



# BUXTON-HOLLIS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

100 Main Street, Route 4A ♦ Bar Mills, Maine

Celebrating 50 Years ♦ [www.buxtonhollishistorical.org](http://www.buxtonhollishistorical.org) ♦ 207.929.1684 ♦ spring 2021

## *Spring 2021 President's Message*

Dear Members and Friends,

After such a confining year of COVID 19 restrictions, I am sure that like me, you are all so very happy to see the trees budding and the lush green grass appear once more! I am feeling much more energetic and am focusing on several projects - the completion of some, the continuation of others!

- We now have more water in our BHHS basement, but in a GOOD way, since the recent installation of our new kitchenette countertop, sink, and faucet!
- Drywalling and painting are nearing completion on the right side of the basement (work on this side is not included in the Narragansett Number One Foundation's basement grant, for which we remain very grateful!)
- A big thank-you to our ambitious and steadfast volunteers who have completed accessioning the over 300 volumes of the Mary Dole Jackson genealogical book collection donated to the historical society by the Town of Buxton!
- The cleaning and restoration of three Gibeon Bradbury paintings are complete and beautifully done by Johanna Hoffman at the Saco Frame Center.



The 1899 "Bruce Farm Overlooking Old Salmon Falls Dam", an oil on academy board, above is the final of the three, and we are delighted with the results! Thank-you, Saco Frame Center!

- We have begun the process of trying to figure out what to do with the attached portable classroom additions to our historic 1912 building to better meet our needs. If you would like to be part of that decision making process, please contact me.
- Work is progressing on the second floor center room, which is planned to serve as the Board members internal business office.
- We remain closed to the public, except by special appointment this spring, and will be re-evaluating monthly. Hopefully, we will participate in **Dorcas Fest on August 7th in Buxton and Pirate Fest in Hollis on August 14th.**

That's it for now...hope you are all well and have an uplifting and enjoyable spring!

Best Regards,  
Jan Hill, President

## IN THIS ISSUE

President's Message, Pg. 1

Historic Buildings Need A Purpose, Pg. 2

Officers/ Directors, Pg. 2

Hollis Terrorized by Dread Disease, Pg. 3

Small Pox Inoculation and Bitter Controversy, Pg. 3

Joel M. Marshall, Esq. Biography, Pg. 4

Museum Store, Pg. 4

Recent Donations, Pg. 5

Watson One Room School Report, Pg. 5

Rhubarb Nut Bread Recipe, Pg. 6

Spotlight on Hanson Farm House Project, Pg. 7

THANK YOU TEAM, Pg. 7

# Historic Buildings Need a Purpose

BY BRENT HILL

As we look around Buxton and Hollis, we see a number of buildings that have been deteriorating. A few, such as the Hanson farmhouse on Narraganset Trail (Route 202), next to River Drive Cooperage, are being renovated with a purpose in mind. (See page 7.)

We are grateful to their owners for loving care of these historic buildings which help define our communities' architectural heritage.

Other local buildings have no help in sight. For those buildings, a purpose is needed. This year is the 60th anniversary of the destruction of Union Station (1888-1961) in Portland. Its railroad owners said they were paying too high property taxes for the discontinued passenger service building. The city of Portland was involved in urban renewal at the time, taking down old buildings to build "modern" ones.

No one visioned a purpose for the building. It was pulled down on August 31, 1961. The land was sold for a small strip mall. However, the destruction of this substantial important historic landmark galvanized historical interest. Greater Portland Landmarks was formed in 1964. Our BHHS historical society was formed in 1970.

It is ironic that the nearby current Amtrak railroad station is deemed "too small" today. Also, in hindsight, there are many uses that would have fit well for the large iconic railroad station.



