



CUMBERLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P O Box 82

4A Blanchard Road

Cumberland, ME 04021

Phone : 207-489-9582

Board of Directors: Chairman: Linda Fulda

Directors: Elizabeth (Betsy) Huston

Vice Chair: Brian Jensen

Nancy Latham

Secretary: Margery Gruber

Sandy Nickerson

Treasurer: Peter Wilson

Trustee Emeritus: Herbert S. Foster, Jr.

Curator: Carolyn Small

Hours: Monday mornings 9:00 to noon

Open House on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of the month from 9:00 to 1:00

Programs are held on the 4th Wednesday of the month at 6:30 PM, unless otherwise noted.

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.

APRIL 2018 VOLUME 148

APRIL THOUGHTS

Isn't it appropriate that the month of the tax begins with April Fool's Day and ends with cries of 'May Day!'? — Rob Knauerhase



APRIL STUMPER:

Where was the Drowne Farm located, and what was its significance to the Town of Cumberland?

Cumberland Historical Society is very happy to have a new program director. She is Kathy Kenny, and she is excited to submit the following programs. Please note the new program day and time, and mark your calendars for these upcoming events! She has even more coming up in the ensuing months.

PROGRAMS:

Our program night has changed a little from last year. Programs will now be held on the 4th Wednesday evening of each month and will start at 6:30 pm. The location will be listed in the monthly newsletter and on the Cumberland Town's website before the event as the location is subject to change.

Our hope is that Wednesday evenings will be more accommodating and that more of you will be able to attend. We will be presenting you with various topics and interests each month which will be listed in the monthly newsletter and on the Cumberland Town's website. So, reserve the 4th Wednesday evening of the month for the Cumberland Historical Society's Programs and come join us!

25 APRIL PROGRAM - "Buy me some peanuts and Cracker Jacks"

Program; Dirigo Vintage Base Ball Club, Cumberland Town Hall Council Chambers, 290 Tuttle Road, Cumberland, Maine, at 6:30 pm.

Dirigo Vintage Baseball Club

Wednesday, April 25th @6:30pm (*Town Hall, Council Chambers*)

Tonight, you will hear from Jake (Shoeless) Newcomb, a member of the Dirigo Vintage Base Ball Club. Listen and learn about "Old Time Baseball" while enjoying some peanuts and Cracker Jacks along with some root beer donated by Capt'n Eli's Soda of Portland, Maine! In addition to hearing about baseball's history, we will be viewing artifacts, receiving some handouts, and participating in a Q&A period following Jake's talk. After all, spring and the baseball season has arrived! So, join us for a trip back in time to explore early baseball YOU'LL ENJOY THIS ONE!!!

(EDITOR'S NOTE: The collection of Cap Bragg's old baseball uniforms will be on display at this event.)





Cumberland's claim to baseball fame.

This is the Cumberland Center town baseball in about 1920. In the back row, left to right: Manager Irwin Collins, Carroll Wilson, 3rd base, Ralph Burnell, field, Eli Burnell, pitcher, Everett Sweetser, 2nd base, and Perry Burnell, catcher.

In the middle row, left to right, Whitman Dunn, field, Deacon Townsend Loring, field.

In the bottom row, Maurice Hayes, shortstop, and Ripley Burnell, 1st base.



Cumberland Historical Society Scavenger Hunt

Cumberland/North Yarmouth and surrounding area friends: Sign ups have begun for our 2nd Annual Cumberland Historical Society Town Scavenger Hunt!

Friday, May 18th 6:30 - 9:30 pm



The Cumberland Historical Society is excited to sponsor another local scavenger hunt on Friday evening, May 18th. Teams in cars will be taken on a fun and very interactive adventure throughout the town. The cost is \$10.00 per person and all proceeds benefit the Historical Society's GHS Scholarship Fund. If you like riddles, like to laugh, and think you know a little bit about our town, then you won't want to miss out on the night. This is a perfect family event for older children or a great way to have fun with a group of friends. Space is limited, so pull your team together and get ready for a night of fun. To register your team or for additional details, contact Judy Gagnon at djgagnon@maine.rr.com or 400-9334.

