



CUMBERLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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

President: Carolyn Small
Vice President: Diana Copp
Secretary: Pat Larrabee
Treasurer: Sue Wall
Trustees: Herbert S. Foster, Jr.
Brian Jensen
Lynda Wilson Jensen
Linda Fulda

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.



FEBRUARY 2015 VOLUME 116

FEBRUARY THOUGHTS:

"The day is ending,
The night is descending;
The marsh is frozen,
The river dead.

Through clouds like ashes
The red sun flashes
On village windows
That glimmer red."

- Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, *Afternoon in February*

I claim there ain't
Another Saint
As great as Valentine.
~Ogden Nash

JANUARY GATHERING:

On January 15 at the Prince Memorial Library, Ron Romano presented 25 attendees, including visitors from Windham and Portland, at the Historical Society meeting with a full and rich program about Bartlett Adams. The following is Ron's synopsis of the lecture:

In 1800, Bartlett Adams (1776 -1828) arrived in Portland and established the area's first stonecutting shop. He made marble hearthstones, mantle pieces, and door jambs, but his more lasting - and visible - impact can be found in the early cemeteries of southern Maine. His shop produced hundreds of slate and marble gravestones, a nice variety of which survive today in at least 3 of the early cemeteries of Cumberland. Ron Romano is a tour guide and Board Member for Spirits Alive (the "friends of Eastern Cemetery" non-profit in Portland). He spent much of 2013 researching the life, times, and work of Bartlett Adams and conducted a comprehensive survey of Adams' work at Portland's historic Eastern Cemetery. This year, Ron has visited over 150 early cemeteries outside of Portland to document the impact of Bartlett Adams throughout the region, and is pleased to share findings with members and friends of the Cumberland Historical Society.

He also gave a copy to the Historical Society and to the Cemetery Association of the stones in Cumberland's cemeteries that were accredited to Bartlett Adams and/or his shop. A copy of it follows.

The Cumberland Cemetery Association is looking for new members to add to the Board. If you are interested in joining, please contact Robert Storey at rstorey@maine.rr.com.

Gravestones produced in the Portland shop of Bartlett Adams (b. 1776 - d. 1828)

CUMBERLAND CEMETERY	DATE	LAST NAME	FIRST	BASIC DESIGN	STONE	NOTES
Congregational	1816	Blanchard	Christiana	urn & willow	slate	carver: probably Gilbert Pullen
	1816	Blanchard	Mercy	urn	slate	
	1815	Blanchard	Nathaniel	urn & willow	slate	carver: probably Gilbert Pullen
	1826	Blanchard	Col. Ozias	urn & willow	slate	
	1809	Blanchard	Priscilla	urn with bunting	slate	carver: either Alpheus Cary or Robert Hope
	1810	Buxton	Benjamin	urn	slate	engraver: Bartlett Adams
	1824	Drinkwater	Sylvanus	urn in Palladian window, willow	slate	
	1814	Fisher	Ruth	urn in Palladian window, willow	slate	carver: probably Joseph Thompson
	1819	Kent	Justin, Jr.	urn & willow		carver: Elias Washburn (Adams' nephew)
	1821	Merrill	Hannah	urn & willow	slate	
	1817	Pratt	Thomas	urn in Palladian window, willow	slate	carver: probably Joseph Thompson
	1814	Prince	Paul (1809) Hannah (1814)	urn in Palladian window, willow	slate	
	1826	Reed	William	urn in Palladian window, willow	slate	
	1810	Shaw	Sarah	urn & willow	slate	
Foreside (partly Falmouth)	1824	Wood	Israel T.	urn in Palladian window, willow	slate	note carving error on date
	1824	Drinkwater	Hannah	none (inscription only)	marble	
	1818	Drinkwater	Mary	urn & willow	marble	carver: Elias Washburn (Adams' nephew)
	1826	Knight	William	urn & willow	slate	
	1824	Mason	Capt. John	urn in Palladian window, willow	slate	
	1825	Titcomb	Capt. George	urn & willow	slate	
	1815	Titcomb	Mary Ann	urn & willow	slate	engraver: Bartlett Adams
	1817	Webster	Hannah	urn in Palladian window, willow	slate	
Methodist	1818	York	Polly	urn & willow	slate	carver: Elias Washburn (Adams' nephew)
	1822	Doughty	Sarah	urn & willow	slate	
	1819	Doughty	Winslow	urn & willow	slate	carver: Elias Washburn (Adams' nephew)
	1814	Maling	Abigail	urn, ornate handles	slate	carver: probably Alvan Washburn (nephew)
	1823	Marston	Harriet	urn with starburst	slate	
	1821	Marston	Mary	urn with starburst	slate	stone is in the ground
	1824	Morrell	Elizabeth G.	urn & willow	slate	
	1827	Wilson	Albion	urn & willow	slate	
	1827	Wilson	Ichabod	urn & willow	slate	
	1815	Wilson	Joanna	urn in Palladian window, willow	slate	
Others	<i>Farris, Moss Side, and Universalists burial grounds were also surveyed, but no Adams' stones found.</i>					
<p>Surveys conducted 2013-14 by Ron Romano. For more info, contact: rroman@maine.rr.com or (207) 761-0187</p>						