Portland's Union Station 1881-1961



*"When we see a worthy old building in distress, remember that it could be saved with a little imagination and a good purpose."*



100 Main St., Bar Mills, BHHS Attic Window Replacement Renovation

## BHHS OFFICERS

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The BHHS newsletter is proudly sponsored by

**Chad E. Poitras**  
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"A local resident serving locals with dignity and respect"



## "Dread Disease Terrorized Hollis"

- taken from an unidentified newspaper clipping

by Dick Charles

"In the Spring of 1836, the Hon. Thomas Cutts Lane (1810-1881) returned from the state legislature to the Hollis home of Jabez Bradbury on Salmon Falls Road in Hollis, where he boarded. (The house formerly belonged to Lane's father, Isaac Lane, who died in 1833.) Lane was suddenly taken sick by a mysterious illness, but recovered. Jabez Bradbury and all but two of his family became sick. Bradbury soon died after a local doctor prescribed a hot bath. Dr. Cummings from Portland was summoned and pronounced the disease as smallpox.

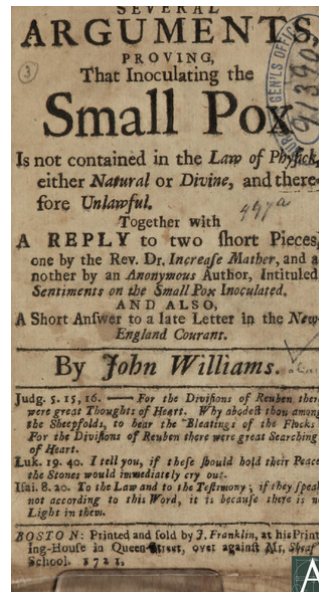
The disease soon spread in the village and town. Business was paralyzed. Roadblocks and sulphur smoke houses were built at the junctions of roads. There was a smoke house on top of Brigadier Hill (now Old Alfred Road), one at Jordan's Corner (the intersection of Bar Mills, River, Salmon Falls Roads?), and one at the corner of the Union, Saco, and Tory Hill Roads (now Simpson, Joy Valley, Elden Roads) by the new brick schoolhouse (Buxton side). Every traveler had to bathe in the sulphur fumes. The remedy was almost as bad as the disease.

The smallpox raged in the Salmon Falls area for 30 days. Nine died and thirty more were sick before it finally abated. For years afterward, 1836 was known as the 'Year of the Smallpox' in Hollis."

## Small Pox Inoculation Stirred Bitter Controversy in New England

(Excerpt and media courtesy *Archipedia New England*)

Inoculation in 1721 stirred long-lasting and bitter controversy. Many Puritan ministers regarded it as a violation of God's order, while physicians regarded it as dangerous to infect intentionally, and the public feared greater contagion. The controversy continued for over fifty years with towns periodically outlawing the practice before finally accepting its efficacy. It led to a gradual distinction between pest houses where the sick were tended while waiting for nature to take its course, and inoculation hospitals where healthy people received inoculation and stayed under the care and observation of a doctor and nurses until their infection ended.



Northern and Eastern Slopes of Munjoy's Hill in the Forties, drawn from memory by Charles Goodhue (1901), showing the Portland Pest House in the center foreground. [Courtesy of the Maine Historical Society]

SOURCE:

<http://www.archipedianewengland.org>



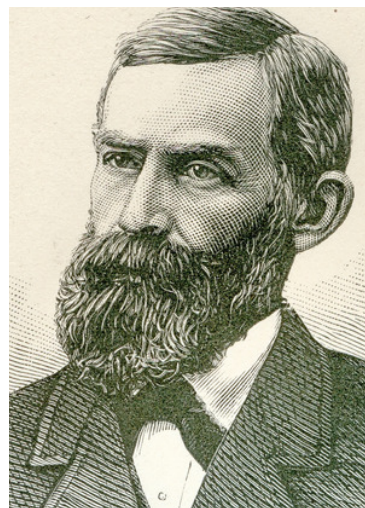
# Joel M. Marshall, Biography

(1834-1920)

Well known Bar Mills attorney and Salmon Falls resident, JOEL M. MARSHALL, Esq., was born in Buxton, the son of Joel and Mary (Sweet) Marshall. He received his early education at Parsonsfield Seminary, Parsonsfield, Maine. (At that time, there was no high school in Buxton.) He taught winter school in 1853 to 1861. Entering Bowdoin College in 1858, he was a member of the Delta Kappa Epsilon Fraternity and the Athenæ and received the degree of A. M. (Master of Arts) in 1862.