Price: \$10.00 per person

Ages: Adult/Teens

Time: 6:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

TO ALL: Linda Putnam would like to partner up with someone to go on the scavenger hunt with her. If you would like to be her scavenger hunt partner, contact Carolyn Small at 415-4589.

23 MAY PROGRAM

“Penelope Martin Fundraiser Day” (Suggested Donation: \$10 for members and \$15 for non-members)

Featured program – “Plum Crazy” Vintage Antique Crazy Quilts, Cumberland Town Hall Council Chambers, 290 Tuttle Road, Cumberland, at 6:00 pm.



NOTE: THE DOORS WILL OPEN AT 6 PM FOR COFFEE AND CAKE BEFORE THE START OF THE PRESENTATION AT 6:30 PM. Your donation is your fundraiser contribution.

You will be introduced to Penelope Martin, one of Cumberland’s earliest residents and learn about Cumberland’s 1st School Girl Academy this evening. This School Girl Academy was one of New England’s longest running and most prestigious schools, lasting for 30 YEARS! Learn more about the Martins and their academy by viewing our CHS display table at the meeting.

Enjoy a piece of Penelope’s Birthday Cake while waiting for the evening’s program which will reflect one of the classes taught at Martin’s Academy.

This year’s “Penelope Martin Fundraiser Day” program will expose you to the art of quilting. The presentation will be “Plum Crazy” by Kathy Kenny of Historical Quilt Lectures. During the presentation, you’ll view 25 vintage antique crazy quilts, made from 1880 to 1910, along with learning about the history of crazy quilts. Two of these quilts are seldom seen outside of museums, due to their rarity. You’ll even learn what importance smoking had to do with crazy quilts!

We hope you'll come to this very enjoyable meeting on Wednesday, 23 May, to learn about Penelope and her academy, have some cake, visit with friends and neighbors, and enjoy the presentation, knowing that your contribution, this evening, will help support the Cumberland Historical Society.

In addition to these programs there will be an **OPEN HOUSE before and after the Memorial Day Parade.** On Thursday, **June 21st, from 1:00 to 4:00, and on Saturday, July 14th, from 1:00 to 4:00,** we will be conducting two more historic bus tours in conjunction with the Cumberland Recreation Department. Spread the word!!!! Further details on who, what, when, where, and how to contact will be forthcoming.

Historical Bus Tour of Cumberland

Leader: Carolyn Small, Curator, Cumberland Historical Society

Join us for a historical tour of approximately 68 points of interest in the Town of Cumberland. We will board a bus and take a tour of many historical sites throughout the Town. This narrated tour will cover historical homes, businesses, churches, monuments and cemeteries to name a few. You will discover our rich history and learn some of the interesting stories of whom and what made Cumberland what it is today. We will have a short break in the middle of the tour at the Cumberland Historical Society where we will have the opportunity to see the exhibits and enjoy some light refreshments.

Please select a day:

Bus Tour 1 - Thursday, June 21

Bus Tour 2 - Saturday, July 14

Time: 1 – 4 pm

Location: Depart from Town Office Parking Lot

CORRECTION:

In the February newsletter, mention was made of the wonderful sausage made at E. B. Osgood's butcher shop, and the recipe that was so very special. That recipe, according to the article, was lost forever by the death of Leon Burnell, who had vowed to E. B. that he would never reveal it. After that newsletter was read by Neil Tame, we received the following letter: "3/1/18

Hi Carolyn,

Sorry to bother you but I must tell you that Osgood's sausage was Millard Burnell, Rip's brother. Leon did work at Osgood's part time, but the only one I ever saw making sausage was Millard. He was Leon's uncle. Millard lived near to Farwell Avenue on Main Street. He worked for Osgood year around for many years. I know if I don't send you this, my brother Phil will get after me! By the way, the newsletter that came today was great. Neil Tame"

