarry work at Bonny Eagle(2)	
1806	Stephen Hopkinson et al build first sawmill and grist mill at Hopkinson's Mills (Union Falls)(2)	
1808	Buxton and Hollis Light Infantry Company founded, drilled at Buxton Lower Corner	
1809	Maine had 200 tanneries, business peaked in 1879, decreased due to lack of hemlock bark(8)	
1811 May 6	Massachusetts General Court approves new town name of Hollis(1), proposed by local committee	
1811 Jan. 4	Last record of meeting of Proprietors of Narraganset No.1, roads and undivided lands turned over to the town (16)	
1812	Buxton, Biddeford and Hollis vote to build Powder Houses for militia gunpowder, shot and kettles	
1813	US ship Boxer defeats British ship Enterprise off Portland	
1814	Saco River freshet destroys Smith's Bridge, cuts new channel and creates Usher Island in Bar Mills	
1820 March 12	Maine and Missouri become States	
1820 (1820s)	Public tax support for churches and ministers ceased in most area towns(2)	
1821	North Congregational Church, oldest surviving church in Buxton or Hollis completed	
1823	Start of passenger steamships from Portland to Boston	Buxton Powder House
1824	Part of Buxton North and East of Bonny Eagle Pond annexed to Standish on petition of Josiah Paine and others per act of Legislature. Daniel Appleton and 1 selectman from each of the two towns survey the new line	
1830	Cumberland and Oxford Canal opens(Harrison to Sebago Lake to Portland)	
1831	Joseph Davis boot and shoe shop at Buxton Center, 10-15 people employed(4)	
1833 -1904	Gibeon Bradbury born at Salmon Falls, landscape and wagon painter	
1839 Dec. 12	Buxton votes to let Methodists erect church on eastern corner of town poor farm	
1849	Samuel Meserve & Son store in Bar Mills, later Hall & Sands	
1849	Lumber, box and heading mill in Bar Mills by S. H. Berry & Son	
1850 mid 1800s	Alld Pottery in Hollis(2)	
1850 circa	Several Charcoal kilns in Hollis(2)	
1850	Portland & Rochester railroad extends from Portland to Gorham	
1851	"Maine Law" prohibits manufacture and sale of liquor	
1851	Hollis purchases Aaron Smith farm for town poor farm, town previously "set the poor at auction", farm used into 1930s(2)	
1854 Apr. 7	Dayton seperated from Hollis by act of legislature, named for Thomas Day(2)	

1855 Portland & Rochester railroad from Portland to Bar Mills

Factories and Industry to the Hydroelectric development on the Saco (1906-1919), Rise of the Automobile

1856 Storage dam for Saco mills built at Union Falls(2)

1856 A sawmill, planing mill, blacksmith shop, shoe shop and wool carding shop at West Buxton (2)

1856 Saco Water Power Co. builds a storage dam at Union Falls for downstream mills(6)

1858 S.D. Hanson Coat Shop established at Buxton Center, 20-25 people in shop, 1200 ladies at home, peak business 1865-1868(4)

1866 Three story, Tracy woolen mill built in West Buxton (Hollis side), later operated by Hollis Manufacturing(2)

1867 -1869 Portland and Rochester Railroad from Portland to Alfred

1868 about Chamber furniture factory established in Bar Mills, later Rogers Fibre leatherboard, burned and rebuilt in 1907

1868 Feb. 21 Buxton Savings Bank incorporated, later Buxton & Hollis Savings Bank and Casco Bank

1870 New bridge at Moderation (West Buxton) per Buxton Town Report

1871 Portland and Rochester Railroad from Portland to Rochester, later Boston & Maine, \$20,000 Saco River Bridge

1872 (late 1800) Stern-wheeler paddleboat Minnie Ha-Ha operated from West Buxton to Bar Mills Railroad Depot, transported lumber and passengers

1875 April 3 Hollis Grange No. 132 established

1876 June 9 Independent Order of Odd Fellows established in West Buxton, hall built in 1894, hall used for silent movies, plays, Hollis High graduations

1878 Western Normal School opens in Gorham for teacher education, later Gorham Normal & Univ. of Southern Maine (12), graduates 45 in 1880.