Following his graduation from Bowdoin, he took charge of the Oswego Institute, a school of the Friend's Society, near Poughkeepsie, N. Y. He is best remembered by our local historians for writing and editing an extended report on the centennial history of Buxton (Buxton Centennial 1772-1872, which BHHS has for sale) with biographical and genealogical chapters. He was also President of the South Buxton Cemetery Association from 1882-1893 and served as a selectman and executive secretary of the Buxton Centennial Committee. The Centennial celebration took place at Tory Hill on August 14, 1872. Maintaining a keen interest in education and historical events throughout his life, in 1913 he completed a twenty year effort to list all the Revolutionary War soldiers from Buxton. He continued active legal practice until 1910, when he moved to Alfred, Maine to live with his son. He died in 1920 of acute bronchitis. Over his last thirty years he continued to write sketches of early Buxton for Biddeford and Portland newspapers.

In 1870, Mr. Marshall married Ellen C. Meserve, daughter of Areadus and Sophronia (Bradbury) Meserve, of Buxton, Maine, who died in 1902. She was from Buxton, but was a public school teacher in La Crosse, Wisconsin before marriage. They were survived by their two children: Helen King, wife of Mr. Walter Dolly, of Old Orchard, Maine; and Sumner Bradbury Marshall, (M.D., Bowdoin, 1898), of Alfred, Maine. Mr. Marshall is buried with family at the South Buxton Cemetery.



Joel M. Marshall, Esq.



## **Our Museum Store**

remains OPEN by  
appointment. We sell

early maps of Buxton and Hollis, Centennial and  
Bi-Centennial books and booklets, Gibeon  
Bradbury notecards, and local artists' prints.

Below is a custom ordered house sign made by a  
local craftsman, who has generously donated his  
time, talent, and materials to create this lovely  
historic house sign as a fund raiser for BHHS. You  
can order your sign or other selected items on

line by going to:

<http://www.buxtonhollishistorical.org/museumstore.html>





## Hollis Coverlet Among Recent Donations

It has been a great effort on the part of Sue Schaller, Vicki Walker, Linda Towle, and others, but the 327 item Mary Dole Jackson genealogical book collection donated by the Town of Buxton has been accessioned! We are grateful to now have many more local and regional genealogical resources. Some have been an immediate help for the book, *Early Families of Buxton*, now in progress for printing in 2022.

Another recent donation, this one from the Town of Hollis, is a 1998 Hollis Bicentennial coverlet seen above featuring the Saco River surrounded by images of four significant buildings: the last Hollis High School; Quillcote, the summer home of Kate Douglas Wiggin; the Sweat Tavern; and the Bear Hill Baptist Church. The former Hollis High School is still vacant pending a re-purposing. Quillcote and the Sweat Tavern are private residences, and the Bear Hill Church is actively fundraising to renovate the building. See them at **“Save Bear Hill Baptist Church”** on Facebook. If you would like to help in this worthwhile effort, please send your donations to: *Bear Hill Church Preservation Group, P. O. Box 126, Hollis Center, ME 04042.*

Among several other donations for which we are grateful, are a gown from an early Peabody Pew play donated from the Arlene Hill family, some Bonny Eagle Yearbooks from the Town of Hollis, and a wonderful print of the painting of Betsy Avery Brewster (Mrs. Joseph Prentis) by John Brewster, Jr., from Beverly and Sandy Atkinson.

