



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:	Jeff Frost (interim)
Trustees:	Herbert S. Foster, Jr. Lynda Wilson Jensen Linda Fulda Thomas Bennett Nancy Latham Jeff Frost
Facebook Site	Kathy Allen Merrill Nancy Mason

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.

OCTOBER 2016 VOLUME 132

OCTOBER THOUGHTS:

"Now's the time when children's noses
All become as red as roses
And the colour of their faces
Makes me think of orchard places
Where the juicy apples grow,
And tomatoes in a row."
- Katherine Mansfield, *Autumn Song*



PLEASE HELP HIRAM CEMETERY FIND THESE THIEVES!

Sunday night October 2, 2016 someone stole Hiram's lovely cast iron gate from the Joseph Rankin Jr. lot of Hiram Village Cemetery. It faces Main Street, Hiram. The gate is highly ornamental in Victorian style. It is cast iron and identified by the name and date Joseph Rankin Jr. 1882 cast into the design of willow tree, flowers and lambs. The gate is surrounded by a cast iron fence with willow tree, flowers and lambs. In 2014 the images were painted green, yellow and white. Please help us get our beloved gate back. We are sickened by this act of desecration and theft of Hiram's heritage. If you know anything about this theft, please let us know. Please ask around if any one has any knowledge. Print these photos and show them to any antique dealers or scrap metal dealers you know.



I will be trying to get this crime posted on the National Stolen Art File operated by the FBI.

<https://archives.fbi.gov/archives/news/stories/2010/december/national-stolen-art-file/national-stolen-art-file>

Thank you for spreading the word.

Sally Williams

1593 Pequawket Trail

PO Box 105

Hiram ME 04041

207-625-4762

UPDATE: We have learned our gate is a Tree of Heaven gate made in Philadelphia by Wood & Perot Ornamental Iron Works, 1850s or 60s. The date on the gate is 1862. Worth a small fortune. Very painful. It should have been welded when the individual pieces of the fence were, but...

FROM MEMBER LINDA GRIFFIN:

Many of our historical society neighbors are struggling with poor attendance, older members, limited funds, limited space for storage and very few volunteers. How can we help each other??

The closing of Willowbrook in Newfield on October 10, 2016 has us all stunned and we wonder if historical societies will go the way of the lodges, granges and fraternal organizations that laced our small towns with activity, social gatherings and friendships that lasted a life time?

Anne Dunbar and I visited Willowbrook one last time last Wednesday and asked the ticket taker what happened.

She said for many years the number of visitors has dropped way down.

Schools because of cut back funding aren't having the school tours they used to have. The recession in 2008 hurt them as they had to use some of their endowment to pay expenses. She said it costs about \$50,000 to run Willowbrook each year as there is a paid director, paid staff and ongoing maintenance on all their beautiful buildings.

A story in the local Waterboro Reporter said some of the artifacts from Willowbrook will go to a farm museum in Orrington, Maine (near Brewer), the Brick Store museum in Kennebunk, and Norlands in Livermore. Skyline Farm in North Yarmouth will receive some carriages and sleighs and Newfield Historical Society will receive some local items. The closing is very sad....

Because of a lack of volunteers Gorham Historical Society was considering shutting down and they held no programs all last winter. At a recent meeting at the Gorham town office which was open to members and anyone else interested a new slate of officers stepped up and they are meeting and rethinking how to move ahead.

I am writing a letter to Gorham Historical suggesting that they meet Sat. afternoons instead of night meetings and that they change the location of their meetings to a local church or community hall instead of the bank building as before if you were late the doors were locked and you couldn't get in.

OPEN HOUSE

Instead of having a regular program, we held an OPEN HOUSE on September 11 for folks to come, visit, have a drink of coffee or lemonade, snack on some tasty treats and view the new set-up that we have at the museum. Past members were invited to come an hour early for a special time to give a look at what we have done. They all seemed to give us a nod of approval. It was a succesful day, with about two dozen visitors. Thanks to Lynda and Brian Jensen, and Laura Willis, who got in early to get the palce ready, to Jeff Frost for providing tech ability to see the interviews done by the USM students this spring, to Sandy Nickerson for sprucing up the gardens and grounds, and to Nancy Latham, Linda Fulda, and Carolyn Small for providing the "MEET AND GREET" part of the day.

HARVEST GREEN CRAFT FAIR AT VAL HALLA

Lynda Jensen, Linda Fulda, and Carolyn Small manned (womanned?) a table at this second annual craft fair. After a slow start, things picked up, and , along with meeting lots of people, and letting them know that the Cumberland Historical Society does exist, we ended up making \$175.00. All "the right stuff"!

