



CUMBERLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY
P O Box 82
4A Blanchard Road
Cumberland, ME 04021

President:	Carolyn Small
Vice President:	Diana Copp
Secretary:	Elizabeth (Betsy) Huston
Treasurer:	Peter Wilson
Trustees:	Herbert S. Foster, Jr. Lynda Wilson Jensen Linda Fulda Thomas Bennett Nancy Latham Jeff Frost

MISSION STATEMENT:

The purpose of the Society shall be to collect and preserve artifacts pertaining to the Town of Cumberland and its history, making it available to groups, schools, and individuals.

DECEMBER 2016 VOLUME 134

DECEMBER THOUGHTS:

Let there be peace on earth
And let it begin with me;
Let there be peace on earth,
The peace that was meant to be.



MESSAGE FROM YE ED:

Sincere apologies for the tardiness of the publication of this newsletter. Ye Olde Ed was stricken a mighty blow with Ye Olde nastiest of colds that has lasted for Ye Olde three weeks, and sapped every ounce of strength from Ye Olde frail carcass. Thankfully, Yee Olde Nastiness is abating and, thus, we are off and running again. Here's hoping for a HEALTHY New Year for all!!



PAST PROGRAMS AND EVENTS:

Table at Election Day, Tuesday, November 8th. Linda Storey, Linda Fulda, and Carolyn Small, covered for the day and welcomed people as they went about their way to vote. The exposure for the CHS was positive, and we made some new friends. That's always a good thing.

Cumberland Historical Society hosted the program, "Growing Up in West Cumberland, Maine", presented by Joel Fuller, assisted lovingly by his wife Marcia, and very ably assisted with the technology part of the program by Tate Porter. Tate was a huge help with all that "techie" stuff, and stayed the entire time to make sure that any "bumps" were smoothed out for us. He appeared genuinely amused by the gathering of these senior citizens with all their various tales and recollections. Tate is the son of member Jeff Porter. About two dozen people joined us at the beautifully restored West Cumberland Community Hall, and were enlightened by Joel's program. He and Marcia have done extensive research on this, and he added his personal experiences as a resident of that area. Lots of great info from the west end of town.

Table at the Greely High School Craft Fair was held on November 19th from 9:00 to 2:00 or so, in the Greely Gym. Diana Copp, Lynda Jensen, and Linda Fulda took charge of this event.

The Board meeting at 4:00 P.M., Friday, November 18th at Cumberland Historical Society building was held mostly to officially vote in Pete Wilson as Treasurer Interim with the resignation of Sue Wall from that position. He has since been actively researching our finances and is working hard to get himself familiar with the CHS finances.

DECEMBER STUMPER:

What was the original name for "Twas The Night Before Christmas"?

NEW COMMITTEES ON THE DOCKET FOR NEXT YEAR:

Bicentennial! The Town of Cumberland will be celebrating its 200th anniversary in 2021, and the Town will be creating a committee to put together the festivities. There will also be a subcommittee from the Historical Society to help implement that. Please think about signing up for that committee, or send some thoughts for activities and events to promote and put forward. This could be a really great endeavor. Another one that might be coming up is the 150th anniversary of Greely Institute/ High School. Lots of things to do! We have a couple of volunteers already, with Margie Gruber and Linda Fulda, but do need a bigger group to help the Town pull this event off!

ACCESSIONS WORKSHOPS:

There will be another couple of accession workshops coming up in January, date to be announced in the January newsletter. The ones held last month helped a lot in getting items correctly catalogued, and we all had a good time doing it. Also welcomed Rebecca Kinney as a new member. Please consider joining us at one of the sessions. One will be an evening meeting and one will be a morning meeting to accommodate any who wish to participate. It is not a complicated process, and you do not need to know about the history of these things. It is mostly a bookkeeping procedure. We always have refreshments on hand, and really do need the help. If you are interested in attending one of these workshops, please contact Carolyn at 829-3757, or 415-4589, or csmall1943@maine.rr.com.