FEBRUARY STUMPER: What purpose did the Elizabeth Sturdivant Drowne home serve after she no longer lived there?

FEBRUARY MEETING:

February 19th, 2015 7:00PM at West Cumberland Community Hall ~ Joel Fuller (accompanied by his wife, Marcia Smith Fuller) “Growing Up in West Cumberland Maine”

As always, we are looking for some refreshments for this program, so anyone who would like to bake a cookie or two, please do so.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:

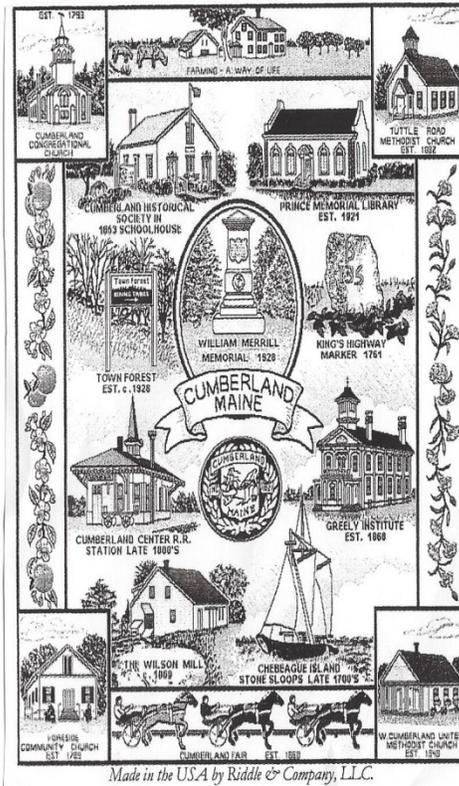
Margaret Jean Taylor

OUR NEIGHBORS:

New Winter Museum Exhibits: "Maine Street" and "Artist: Scott Leighton(1847-1898)" Sundays, Feb. 8 through March 29, or by appointment and their debut on Sleigh Day Skyline Farm's Winter exhibit will showcase horse drawn vehicles that were routinely seen parked alongside Maine's Main streets (fig. 1). You will see various types of typical family sleighs that would have stopped at various shops, plus delivery/business sleighs that would have delivered goods to restock stores. Of special note we will also have on display author Rudyard Kipling's wicker Basket Sleigh. Special Exhibit-Artist: Scott Leighton (1847-1898) Cumberland Historical Society and Skyline Farm Carriage Museum are teaming up to create a special exhibit honoring local equine artist Scott Leighton (1847-1898). Leighton grew up in Gray, Maine and was attracted to horses at a young age. One could surmise he spent time around horses at the Cumberland County Fairgrounds. An excerpt from an article on The Lost Trotting Parks Heritage Center in Hallowell, Maine website reads, "Leighton was attracted to trotting horses as a teenager. By age seventeen he had saved enough money trading horses that he moved to Portland where he hoped to make a living as an artist. When things did not work out, he moved to Providence, Rhode Island and later to Boston, Massachusetts where he opened a studio before 1880. Leighton's Boston studio became a meeting place for the leading horsemen of the day. With its four trotting tracks, Boston was an important hub for trotting on the East Coast. Most of the top trotting horses of his era came to tracks in Hartford, Providence and Boston. This gave Leighton an opportunity to sow his talent as a horse painter." Scott Leighton painted many prominent horses of the day, barnyard and landscape scenes. a Leighton print titled Fearnought Stallions from Fearnought Farm in Manchester, Maine. Currier and Ives printed at least 30 different lithographs of his work. This exhibit will showcase vehicles depicted in his art and a history of his life culminating with his final resting place in West Cumberland, Maine. For more information, contact Greg Cuffey at (207)892-0188.

ITEMS FOR SALE: Cumberland Historical Society coverlets, Christmas cards, note cards, "An Ornament of Grace", drawings of the Longwoods Road passenger station, sketched by Liz Arbo Wagner.

With the Cumberland afghans being on sale, this is the updated narrative that goes with the purchase of each blanket. This descriptive piece contains quick factoids of different parts of the Town of Cumberland. The original designers of the quilt put many long hard hours into the layout and history of these beautiful afghans. Also, here is a picture of what they look like.



A BRIEF SKETCH OF CUMBERLAND’S HISTORICAL LANDMARKS

THE CUMBERLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The 1853 brick building in which the Cumberland Historical maintains a museum and research center was one of many one room school houses built in the 19th century. The bricks for this building, as well as the Prince Memorial Library, Greely Institute, and the brick house across the street from Greely, were fired at a brick located behind the Library. Several of the school houses still exist, as do the other brick buildings noted previously. After larger elementary

schools were constructed, this building was used for the Town Offices, then the Cumberland Police Department. When they moved to larger quarters, the building was acquired by the Cumberland Historical Society. In 2014 the building was sold back to the Town, but remains as the headquarters for the Cumberland Historical Society. Monthly meetings, held on the third Thursday of the month from September to June, usually at the Prince Memorial Library are open to members and non-members alike. We invite you to join the Cumberland Historical Society and enjoy the museum, and the monthly programs. The museum is open by appointment for research or for a visit.

THE PRINCE MEMORIAL LIBRARY

The Prince Memorial Library Corporation came to be in November of 1921. The building was built in 1922 with funds from a thirty-five thousand dollar bequest of Carroll D. and Annie L. Prince. Twenty thousand dollars was to be used to erect the building and fifteen thousand was to be placed in a maintenance fund. It has had several additions and Cumberland can be very proud of its busy and beautiful library. The Georgian-Colonial style building was built on land donated by Dr. and Mrs. John R. Thomes. The Library was designed by architect George Chase Emery of Massachusetts, and was built for \$20,000 by contractor F.A. Rumery of Portland. Prince Memorial Library opened to the public on January 7, 1923, and more than 600 books from the early Cumberland Library joined the new books on the shelves, a very amount compared to today's total. There are also other media forms available. Programs are frequently held and the children's area is a beehive of activity.

THE STONE SLOOPS OF CHEBEAGUE ISLAND

Though no longer a part of the Town of Cumberland since July 1, 2007, Chebeague Island was a vital part of the town. Stone slooping was a very important part of its economy. With a modest beginning in the late eighteenth century, stone slooping continued until the very early twentieth century. The island-built sloops obtained granite from quarries in Rockland, Saco, Gloucester, and other places. They carried the granite to east coast ports for lighthouses, break waters, public buildings, and monuments, among which were the Massachusetts State House, the Chicago Board of Trade, and the Washington Monument. The complete history of stone slooping is very interesting and can be researched in the libraries in Cumberland and Chebeague.