EVENTS COMING UP

In conjunction with the 50th anniversary of MSAD 51, we will have an OPEN HOUSE on Saturday, October 15th from 10:00 to 4:00. We will be welcoming visitors who will be coming from out of town to join in the MSAD 51 celebration, and residents in town who want to see what the history of Cumberland entailed. There will also be the collection of Greely yearbooks on hand to pore over and recollect "the good times". We have a completely new setup at the museum, and cordially invite all to come in, view the 1853 schoolhouse, have a treat, sip some Sweetser's delicious home-grown apple cider, and find out what we are all about. Because of this Open House, and the fact that the Council Chambers are not available on the date that we would usually meet, there will not be an October program.

Our next event, which is not really an event, will be manning a table on Election Day at the Town Office. That will be Tuesday, November 8th. If anyone would be interested in sitting at the table for a couple of hours, please contact Carolyn at 829-3757, at 415-4589, or by email at csmall1943@maine.rr.com. We will set up at 7:30 AM, and remain there until closing time at 8:00PM. Once again, it is a good time to have some positive contact with people of the town, maybe sell a couple of things, and enlist some new members.

Finally, we will be having a table at the Greely High School Craft Fair. This one will be held on November 19th from 9:00 to 2:00 or so, in the Greely Gym. Once again, we are asking for folks to help man the table.

We thank you in advance for your help.

CONDOLENCES:

The Sweetser family has suffered another great loss with the passing of Dick on October 11. We send condolences to this deep-rooted Cumberland with this huge loss. It would be interesting to find out how many of you, who read this newsletter, picked apples at Sweetser's when you were in high school?

OCTOBER STUMPER:

For whom is Greely named?

NEW COMMITTEE 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!

WORKSHOP THIS FALL:

Because we have received so many wonderful items the past couple of years, the accessioning process has fallen way behind, and I do mean **WAY**, behind. We had planned to have a workshop this summer, but the summer seemed to get away from us! Now that Cumberland Fair is over, we have set the date of Monday evening, November 14th from 6:30 to 8:00 or so. Another one will be the next day, Tuesday, November 15th from 10:00 to noon, for folks who find night driving uncomfortable. 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. Please help us catch up!

ACQUISITIONS:

Rand Surgi donated, among other things, some blueprints of the Cumberland Water Company that his grandfather, Ernest Rand, had drawn up. Other items included four Congregational Church family catalogs, and several Town Reports.

Pat Mullen donated numerous photos and ephemera from the Mullen family. There are also a lot of these items that will be going, with her permission, to the Falmouth Historical Society. We've already made contact with them, and will deliver them soon.

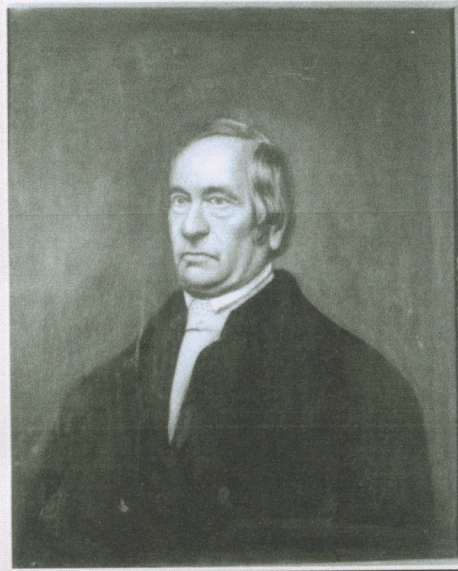
Claire Vining donated a Wilson genealogy, and a Farm Bureau notebook, naming many folks from the general Poland Corners area, and includes a lot of info about farming techniques and improvements. A great research resource.

And, Connie Sweetser has been cleaning out the Sweester attic again, and brought another box of photos and "stuff"! We just love it when attics get cleaned out.

One of the visitors to the museum on Sunday currently lives in the Louville Merrill house on Maine Street. She has sold the house is moving in six weeks, and had some items that she thought we might be interested in, so Jeff Frost and Brian Jensen followed her back to her home and brought the items back. Great stuff; a ship's auger, two ice tongs, two fireplace items, two shoe lasts from the cobblers business that was in that home many years ago, a crowbar, and two drying rods that attach to a wood cook stove. This made us happy to receive them, and made her happy to get rid of them!

ANSWER TO THE OCTOBER STUMPER:

Greely Institute was established through the generosity of Eliphalet and Elizabeth Loring Greely. Eliphalet Greely (1784-1858) was a sea captain, businessman, bank president, state banking commissioner, member of the Maine Legislature and mayor of Portland. His will designated \$27,500 to the Town of Cumberland, with \$6,000 for construction of Greely Institute, which opened Sept. 28, 1868. The Corporation of the Trustees of Greely Institute was dissolved in July 1953 after a Town Meeting vote to establish a free high school. The portrait shown is of Eliphalet, done by an artist cousin while he was Mayor of Portland.