ACQUISITIONS:

Betsy Huston brought in a few more items from her Greely family collection: a tuxedo, a homemade chair, and some other clothing items. Betsy's connection is one of the three Greely nephews whose homes are the three Cape Cod houses on Blanchard Road near the Fairgrounds.

A donation from Holden Insurance of a newer computer for us. That company is upgrading and chose Cumberland Historical Society as a recipient. Much appreciated!

COMING UP:

President Carolyn Small will be busy with these three upcoming programs in January:

A presentation for Cumberland Rec Department's "Tea & Talk" will be held January 12th by at the Town Office Council Chambers. Time to be announced later.

January program will be "Did You Know?", presented by Carolyn Small. This will be a program of facts about our town, with a few items to display from the collections of Cumberland Historical Society. The date and time will be 7:00 PM, January 19th, 2017 the Council Chambers of the Cumberland Town Office.

At the end of January there will be a program, by request of Reverend Diane Bennekamper, on the history of the Congregational Church. Date, time, and location to be announced later. Location will probably be in the meeting hall.

In the Recreation Department booklet that recently came out, it is noted that, on Thursday, March 2, 2017, Jeff Porter will be hosting a tour of the Old Customs House in Portland. He conducted a tour for the Historical Society a while ago, and it was an absolute delight. Check out page 10 of the Cumberland Rec Department for details.

ALWAYS LOOKING: For folks to help with refreshments. Bake a cookie or two and add them to the goodie table for us. Thanks.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS: The Richter family in Cumberland thanks to a gift from their Aunt Ann and Uncle Albert in Port Washington, New York. What a great gift! Also, Gail Rae Carter, Judy Taylor Gagnon, and Rebecca Kinney.

CONGRATULATIONS: Member Leigh Fulda, was one of six Maine residents who recently received from the American Cancer Society, "a Sandra C. Larrabee Volunteer Values Award for their selflessness contributions in helping individuals battling cancer" (Portland Press Herald, Monday, December 19, 2016). Leigh is the daughter of Trustee Linda Fulda, and has helped with several projects for the Cumberland Historical Society. Thanks, Leigh, for your volunteer contributions.

RESEARCH REQUEST: We recently received a request from Bill Green of WCSH TV about the possible existence of a cattle pound in Cumberland. An acquaintance of his is gathering information about

cattle pounds in Maine, and he wondered if there was one in Cumberland. Yes, indeed there was a cattle pound in the Town, and it was located on Route #88 just a bit south and west of the entrance to Wildwood Park. In the Mary Pittee Sweester 1921 "History of the Town of Cumberland", page 29, she wrote, "The first town meeting was held in April, 1821. The warrant for the meeting read as follows: 'To Benjamin Sweetser, Jr., one of the freeholders of the town of Cumberland, Greeting – You are hereby required in the name of the state of Maine, to notify and warn the freeholders and other inhabitants belonging to the town of Cumberland who are qualified to act in town meeting, to assemble and meet at the Congregational meeting house at nine o'clock A.M. April 9th, 1832, to act on the following articles.'" The warrant contained 42 articles and some results are of historical interest. Article 21 Provided for a pound keeper.

"On May 8th, 1826, it was voted that neat cattle be prohibited from going at large in all parts of the town the present year. We are reminded how sixty years ago every dooryard and field was enclosed by a fence. The reason for this was apparent when droves of cattle and sheep were a common sight, being driven through our village on their way to the Brighton stock yards. The railroads with their freight service of cattle cars were something for the future. The railroads with their freight service of cattle cars were something for the future."

In the 1975 Phyllis Sweetser book "Cumberland, Maine in Four Centuries", pages 230-231; she wrote in reference to the second Sturdivant house built in 1700, "The cellar hole is still visible on Rt. 88, across the road from Wildwood Park, a little to the South. Next to it, but with all traces now removed, was the old cattle pound."

Cattle Pounds As Maine communities began to lose some of their frontier aspects in the early 19th century and assumed a more settled appearance, rudimentary civic improvements were initiated. Among these improvements in the largely agricultural world of rural Maine was the regulation of the livestock which were becoming numerous. To control this problem towns constructed shelters for the temporary control of wayward animals. In 2004, 21 of these structures in Maine had been verified, and their condition varies from almost unrecognizable to good.