## N.C. Watson One Room School Report

by Vicki Walker, Watson Committee Chair

A new spring brings plans for the N. C. Watson School House. The Committee consisting of Beth Plummer, Doris Hicks, Susan Kimball, Jan Hill, Tony Taylor, and myself recently met to discuss our upcoming season. We have had several people volunteer to scrape and paint the building. We are very excited that this work will be done this year. If any one is interested in helping out, please reach out to me at 207-929-3662. We have another group of young people volunteering to do our annual housekeeping inside the building and a general pick up from winter’s blow downs.

Doris has been contacted by the 3rd grade teachers at the Buxton Elementary School and will be conducting their annual history lesson visits to the school again this spring. (Dates still to be arranged.)

Checking with our “resident gardener”, Lilly Guadiano, there will be vegetables again growing from her ever-increasing raised beds. If anyone wishes to donate seedlings, mulch, or compost, please contact me and I’ll let Lilly know. A reminder, all her produce is donated to the local food pantry! Hopefully her new rain barrel from last year will be able to collect more rain than last year.

If any one would like to schedule a visit to the One Room School, we would love to give you the tour. We will be wearing masks and have hand sanitizer available.

Any questions or if you would like to arrange a tour or program please contact me at 207-929-3662. Keep Safe!







## Rhubarb Nut Bread Recipe

With the advent of rhubarb season here, readers might find the following recipe one that they might like to try. It was published in a coil-bound cookbook sent to press for the *100th Anniversary of Buxton Centre Baptist Church (1802-2002)*. The recipe was submitted by Becky Smith, a long time church member and BHHS volunteer.

1 1/2 c. brown sugar	1 tsp. vanilla
2/3 c. cooking oil	1 1/2 c. fresh rhubarb, diced
1 egg	1/2 c. pecan pieces
2 1/2 c. flour	1 Tbsp. margarine
1 tsp. baking soda	

Mix 1 cup of brown sugar, oil, egg, flour, baking soda, vanilla, and nuts. You may need to add a little water as the mixture is very stiff. (I usually add about 2 tablespoons of water.) Stir in the rhubarb pieces. Put mixture into a greased and floured loaf pan.

Mix 1/2 cup brown sugar and 1 tablespoon melted margarine and sprinkle this topping over the bread batter. Bake at 325 degrees for one hour. *Enjoy*

# Spotlight on the Stephen Hanson Farm Project



1852 Stephen Hanson House (2003)



Stephen Hanson House 2021



"Big Wheels, Little Wheels. We Are All Significant!"

"We Can Make A Difference!"

read the iconic Hanson Farm wheel gates

"Preserving this old farm is the best way I could think of to give back to Buxton," says Matt Albrecht, River Drive Cooperage and Millwork founder. Albrecht purchased the farm and adjacent lot where he relocated his thriving cooperage in 2016.

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## THANK YOU TEAM!

*Thank You* to all of you who have renewed your membership for 2021! We are so very grateful to you for supporting the historical society with your treasure AND your time during the COVID pandemic. You are key to our sustained efforts and goals.

If you have not yet renewed for 2021, please use the form on the back of the newsletter to do so. For those of you who receive paper copies of the newsletter, check the label for your membership expiration year. Your membership card, which you will receive following your renewal will also state your membership year. We look forward to seeing you at *Dorcas Fest* and *Pirate Fest* events (August 7 & 14 respectively).

**THANK YOU!** Your support preserves  
the PAST for OUR FUTURE!

Send my newsletter:  Electronically  
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\_\_\_\_\_ Today's Date:  
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**Membership Year 2021**  
\*Please note that our membership year runs from January 1 through December 31.  
(Please Print Clearly)

## Buxton-Hollis Historical Society

BUXTON-HOLLIS HISTORICAL SOCIETY



P.O. BOX 34

BUXTON, MAINE 04093-0034

### Annual Dues Level

- Student (\$5)
- Individual (\$10) — Paid Lifetime
- Family (\$20)
- Individual (\$450) —
- Couple (\$500) —
- Sustaining (\$100)

### Please make checks to:

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**Questions?** Please call (207) 929-1684 to leave a message OR visit [www.buxtonhollishistorical.org](http://www.buxtonhollishistorical.org).