

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

# BUXTON-HOLLIS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

INCORPORATED 1970

[http:// www. buxtonhollishistorical.org](http://www.buxtonhollishistorical.org)

SUMMER 2012



## Buxton-Hollis Historical Society Officers & Directors

Janice Hill, *President*  
 Robert Yarumian, *Vice-President, Buxton*  
 Goodwin Hannaford, *Vice-President, Hollis*  
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 Marguerite Gardner, *Publicity*  
 Joan Weeman, *Finance & Audit*  
 Bette Robicheaw-Hospitality  
 Louis Emery, *Watson School Committee*  
 Brenton Hill, *Past President*  
 Roxanne Eflin-Buxton *Building Survey*  
 Julie Larry-Hollis *Building Survey*

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

President's Message	1
Programs 2012	2
1664 Dog Law	2
Update Hollis High School	3
Library/Museum Hours	3
<b>Bar Mills School 100th Year</b>	<b>4</b>
Box Lunch Social	5
One-Room School Hours	5
Membership Form	6

"I'm very much a believer in knowing what it is that you love doing so you can do a great deal of it." — N. Efron

## Summer Greetings ! FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

**"Change is not a bolt of lightning that arrives with a zap. It is a bridge built brick by brick, every day, with sweat and humility and slips. It is hard work, and slow work, but it can be thrilling to watch it take shape."**

— Sarah Hepola

With the above quote from Oprah's newsletter in mind, we have had yet another winter, spring and summer of hard work, with bridges being built, brick by brick with MSAD 6 School Board, to find alternative uses for our historic public school owned buildings in Buxton and Hollis. The work continues and the buildings are still standing, with hopes that come November 1st, we will have some sort of arrangement for each of these worthy historic structures to ensure their preservation and continuing use.

We are also very concerned about the fate of the Meeting House on Rt. 22 at Scarborough Corner, as we know that many pews of this early structure have been removed. Unfortunately, the building is not in Buxton or Hollis and therefore does not fall within the geographic mission of our BHHS By-Laws.

It is of interest, too, that the sign of the old *Rounds Tavern*, which used to stand in Bog Mills where *Sanford Institute for Savings* is now located, has been found in New Jersey! It's owner contacted us for more information about it.

We have had several recent donations now in the process of being acces-

sioned, including several **Agnes Wiggin** paintings — rescued by Diane Longley from the Buxton Transfer Station! Thank-you, Diane, all those who have made donations!

We look forward to seeing many of you at the Saturday, July 21st **Buxton Community Day/Dorcas Fair** tables on the Tory Hill Church lawn from 9-3 PM. Come and have a piece of birthday cake to celebrate the Kick-Off of the **100th Birthday of the 1912 Bar Mills Elementary School!** It is possible that this will be its last year standing, although we continue to work towards a happier, useful outcome. We will keep you posted!

On Saturday, July 28th, there will be a **Box Lunch Social** on the Brewster Mansion grounds to benefit the maintenance fund of the N.C. Hope Watson One-Room School. (More info inside) —We hope to see you there!

We still have an opening for a new Librarian. If you would be interested in knowing more information on this volunteer position, please call Jan at 929-8895.

For those of you who like note cards, a fourth beautiful new card of Bradbury florals, "*Wild Rose, Arrowhead, Great Willow Herb and Pipisewa*" is now available.

Please remember that our library hours have changed this year. We hope you will visit!

Jan Hill, *President*

## UPCOMING EVENTS AND PROGRAMS 2012

**Sat., July 21, 9:00 A.M.: Buxton Community Day**—There will be a “100th Birthday Party for the 1912 Bar Mills Elementary School” adjacent to the regular BHHS sale table on the Tory Hill Church lawn and YOU are invited! The school was the first graded consolidated school in Buxton and the only one for the next 40 years! It’s construction made possible the consolidation of students from three one room schools in Buxton (Bar Mills, Scribners & Buxton Lower Corner). Students from Bar Mills, Hollis side, were also tutitioned there until it became the MSAD 6 Administrative Offices in 1958. Come by the booth, have a piece of Birthday Cake, receive your free gift, check out photos of some of early the students and teachers to see if you can find anyone you know, celebrate the charm and functionality of this 4000+ sq. ft. beauty and learn of its pending threat of demolition AND the potential of its re-use in the community! **Corner of Rt. 202 & Rt. 112.**

**Sat., July 28, 12 Noon Promptly: “A Box Lunch Social” on the Brewster Mansion Grounds**—Pack up a decorative box (bag or basket) lunch for two with a description of the lunch attached to the outside. Your lunch will be auctioned off to the highest bidder, with whom you will share the lunch. Visit with old friends and make new ones while supporting repairs at the N. C. Watson One-Room School. Auctioneer is Bruce A. Buxton and music is by *Kind of Blue-Four Jazz Group*. Ladies hats and gents suspenders OPTIONAL, but FUN! Rain or shine! 8 Brewster Place, Bar Mills, Intersection Rt. 202 & 112. Please RSVP to Bev Atkinson @ 929-6495.