Pownal Cattle Pound (2013)

Farmers have always found it necessary to control wandering livestock. In the earliest, 17th century settlements of southern New England, cattle, sheep and swine were grazed on commonly held town lands ("town commons") located outside the denser residential areas. Inevitably some livestock found their way into cultivated fields and gardens. This had the potential to threaten both the animal and human food supplies in these communities, many of which existed at the subsistence level during the early decades of settlement.

YEAR END REPORT FROM THE GARDENING GURU

December 1, 2016 Cumberland Historical Society Report

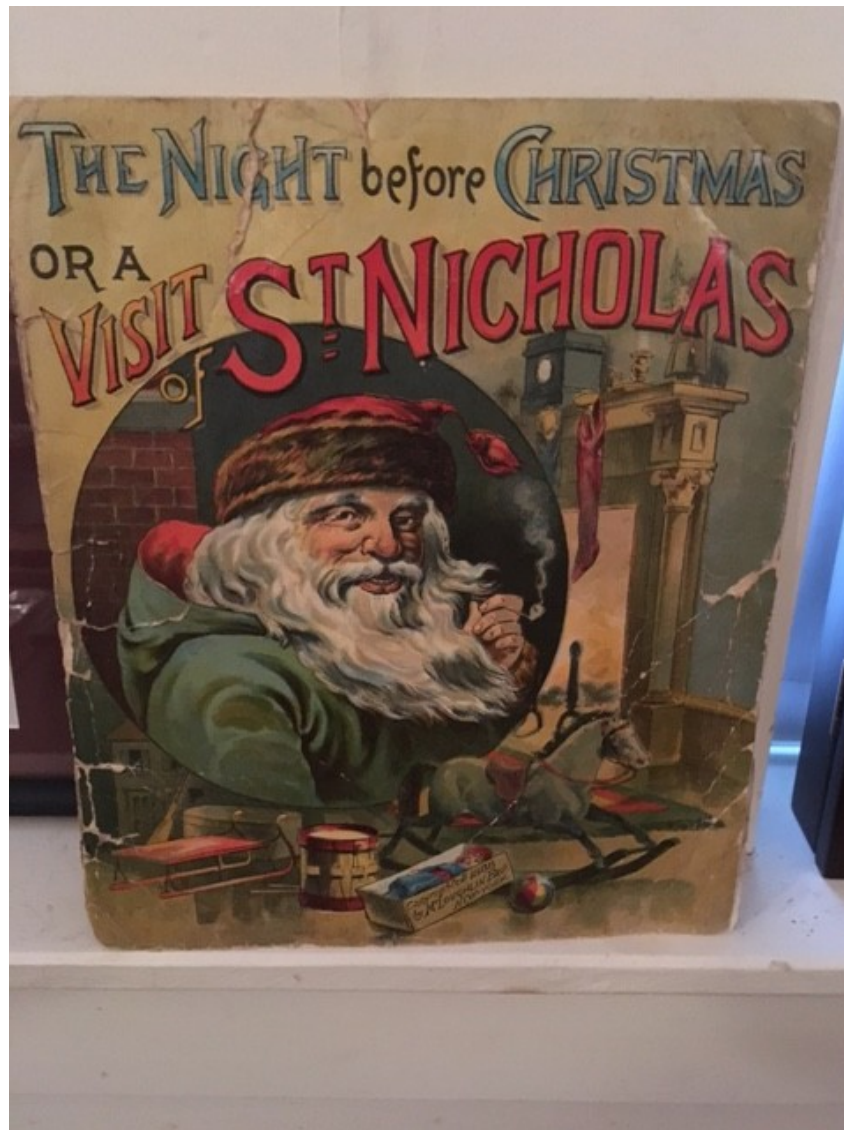
The new bushes and flower beds survived the heat and drought of this summer very well. Finally we had enough frost to kill the plants off and make it possible to put the beds to rest.

For the fall look, Linda Fulda and I did Indian corn for the doors and fall flowers to dress up the window box. This worked well for the open house and we added pumpkins and mums to dress up the doorway.