GREELY INSTITUTE/HIGH SCHOOL

Greely Institute, which opened September 28, 1858, was established through the generosity of Eliphalet and Elizabeth Loring Greely. Mr. Greely was a Cumberland native, as was his wife. They moved to Portland and he became a successful businessman, banker, and civic leader, including Mayor of the City of Portland. He later served on the Maine State Board of Banking. Although having no children of his own, he believed that the young people of Cumberland should have a high school education. In his will, he left twenty-seven thousand, five hundred dollars, of which six thousand was for erecting the building, twenty thousand was to be invested in a trust fund for its operation, one thousand was for equipment, and five hundred dollars for a school library. After his death, Mrs. Greely purchased a piece of land from Enos Blanchard, and followed through with the wishes of her husband's will. We are deeply indebted to Mr. Greely for his caring and generosity, and to Mrs. Greely for her completion of the task set out for her. Greely Institute, now Greely High School, and serves the students of Cumberland and North Yarmouth. Mr. Greely's portrait, painted by a cousin, hangs in the Cumberland Historical Society.

THE WILLIAM MERRILL MEMORIAL MONUMENT

The William Merrill Memorial Monument was given by his son, Edwin R. Merrill. William Merrill was born in 1844 in a home at 66 Winn Road, and in the latter part of his life, he lived at 259 Main Street. This monument commemorates his service in the Civil War and “of all the men of Cumberland, Maine who served their country on land and sea in all wars of the nation”. This monument is in the center of town and serves as a most appropriate site for the annual Memorial Day exercises.

FOUR CHURCHES

Four churches, the West Cumberland United Methodist Church, the Tuttle Road United Methodist Church, the Foreside Community Church and the Cumberland Congregational Church occupy the four corners of the afghan. Each has singular history, and all share beginnings in our early history. One other church, the Universalist Church on Morrison’s Hill in West Cumberland, was not an active church at the time that the afghan was designed, but flourishes once again.

FARMING – A WAY OF LIFE

No longer is farming a way of life for us all. In days gone by, poultry farming and processing, dairy farming, carnation growing, raising beef cattle, apple growing, in addition to raising annual market crops, were ways of life for Cumberland citizens. Today, on a much reduced level, agriculture continues and, as residents of the town, we can share in summer’s bounty at the Farmers’ Market. Generations old Sweetser’s Apple Barrel on Blanchard Road and Spring Brook Farm on Greely Road continue the farming way of life in Cumberland.

THE CUMBERLAND FAIR

Known now as the Cumberland County Fair, it had its origins in a building and race track near the junction of Tuttle Road and Main Street in the center of town. Union Hall, next to Greely High School remains, now as the office for the maintenance department of MSAD 51. It was the Exhibition hall for the first few Cumberland fairs. Main Street was used for ox pulling and harness racing before the race track was completed. After a few contentious years with two fairs in town, one in the Center, and one at the current location on Blanchard Road, the fair was permanently moved to the Blanchard Road location. “Always in September” it continues to attract enthusiastic crowds who enjoy the many exhibits, contests, carnival rides, the farm museum, the sugar house, the railroad depot, many tempting varieties of food, and the wonderful assortment of animals. The annual celebration, publicized also as “A Family Fair”, helps recall its establishment well over a century ago and the agricultural beginnings of this town.

THE APPLE BORDER

The Apple Border of the afghan calls attention to an old agricultural enterprise that is still active in Cumberland. Many apple lovers eagerly await the opening of Sweetser’s Apple Barrel just off the town square. One of the two remaining apple businesses in town, in years past, there were other active apple orchards, including Arthur Blanchard’s at the corner of Tuttle Road and Main Street, and the two Terison orchards on Orchard Hill Road. One of those remains as well. Both orchards provide baked goods, jams, jellies, relishes, pumpkins and other vegetables for your palate’s pleasure.