**Sat., Aug. 25, 9:30 - 11 A.M.: “Walk the Trails of Indian Cellar with Guided Interpretation”** by John Mattor — Get your copy of the newly printed trail map and join us for a stroll in this historic and magical natural area with special attention given to the botany and bird life. **Meet @ at the parking lot, corner of Salmon Falls Road & Rt. 202 (across from Salmon Falls Library in Hollis).**

**Friday, Sept. 21, 7:30 P.M.: “In the Blood—A documentary film uncovering the life, skills and character of turn of the century Maine lumbermen and river drivers**—held in conjunction with the Saco River Grange Hall. Film and music by Sumner McKane. Adults \$12, Seniors and Students \$10. Call 929-6472 for reservations or information. **Saco River Theater, 29 Salmon Falls Rd., Buxton.**

**Sat., October 20, 6:30 P.M.: “Share Spooky Stories”**—Share a strange ghost story or just listen as we welcome the spookiest season of the year at this BHHS Capitol Campaign fund raiser to raise money for an eventual permanent home for our history center, museum and library. Adults \$10, Seniors and Students \$7. **Old White Church, 15 Salmon Falls Rd., Bar Mills.**

**Sat., October 27, 3:30 P.M.: “Haunted Cemetery Tour”**— Gather on the lawn of the First Congregational Church (Tory Hill), corner Rt. 202 & 112 for the third haunted tour of the South Buxton Cemetery as “new” spirits come alive to greet you! Halloween treats to follow in the Royal Brewster Barn. Sponsored by the *Buxton-Hollis Historical Society* and the *South Buxton Cemetery Association*. Donations gratefully accepted. Want to help? Call Jan @ 929-8895.

**Sat., Nov. 10, 5:30 P.M. Annual Meeting: “The Rise and Fall of West Buxton Village, A Center for Manufacturing and Merchandizing”** presented by past BHHS President Brenton Hill. This 42nd annual meeting will be a pot luck supper fund raiser for the Society’s Capital Campaign. Supper will feature spiral ham, casseroles galore, salads and yummy home made desserts! \$10. For reservations, contact Nancy Kneeland @ 929-8773 or email Nancy@sacriver.net. You will be contacted to contribute your favorite casserole, salad or dessert to the feast. For more information or if you would like to help, contact Berty Ramsdell @ 929-4529 or email robertaramsdell@myottmail.com The supper will be held at the **First Congregational Church Parish House, Rt. 4A, Bar Mills.**

### *Dog Law in 1664 (Passed along by the Scarborough Historical Society)*

A custom of the Native Americans was to dress each hill of corn in their cornfields with fish. This custom was adopted by the white man in neighboring Scarborough in 1664. Evidently, area dogs took advantage of this practice by digging up and eating the fish. To prevent this, the following law was passed: “It is ordered that all dogs, for the space of three weeks after the publishing hereof, shall have one leg tyed up; and if a dog shall break loose and be found doing any harm, the owner of the dog shall pay damage. If a man refuse to tye up his dog’s leg, and he bee found scraping up fish in a cornfield, the owner thereof shall pay twelpepence damages, beside whatever damage the dog doth.” (*Wow! That’s one tough leash law!!*)

## Update on the Old Hollis High School, a.k.a.

### Hollis Learning Center .....By Meg Gardner

Work continues to find a solution for disposition of the Old Hollis High School building, a.k.a. Hollis Learning Center. At the July 12 meeting of the MSAD 6 Facilities Committee, there was discussion and consideration of the footprint of the land to be offered with the old Hollis High School in any proposal for the transfer of the building, either to the Town of Hollis (not likely) or in a sales offer on the open market.