Now that the Christmas season is upon us we have wreaths and boughs, berries and cones in keeping with the holidays. More plans are in the works for next spring! Respectfully submitted, Sandy ; Sandra Nickerson, Gardener

ANSWER TO THE DECEMBER STUMPER (from Wikipedia):

Because Cumberland Historical Society has an 1888 version of this book, a donation from Mrs. Edward Lincoln, Connie Sweester's mother, we thought it would be fitting to include this old holiday poem, and some history, with a wee bit of controversy about it, in this in the newsletter. Note that the title of this booklet is "A Visit of St. Nicholas", not "A Visit from St. Nicholas".



According to legend, "A Visit from St. Nicholas" was composed by Clement Clarke Moore on a snowy winter's day during a shopping trip on a sleigh. His inspiration for the character of Saint Nicholas was a local Dutch handyman as well as the historical Saint Nicholas. Moore originated many of the features that are still associated with Santa Claus today while borrowing other aspects, such as the use of reindeer. The poem was first published anonymously in the Troy, New York *Sentinel* on 23 December 1823, having been sent there by a friend of Moore, and was reprinted frequently thereafter with no name attached. It was first attributed in print to Moore in 1837. Moore himself acknowledged authorship when he included it in his own book of poems in 1844. By then, the original publisher and at least seven others had already acknowledged his authorship. Moore had a reputation as an erudite professor and had not wished at first to be connected with the unscholarly verse. He included it in the anthology at the insistence of his children, for whom he had originally written the piece. Moore's conception of St. Nicholas was borrowed from his friend Washington Irving, but Moore portrayed his "jolly old elf" As a result, "New Yorkers embraced Moore's child-centered version of Christmas as if they had been doing it all their lives." In *An American Anthology, 1787-1900*, editor Edmund Clarence Stedman reprinted the Moore version of the poem, including the German spelling of "Donder and Blitzen" that he adopted, rather than the earlier Dutch version from 1823 "Dunder and Blixem." Both phrases translate as "Thunder and Lightning" in English, though the German word for thunder is "Donner" and the words in modern Dutch would be "Donder en Bliksem." Modern printings frequently incorporate alterations that reflect changing linguistic and cultural sensibilities. For example, *breast* in "The moon on the breast of the new-fallen snow" is frequently bowdlerized to *crest*; the archaic *ere* in "But I heard him exclaim ere he drove out of sight" is frequently replaced with *as*. Note that this change implies that Santa Claus made his exclamation *during* the moment that he disappeared from view, while the exclamation came *before* his disappearance in the original. "Happy Christmas to all, and to all a good-night" is frequently rendered with the traditional English locution "'Merry Christmas'" and with "goodnight" as a single word. Four hand-written copies of the poem are known to exist and three are in museums, including the New-York Historical Society library. The fourth copy, written out and signed by Clement Clarke Moore as a gift to a friend in 1860, was sold by one private collector to another in December 2006. It was purchased for \$280,000 by an unnamed "chief executive officer of a media company" who resides in New York City, according to Dallas, Texas-based Heritage Auctions which brokered the private sale.

Authorship controversy:

Moore's connection with the poem has been questioned by Professor Donald Foster, who used textual content analysis and external evidence to argue that Moore could not have been the author. Foster believes that Major Henry Livingston, Jr., a New Yorker with Dutch and Scottish roots, should be considered the chief candidate for authorship, a view long espoused by the Livingston family. Livingston was distantly related to Moore's wife. Foster's claim, however, has been countered by document dealer and historian Seth Kaller, who once owned one of Moore's original manuscripts of the poem. Kaller has offered a point-by-point rebuttal of both Foster's linguistic analysis and external findings, buttressed by the work of autograph expert James Lowe and Dr. Joe Nickell, author of *Pen, Ink and Evidence*. Evidence in favor of Moore: Moore is credited by his friend Charles Fenno Hoffman as author in the 25 December 1837 *Pennsylvania Inquirer and Daily Courier*. Further, the Rev. David Butler, who allegedly showed the poem to *Sentinel* editor Orville L. Holley, was a relative of Moore's. A letter to Moore from the publisher states, "I understand from Mr. Holley that he received it from Mrs. Sackett, the wife of Mr. Daniel Sackett who was then a merchant in this city. Moore preferred to be known for his more scholarly works, but allowed the poem to be included in his anthology in 1844 at the request of his children. By that time, the original publisher and at least seven others had already acknowledged his authorship. Livingston family lore gives credit to their forebear rather than Moore, but there is no proof that Livingston himself ever