THE MILE MARKERS

The mile markers, of which Cumberland has two, were laid out in 1771 with the aid of a Ben Franklin odometer invention. From Machias to Boston on the King’s Highway every mile was indicated by a large stone. B135 and B136 are engraved on Cumberland markers indicating the distance from Boston. They are located on Route 88 near the Tuttle Road and on Middle Road near Topknot Farm.

THE TOWN FOREST

Cumberland is one of the few towns in Maine to have a Town Forest. Through a bequest of Elizabeth Sturdivant Drowne, the town acquired the Drowne Farm land, one of the original Proprietor lots. In 1928 with Ernest A. Rand, Cumberland resident, conservationist, and forester, over twelve thousand trees were planted with the help of 4-H members, Boy Scouts, and Greely Institute students. In Mr. Rand's notes we read, "The forest should be maintained as a recreation spot, a game refuge, and possibly, a study plot for forestry minded boys and girls in our schools. It would serve as an area for Boy and Girl Scouts, recreation area for all, refuge for birds and animals, and a study area for students of several subjects. Also it would bring in some revenues for the education purposes for the town." A perimeter trail has been cleared and an entrance sign erected near the Town Office on Tuttle Road. It is very fitting that the trail is named The Ernest A. Rand Nature Trail in recognition of his lifelong devotion and dedication to this project. All visitors are asked to "leave only footprints, take only memories".

CUMBERLAND CENTER RAILROAD STATION

Everyone wishes that this station were still a part of Cumberland's landscape. This station was located near the junction of Cross Street and Main Street (Route 9). Replacing various stage lines, train service to Cumberland began in the 1850's with the extension of the Kennebec & Portland Railroad from Yarmouth Junction into Portland. With the rapidly growing railroad systems in Maine, this railroad merged with the Maine Central Railroad in 1871 and a connection was built to Danville Junction. In Cumberland in Four Centuries freight is described as "barrels of flour and sugar, a hogshead of molasses, a piano, an organ, kitchen ranges, bed springs, cream separators, gallon cans of maple syrup, spices, stacks of tin lard pails, and condiments and furnishings to run the homes of the town." There was another station, also no longer standing, which was located near the intersection of Tuttle Road and Middle Road. It was served by the Atlantic and St. Lawrence road which became the Grand Trunk Railway. There is a very rich history of railroading through this town which can be researched at the Prince Memorial Library or the Cumberland Historical Society.

CARNATION GROWING

In the early nineteen hundreds there were four carnation ranges in Cumberland. Arno and Frank Chase each had a range on Main Street, and Charles Jenkins (later Maurice Small) and Howard Blanchard each had ranges on Blanchard. Carnations were the major crop and were shipped out to wholesalers in New York and New Jersey. As time went on, different crops were added and Frank Chase started a florist shop formerly known as Chase's, later The Flower Center. When South and Central America could ship carnations here for three cents a stem, Cumberland growers could not possibly compete, and were slowly forced out of business. All structures were eventually dismantled.

THE WILSON MILL

The Wilson Mill on Skillins Road was one of several on the west branch of the Piscataqua River as it made its way from Forest Lake through Cumberland and Falmouth where it joined the Presumpscot River. The Mountfort Mill on Mill Road in Cumberland and the Merrill Mill on Mill Road in Falmouth remain. The Wilson Mill, built in the late 1860's by Lorenzo Wilson and James Leighton as a grist mill and sawmill, continued operation as saw mill for almost one hundred years under Wilson family ownership. It was sold to members of the Stratton family for a few years, and then sold for a private residence in the mid 1960's.