Hollis Learning Center

A short 15 minute televised presentation will be offered to the Hollis Selectmen on Wednesday, July 18 by Hollis resident and Treasurer of CHARM, Meg Gardner, with the intent of informing Hollis citizens of facts about the building. Meg and CHARM members are *urging Hollis citizens to attend the meeting in support of the building or catch the presentation on cable TV*. The presentation will consist of a brief history, potential documented needs for the building, the combined 45% state and federal rehabilitation tax credits (which are given back to municipalities in the form of rebates), the possibility of grants and other potential sources for funding the building's rehabilitation, the importance of the building's eligibility for the *National Register of Historic Places*, perhaps reference to the provisions of Hollis's Comprehensive Plan, and a brief discussion of some of the renovations which have been made in the past few years at taxpayer cost, as well as a more rational explanation of what is necessary to "fix" any issues and the likely costs. .

Of particular concern to the people of Hollis is the proximity of the Quonset Hut/gymnasium. If the brick building is sold to a private entity, there may have to be easements so that the school district can continue to use the gymnasium. There has even been a consideration that the Quonset Hut itself might have to be included in the sale in order to meet lot size and zoning regulations. We don't think that will happen, but the potential easements may pose a problem for those in the community who use the gymnasium outside of school activities. The school district's interest can be protected by deed restrictions. *However, it may not be feasible for the School District to protect the community's interests in this event.* We are in hopes, however, that everyone concerned can work things out satisfactorily both for the School District and the citizens of Hollis.

The bottom line is that the School District will place the building on the open market if Hollis rejects it, and if no sale is in the works by November 1st, it will be demolished. *That gives the building less than 3 months on the open market and it is not yet listed!* (By the way, that School District warrant article with the November 1 deadline was passed in Hollis on June 12 by a margin of only five votes.)

**\*\* Please note that anyone is welcome to call Meg with questions at 929-3647 (or email her at [daisy-mayc@gmail.com](mailto:daisy-mayc@gmail.com))**



BHHS Museum & Library

## BHHS Society Library & Museum Hours

8 River Rd., Rt. 112, West Buxton

*Primarily a Non-Lending Library for Historical and Genealogical Research*

Buxton, Hollis & York County

**Open 2nd & 4th Fridays & Saturdays**

*\*Note: Closed Sat., October 27 —Join us the for Haunted Cemetery Tour*

**April-October, 2012 1-4 P.M.**



Old Bar Mills Elementary School —a Contributing Building  
in a DOT National Register Historic District

## Historic 1912 Building Recognized for 100 Years of Service

A **100th Year Birthday Party** is being held for the 1912 Bar Mills Elementary School building at Buxton-Community Day/Dorcas Fair on **Saturday, July 21 from 9 .m. to 3 p.m.** Birthday cake, prizes, candy and a raffle of a framed print of the building are being offered to party goers. Serving for 45 years as an elementary school, the building became the new MSAD 6's Administrative Offices in 1958. Class photos of Buxton and Hollis children who attended this first consolidated school of the area will be on display. *Will you find a family member?*

Below is an interesting excerpt from a report appearing in the *1912 Buxton Annual Report* by C. L. Clement, Superintendent of Schools. It is entitled "*The Need of a Graded School at Bar Mills*" and it states the rationale for construction of the new consolidated Bar Mills Elementary School.

"The condition of the buildings at Bar Mills, Scribner's and Lower Corner (one-room schools) is such that something ought to be done there at once. To remodel these buildings and provide suitable playgrounds would cost nearly, if not quite, as much as a building that would accommodate the three schools and thus give us a graded school. Whatever additional initial cost there might be would be more than made up in a few years by the lessened cost of maintenance of the one building in place of the three. In the three schools there has been enrolled this year one hundred pupils. At the Depot School the teacher has twenty-eight recitations daily or an average of twelve minutes per recitation; at Scribner the teacher has thirty-three recitations, or an average of ten minutes per recitation; at Lower Corner the average is fourteen minutes per recitation. In a graded school with three teachers the average recitation period would be lengthened to twenty or thirty minutes with a corresponding increase in the effectiveness of the instruction given. Again in the three schools the grades are small and consequently lacking in interest and enthusiasm. In the graded school, on the contrary, the grades would be three times as large on the average with a corresponding increase in interest and enthusiasm. Efficient teachers generally prefer the graded to the ungraded school and can be retained longer, even at the same pay. Again a teacher with only three grades can concentrate her energies in preparation for each day's work, while the energies of the teacher who has all the grades are dissipated in preparation, and frequently wasted in application. If the quality of the teaching is improved, the mental and moral training will improve. The pupil receiving more attention from the teacher is kept alert and cultivates to a larger degree the habits of promptness, regularity, industry, order and neatness. Also the moral atmosphere is better than in the ungraded school."