Thank goodness for people who make these corrections for us! It is very much appreciated, as we want to keep history accurate. E. B. Osgood and his store were so vital to the Town. He was a Deacon of the Cumberland Congregational Church, served on numerous boards, participated in town official business, and owned different local properties. Cumberland Historical Society has a photo of E. B. standing in front of his horse—drawn delivery wagon. In the Phyllis Sweetser history of Cumberland, it is noted that "E. B. Osgood (1860-1944) had a large produce farm as well as his butchering business. In a small store beside his butcher shop the Deacon (*as he was known*) sold his products, among them his famous sausages made by his own secret recipe, hams, and bacon smoked on the premises, and country cheese aged especially for him by a company in New Hampshire. For years people came from far and near for his fine products and his grandson Fred continued the business for some years after the Deacon's death."

And, as a point of interest, all the Tame “kids” are members of the Cumberland Historical Society: Clayton (Beebe), Phil, Neil, Nancy and Janice. Neil came back to Greely after college to teach and coach there. The Tame siblings are instrumental in the Greely Alumni gathering at Range Pond every summer. We are grateful for their collective family participation!

ACQUISITIONS:

Eileen and Martha Wyatt are in the process of moving out of their big beautiful home on Tuttle Road to a smaller one being built on Blanchard Road. In doing so, they are ‘downsizing’. Along with several newspaper clippings, they donated a picture of the Tuttle Road farm house when the barn was still attached. This is a wonderful gift, as we don’t have that image. That barn was HUGE! The house was built before 1857, as it is noted by the research that Hope Dillaway did with the 1857/1871 map on display in the museum.

Linda Hanscom sent a real estate photo of the house at 302 Main Street, across from Greely.

ABOUT THE HOUSE AT 353 TUTTLE ROAD:

In the Phyllis Sweetser book, the following mentions that house in the part entitled The Underground Railroad in Cumberland, written by Margaret G. Wyman:

It is well known that from the beginning of the antislavery conflict until after the outbreak of the Civil War much of the North was pro-slavery. Even in Cumberland Center ‘at a special meeting called in regard to the draft, several parties came, armed with pistols and revolvers, prepared to resist the draft.’ (source is an article in the Portland Press Herald in 1927.)

Many slaves, fleeing from the Southern States and their pursuing masters, were helped by a carefully organized system which became to be called ‘The Underground Railway’. Their abolitionist benefactors often faced great danger to themselves in sending fugitives by various means from one so-called ‘station’ to another until they finally reached Canada or some other place to safety (source: Siebert “The Underground Railway” published 1898).

In the early eighteen forties, these fugitives often obtained help in Maine, for Portland became the center of several important routes to Canada.

Perhaps because of the great secrecy that was necessary there are only a few stories that link Cumberland with this compassionate and exciting undertaking. This information has been handed down in families where stories, repeated with great pride, were told to the children and grandchildren of those who took a small part in the ‘Underground Railway’.

The story most often told is that Deacon Nicholas Humphrey who lived in the house which is now (in 1975) the parsonage of the Cumberland center Congregational Church, was the head of the Underground Railway in Cumberland. In her brief “History of the Town of Cumberland”, written in 1921, Mrs. Fred Sweetser relates that at one time a slave was said to have hidden in a chamber above the country store which occupied the lower part of the building.

It was confirmed to some extent by the following story often told by my mother, Laura Herrick Wyman. Since she was most accurate in relating any story about the past it seems an acceptable source.

In the early years of their marriage her parents, Charles and Mary Herrick, lived at 363 Tuttle Road in the house across from the fire station. On at least one occasion they hid and cared for a slave overnight. They too said that Deacon Nicholas Humphrey was the head of this organization.

One near-by ‘station’ may well have been a part of the same ‘branch’ of the Railway: the old red house on the southeast side of the road at the junction of Routes 9 and 115 in North Yarmouth, owned (*in*

1975) by Miss Mary Dolloff (now by Charles and Brenda Philbrick McCall). She says that slaves were hidden there and that she can show a room made especially for that purpose. It seems quite probable that other families may have been involved, but, as far as we know, no one can verify the somewhat vague tales that are still heard now and then."