1880 Wooden bridge at Bar Mills burned, replaced by steel one

1883 First of more than twenty Kate Douglas Wiggin books published

1888 Steam powered gristmill, Buxton Milling Co, established at Buxton Depot on railroad

1889 Feb. 23 Saco River Telephone and Telegraph Co. organized, one toll circuit to Biddeford

1891 Start of Saco Valley Canning Co at Hollis Center(2)

1892 Page Box mill on railroad at Towle St. in Bar Mills, first Maine paper box company in 1909

1893 Portland & Rochester Railroad had 6 daily passenger trains each way (15)

1893 Maine school district system abolished (12), one school committee per town

1894 First electric lights in Bar Mills, power from Maine Furniture Company (later Rogers Fibre)

1894 Aug 31 York County Mutual Fire Insurance Company started at Briant's Hall, Buxton

1895 First Hollis High School per Town Report

1896 Ice wrecks part of West Buxton bridge

1897 Thirteen schoolhouses in Hollis, nine in use per Town Report

1900 79 woolen mills in Maine, 28 in 1860, 58 in 1917

1903 Oct. 16 Rural Free Delivery started around Buxton Depot area

1905 Kate Douglas Wiggin purchases the 1794 house Quillcote in Hollis, summer home until 1923

1905 White Mountain Paper Company has a pulp mill at Bar Mills(6)

1906 Pleasant Point Park given to Appalachian Mountain Club in honor of Cyrus Woodman

1907 West Buxton hydroelectric power plant in operation on old mill rights, served Portland trolleys , 22,000 volt transmission line

1908 Sept 22 First automobile ride by Elmer Boothby of Buxton (Boothby Dairies)

1910 Bonny Eagle Hydroelectric station completed(3)

1910 Dec. 12 New train depot at Bar Mills, the old depot was moved and survives as the Bar Mills Parish House

1911 Kate Douglas Wiggin purchases a bulding and establishes 2,000 volume Salmon Falls Library, sister bequeaths it to Hollis in 1934 (1)

1912 Clark Power Company installs hydroelectric generation at Union Falls(6)

1913 Corn on the cob first canned at Duck Pond in Buxton, later Carll Canning Co, canned corn sold first by George C. Shaw & Co.(4)

1914 Ford Model T

1919 Paper making machinery removed from Bar Mills, facility converted to hydroelectric generator by Cumberland County Power & Light Co.

Suburban Communities, Automobiles to the Internet

1920 90% of US farmers without electricity(3)
1920 Nov. 2 First time Maine women can vote for President
1921 Hollis Center Library completed (2)
1921 Nov. 3 Wooden bridge at Union Falls dynamited for new Clark Power Co. dam, event filmed for a movie
1922 Aug. State route 202 under construction at Bar Mills
1923 May 2 Herm Locke of Buxton installs a milking machine
1924 Maine Klu Klux Klan membership at 50,000(14)
1925 Buxton-Hollis Hospital established by Dr. Arthur Wiley
1926 Farmers Union building (grist mill) at Hollis Center damaged by train jumping the track, torn down in 2004
1927 Jan.2 First gasoline powered snowplow in Bar Mills
1930 March 19, SD Hanson High School burns down, Dec 1, new SD Hanson High School dedicated
1931 West Buxton Fire Department formed in Hollis (1)
1932 Passenger service discontinued on Portland & Rochester Railroad(11)
1934 Maine Prohibition repealed
1936 West Buxton wooden bridge goes out in flood, replaced by \$0.25 ferry and then a steel bridge
1938 Two paved roads in Buxton at this date, State Routes 202 and 112
1939 Grist mill in Buxton by William Woodman, later Buxton Milling Co. in Bar Mills
1942 Second Hollis High School built, now Hollis Consolidated School
1947 New bridge at Salmon Falls(1)
1947 Maine Turnpike opens, extended to Augusta in 1955
1947 The Great Fire burns hundreds of acres in Hollis
1948 Skelton Dam and hydroelectric generators completed at Union Falls(6)
1951 Buxton-Hollis Lions Club established
1956 Bar Mills hydroelectric project rebuilt by Central Maine Power Co.
1957 Saco River Tel & Tel introduces dial service
1957 Sinclair Act establishes school districts, 1958 MSAD #6 formed under Sinclair Act(12)
1961 Portland & Rochester Railroad discontinues operation(11)
1986? Salmon Falls(Hollis and Buxton) houses on National Historic Register
196? Buxton and Hollis go wet, no joy in Joy Valley (intersection of Rt 112 and 117 in Saco)
1995 Saco River Tel & Tel introduces internet service (per Pine Tree Networks)

1 Hollis Bicentennial 1778-1998

2 History of Hollis, Jewett and Hannaford

3 The Light from the River, Irwin

4 Industry in Old Buxton and Hollis

5 Narraganset No. 1

6 Buxton Bicentennial

7 Buxton Centennial

8 Maine Book, 1920

9 The Founding of Pearsontown(Standish) Maine, Sears

10 Maine Sec. of State Kid's Web Page,Jim Brunelle1980

11 History of Waterboro, Willis Lord, 1987

12 Maine Dept. of Education web page history

13 Maine Abenaki history, Lee Sultzman

14 MPBS Maine history web page

15 Bi-Centennial History of Gorham, p63

16 Daniel Dennett and the Mapping of Buxton, Deering, 1999