ALWAYS LOOKING: We are still missing the Greely Shield yearbooks from the years 1965, 1967, 1975-1977, 1982, and 1985. If you have one of these that you would like to donate to us, please help us out. Also looking for folks to help with refreshments. Bake a cookie or two and add them to the goodie table for us. Thanks.

STILL LOOKING FOR AN ANSWER:

Brian Jensen sent this interesting little Cumberland history tidbit. Does anyone have a definitive answer to it? "Sitting here perusing the 1927 summer-fall phone book for Portland District, I found a listing for the Tamarack Inn, Gray Rd., West Cumberland. The phone number was 51-4, if that helps. We think it's probably what became known as the Leighton Hotel, but it will be interested to try to figure out.

DUES ARE DUE!

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: _____
Email _____
Winter address if applicable: _____

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

The Cumberland Historical Society is a 501(c) (3) organization.

Please mail this form and your check to:

Cumberland Historical Society

PO Box 82

Cumberland, ME 04021

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

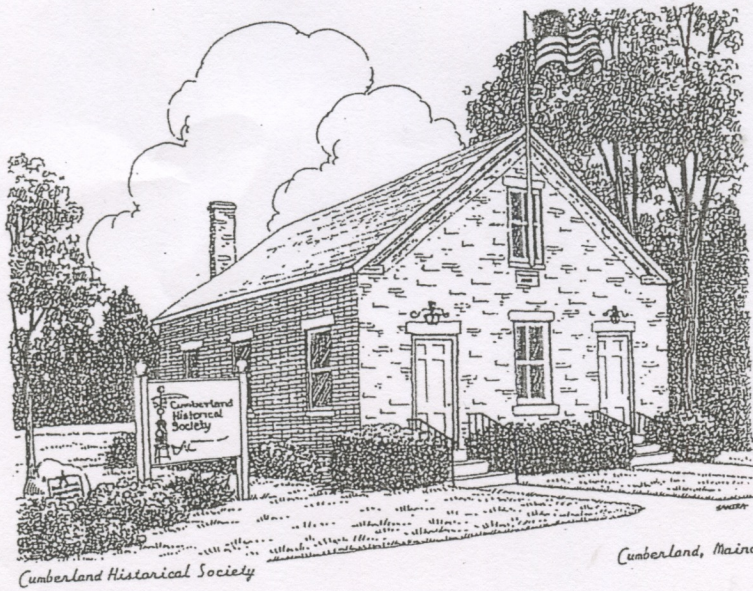
Education: _____	Fund Raising: _____	Programs: _____	MSAD# 51 50 th Anniversary _____
Refreshment: _____	Nominating: _____	Publicity: _____	Bicentennial _____ Scholarship _____

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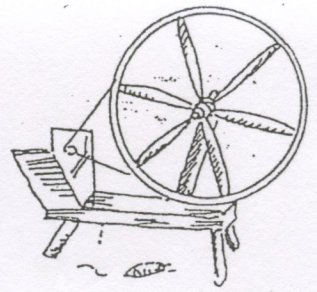


THANKS ALSO FOR THE GARDENING SUPPORT FROM SKILLINS GREENHOUSES,
WEST CUMBERLAND, MAINE

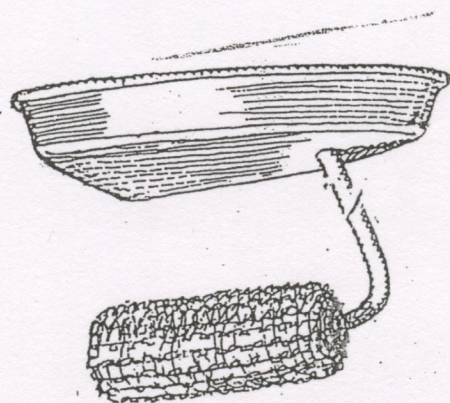
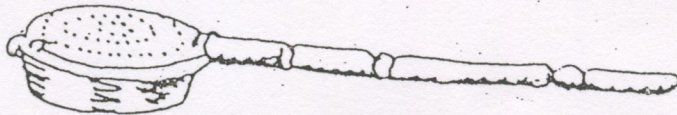




Cumberland Historical Society



DISTRICT 3
 Schoolhouse has served as the
 Town Office and Police Station. It
 is now the home of the
 Cumberland Historical Society



Cumberland, Maine 04021
 P.O. Box 82

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OCT 4, 2016
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