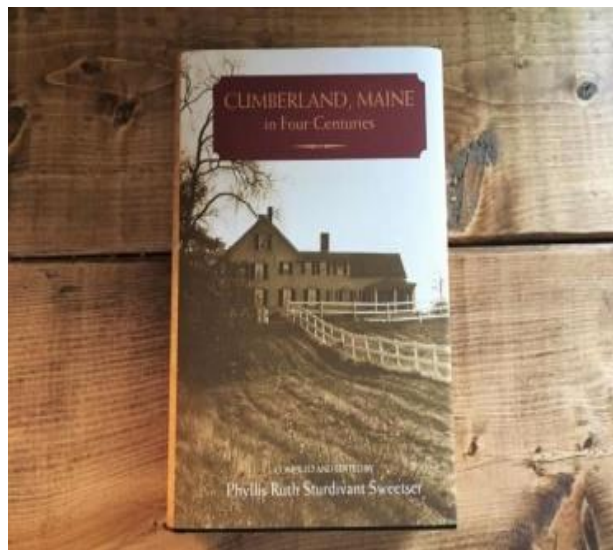


CHECK US OUT AND LIKE US ON FACEBOOK: Go to **Cumberland Maine Historical Society Facebook**, and see what interesting items are there to see. Steve Helphand makes a concerted effort to post new and interesting items for viewing.

Another connection is through the Town of Cumberland. Click on to COMMUNITY NEWS, then to CUMBERLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY. This site shows all sorts of information about us. One thing of interest would be the book assembled by Margie Gruber displaying the historic tours with the Mabel I. Wilson School second graders. It's a fun little book to view, and Margie did a great job with it!

ANSWER TO THE APRIL STUMPER: The Drowne Farm at the corner of Tuttle Road and Drowne Road came into the possession of the Town through the will of Mrs. Elizabeth Drowne in 1907. It was the property for many years of Captain Isaac Sturdivant, who was in command of a small fleet of ships, used to carry produce and supplies. They were also used to transport livestock to the islands for pasture during the summer months. What fun! A cattle summer camp! Mrs. Drowne's will instructed that any benefits arising from the farm were to be used for educational purposes. One of the educational pursuits that came from that was the Town Forest that was created by Ernest Rand, and planted and maintained by the students at Greely Institute.

Cumberland, Maine in Four Centuries



There are still copies of this history of Cumberland available for sale at Cumberland Historical Society, the Town Office and the Prince Memorial Library. **Call the Historical Society at 207-489-9582** and leave an order on the message machine. You can also visit us on Monday mornings from 9:00 to noon, or the second or fourth Saturday between 9:00 and 1:00 to pick one up.

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Cumberland Historical Society (CHS) was founded in 1939 through the dedicated efforts of Herman and Phyllis Sweetser. The meetings were first held in the Prince Memorial Library; in 1989 the CHS moved into a home of its own. That building was built in 1853 as a one--room schoolhouse; the bricks of which were fired right in the town. The CHS is a group of 100 or so members; a totally volunteer group. Open Houses are held on the second and fourth Saturdays of most months, and on Memorial Day after the parade. In May, a two-hour walking historical tour of the center of town is given to the second grades at the Mabel I. Wilson Elementary School as a part of their community curriculum. Individual tours are offered to anyone else who contacts the CHS. Historic bus tours are usually scheduled through the Cumberland Recreation Department. There are over 200 homes in the town that are over 100 years old; 50 from that inventory are over 200 years old. The museum is the repository of an interesting collection of artifacts that connect with the town. They range from home deeds from the 1700's to pieces of dinnerware brought back from England by one of the town's sea captains to his wife. Indian artifacts, Revolutionary War, Civil War, WWI and WWII, and Korean War items are available to view. A number of family genealogies and histories of businesses of the town are in development.

The Cumberland Historical Society is located at 4A Blanchard Road, in the center of Cumberland.