claimed authorship, nor has any record ever been found of any printing of the poem with Livingston's name attached to it, despite more than 40 years of searches.

Evidence in favor of Livingston: Advocates for Livingston's authorship argue that Moore "tried at first to disavow" the poem. They also posit that Moore falsely claimed to have translated a book. Document dealer and historian Seth Kaller has challenged both claims. Kaller examined the book in question, *A Complete Treatise on Merinos and Other Sheep*, as well as many letters signed by Moore, and found that the "signature" was not penned by Moore, and thus provides no evidence that Moore made any plagiaristic claim. Kaller's findings were confirmed by autograph expert James Lowe, by Dr. Joe Nickell, the author of *Pen, Ink & Evidence*, and by others. According to Kaller, Moore's name was likely written on the book by a New-York Historical Society cataloger to indicate that it had been a gift from Moore to the Society. Some contend that Henry Livingston, Jr., not Moore, was the author of the poem. The following points have been advanced in order to credit the poem to Major Henry Livingston, Jr.: Livingston also wrote poetry primarily using an anapaestic metrical scheme, and it is claimed that some of the phraseology of *A Visit* is consistent with other poems by Livingston, and that Livingston's poetry is more optimistic than Moore's poetry published in his own name. But Stephen Nissenbaum argues in his *Battle for Christmas* that the poem could have been a social satire of the Victorianization of Christmas. Furthermore, Kaller claims that Foster cherry-picked only the poems that fit his thesis and that many of Moore's unpublished works have a tenor, phraseology, and meter similar to *A Visit*. Moore had even written a letter titled "From Saint Nicholas" that may have predated 1823. Foster also contends that Moore hated tobacco and would, therefore, never have depicted St. Nicholas with a pipe. However, Kaller notes, the source of evidence for Moore's supposed disapproval of tobacco is *The Wine Drinker*, another poem by him. In actuality, that verse contradicts such a claim. Moore's *The Wine Drinker* criticizes self-righteous, hypocritical advocates of temperance who secretly indulge in the substances which they publicly oppose, and supports the social use of tobacco in moderation (as well as wine, and even opium, which was more acceptable in his day than it is now). Foster also asserts that Livingston's mother was Dutch, which accounts for the references to the Dutch *Sinteklaes* tradition and the use of the Dutch names "Dunder and Blixem". Against this claim, it is suggested by Kaller that Moore — a friend of writer Washington Irving and member of the same literary society — may have acquired some of his knowledge of New York Dutch traditions from Irving. Irving had written *A History of New York* in 1809 under the name of "Dietrich Knickerbocker."

Who would think that such things were behind the scenes of this children's classic?

~**COMMITTEES THAT NEED HELP STAFFING: PLEASE SELECT AT LEAST ONE ~**

Education: _____ Fund Raising: _____ Programs: _____
MSAD# 51 50th Anniversary _____ Refreshment: _____
Nominating: _____ Publicity: _____ Bicentennial _____
Scholarship _____

DUES ARE DUE!

This is the final notification! Thank you to those who have paid up, and especially to those who added an extra little bit for stamps.)

Membership Application
2016-2017

Please join us!

_____ \$10.00 Individual	_____ \$25.00 Household
_____ \$100.00 Sustaining	_____ \$100.00 Business
_____ Other/Gift	_____ Students: Free

Name(s) _____
Mailing Address: _____
Town: _____
State/Zip _____
Phone _____ Cell Phone: _____
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Winter address if applicable: _____

Do you want your newsletter sent by USPS? _____ **Or** email? _____

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