SOURCES: CUMBERLAND IN FOUR CENTURIES BY PHYLLIS SWEETSER, MATERIALS FOR TOWN FOREST BY ELIZABETH RAND SURGI, CONVERSATIONS WITH CUMBERLAND RESIDENTS, AND RESEARCH FROM THE CUMBERLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

THIS'N'THAT: Be sure to “Like” us on Facebook, and spread the word! Steve Helphand has kept up the site for us even though he has “migrated” to the Yarmouth Historical Society. They will find out what a treasure he is, as did the Prince Memorial Library and the Cumberland Historical Society.

Dick and Connie Sweetser have taken up winter residence at Bay Square in Yarmouth.

Condolences to the family of member Elizabeth Bertoleone, who passed away on January 16th. Her joie de vivre was most infectious, and her cookies were delicious.

Condolences too, to former member and generous donor Claire Vining, whose granddaughter passed away in January.

ALWAYS LOOKING: We are still missing the Greely Shield yearbooks from the years 1965, 1971-1977, 1982, 1985 and 2014. If you have one of these that you would like to donate to us, please help us out.

We also need to find someone to repair a bench and a couple of our older chairs. Does anyone have the time and skill to do that ?

UPCOMING PROGRAMS:

February 19th, 2015 7:00PM at West Cumberland Community Hall ~ Joel Fuller (accompanied by his wife, Marcia Smith Fuller) “Growing Up in West Cumberland Maine”

March 19th 2015 7:00PM at Prince Memorial Library ~ Kylie Beth Josephson and Isabella Chandler will tell us about their Girl Scout project with a history of Cumberland Fair

April 9th 2015 (date moved up one week) 7:00PM at Prince Memorial Library ~ Carmel Croce ~ “Life in Little Italy (Munjoy Hill area of Portland, Maine)

May 21st 2015 7:00PM at Prince Memorial Library ~ Library Director, Thomas Bennett ~ “Dear Mom: WWII Letters from the Back Lines.” Letters from Thomas’ father to home.

June 18th 2015 7:00PM at Prince Memorial Library ~ Jerry Wiles ~ Joshua Chamberlain. There will also be the election of officers.

ANSWER TO THE STUMPER: It was one of three Town Farms for the Town of Cumberland. The other two were on the Payson property, and at what is now Blanchard Road.. The Payson property one is no longer standing, but the other two are now private residences.

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**A DATE HAS BEEN MADE WITH JEFF PORTER TO TAKE A TOUR OF THE BEAUTIFUL CUSTOMS HOUSE BUILDING IN PORTLAND. JEFF HAS AN OFFICE THERE AND THOUGHT THAT THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY MIGHT LIKE TO SEE THE BUILDING. THE DATE IS TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24<sup>TH</sup>, AND THE TIME TO MEET HIM IS 10:00AM. WE CAN CARPOOL FROM CUMBERLAND. HE DOES NEED TO KNOW HOW MANY WILL BE COMING, SO PLEASE LET ME KNOW BY NEXT THURSDAY THE 12<sup>TH</sup> SO I CAN NOTIFY HIM. WE CERTAINLY DO APPRECIATE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO VISIT ONE OF PORTLAND’S LOVELY ARCHITECTURAL BEAUTIES!**

Membership Application/Renewal

2014 -2015

CUMBERLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P O Box 82

Cumberland, ME 04021

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

TOWN or CITY: \_\_\_\_\_

ZIP CODE: \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ CELL: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you your newsletter sent by email \_\_\_\_\_ or by USPS \_\_\_\_\_ ?

WINTER ADDRESS:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

DATES THAT THE WINTER ADDRESS APPLIES: \_\_\_\_\_

IF YOUR BUSINESS IS INTERESTED IN BEING A CORPORATE SPONSOR, PLEASE INDICATE: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership dues are \$10.00 per person \_\_\_\_\_

Corporate membership is \$100.00. \_\_\_\_\_

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