You are INVITED to attend the  
**"100th Birthday" Kick Off Celebration**

*for the 1912 Bar Mills Elementary School*

**Saturday, July 21st from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

**Buxton Community Day / Dorcas Fair**

Tory Hill Church Lawn



**Balloons! Birthday Cake! Candy! Prizes! Raffle!**

*You are invited to attend*

*A "Box Lunch Social"*

*Saturday, July 28, 2012 at 12 Noon Promptly*

*Brewster Mansion Grounds*

8 Brewster Place (Intersection Rt. 202 & 112), Bar Mills, Maine

**Pack a box or bag lunch for two and a description of contents to be auctioned off**

Ladies hats and gents suspenders **OPTIONAL, but FUN**

Proceeds to benefit the N.C. Watson One Room School House Maintenance Fund

FMI, see Program Listings— page 2 of this newsletter. For reservations, call Bev Atkinson @ 929-649



**N. C. Watson One-Room  
School Museum**

*Groveville Rd., Buxton Center*

**Open**

*First and Third Saturdays*

*April 7 to October 20, 2011*

*1 – 4 P.M. Regular Museum Hours*

**OR**

**Arrange a Special Time for your  
group's program!**

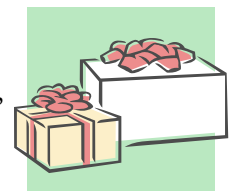
**Call Stacey @ 929-2141**

**The Idea Behind the Box Social**

Soon after the N.C. Watson School opened in the 1900's, Miss Partridge, the teacher, found herself in need of several small items for which funds were not provided, so she decided to rely on a box social for her funding. She enlisted several mothers for help as women of the time knew this meant that all females, including eligible young ladies, would be called upon to supply food for two in a suitably beribboned box. These boxes would be auctioned off at an evening get together and Miss Partridge would receive her funds.

The funds were often secondary to other important plans. Many an engagement was announced after an eager young gent had paid an exorbitant price for a particular young lady's box. Many a vote was cast for a local politician who was seen driving with eligible older ladies at several socials. The local pastor could be counted on to bid for the box which seemed to have no bidders.

The box social filled many needs in bygone days and, since our school has need of some minor repairs, we decided we would ask our friends out for our own box social, with our own special embellishments.



So, please bring your decorated box lunch for two and prepare to meet old and make new friends at this unique event as you help support the maintenance of our N.C. Watson One-Room School!

.....Written by Lucille Emery




*Wild Rose, Arrowhead, Great Willow Herb and Pipsisewa* by Gibeon Elden Bradbury 1865

**New Gibeon Bradbury Floral Note Card Available 2012—**

The fourth in a series of six Bradbury paintings, “*Wild Rose*,” will debut on Buxton Community Day, courtesy of Bev and Sandy Atkinson of Bar Mills.

lovely floral  
*Arrowhead, Great Willow Herb and Pipsisewa* community Day, courtesy of Bev and Sandy

note cards of Gibeon  
*Willow Herb and Pipsisewa* courtesy of Bev and Sandy

by

“*The Artist on the Saco*”: **Gibeon Elden Bradbury**

*Oil on Canvas 1865*

*18" x 14"*

**2011-12 Membership Form**

(Please Print Clearly)

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

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

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

Please send us your updated email address to help keep our contact list current !

\_\_\_\_\_ Please send my newsletter electronically. \_\_\_\_\_ Please send my newsletter by snail mail.

Phone: Home \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_ Work \_\_\_\_\_

Committee/Area of interest: \_\_\_\_\_ Genealogy \_\_\_\_\_ Library \_\_\_\_\_ Life Stories \_\_\_\_\_ Newsletter \_\_\_\_\_ Buildings \_\_\_\_\_

Other? \_\_\_\_\_

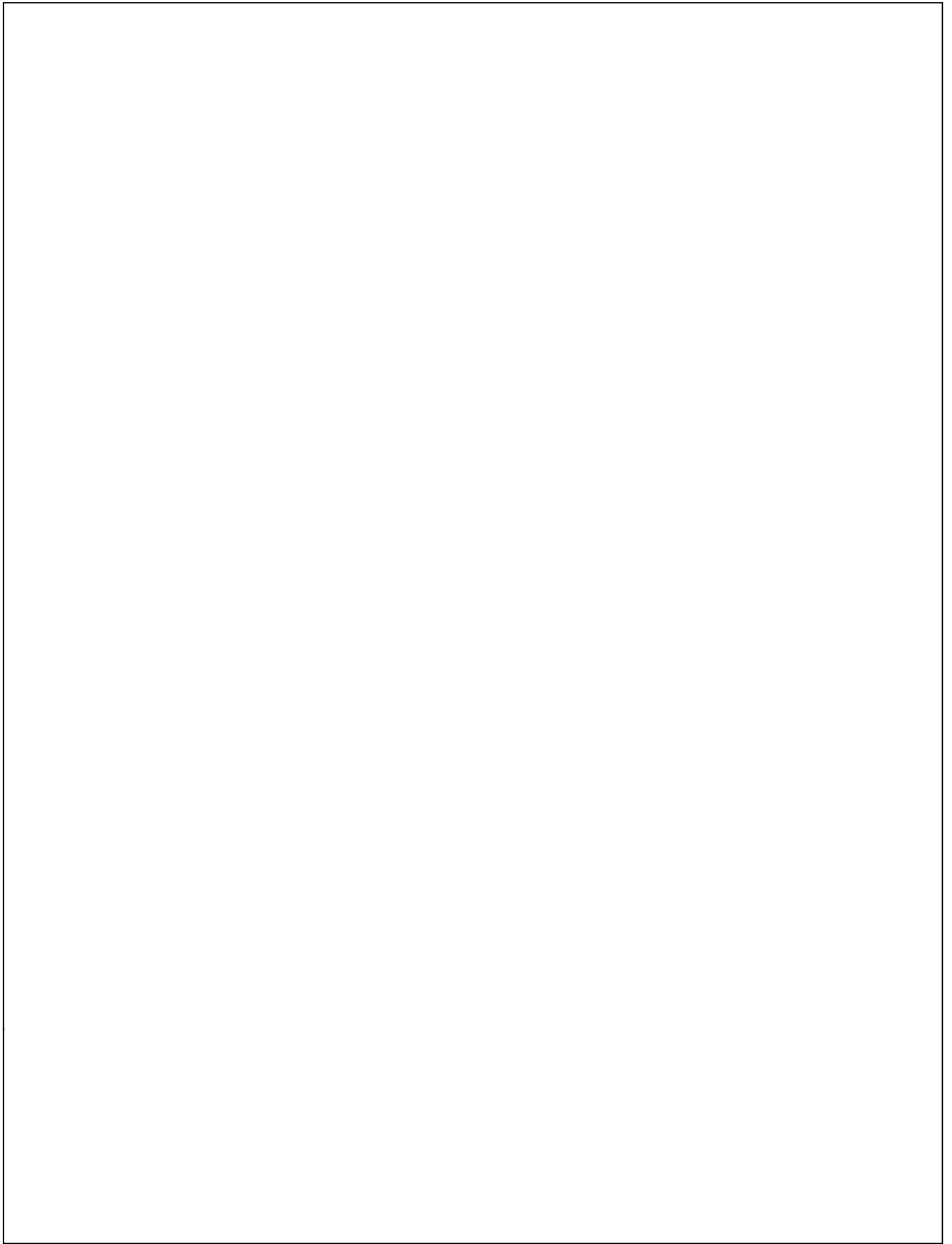
Annual Dues Level (For fiscal year starting April 1st):

\_\_\_\_\_ Individual (\$10) \_\_\_\_\_ Family (\$20) \_\_\_\_\_ Patron (\$50) \_\_\_\_\_ Sustaining (\$100) \_\_\_\_\_ Founder (\$500)

To determine if your membership is current, if you receive a snail mail newsletter, please check the year posted at the right of your mailing address label to determine when payment was last received, OR call Kathy Kendrick @ 229-9498. **Donations are Tax Deductible and are Gratefully Accepted!** Please make checks to the Buxton-Hollis Historical Society and mail to: *Kathleen Kendrick, BHHS Membership Chair, P.O. Box 236, Hollis Center, Maine 04042.*

**THANK-YOU!**





**2011-12 Membership Form**

(Please Print Clearly)

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

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

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

Please send us your updated email address to help keep our contact list current !

\_\_\_\_\_ Please send my newsletter electronically. \_\_\_\_\_ Please send my newsletter by snail mail.

Phone: Home \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_ Work \_\_\_\_\_

Committee/Area of interest: \_\_\_\_\_ Genealogy \_\_\_\_\_ Library \_\_\_\_\_ Life Stories \_\_\_\_\_ Newsletter \_\_\_\_\_ Buildings \_\_\_\_\_ Other? \_\_\_\_\_

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**THANK-YOU!**

BUXTON-HOLLIS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P. O. BOX 34

BUXTON, MAINE 04093

