

CUMBERLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING – July 19, 2018
CURATOR’S REPORT

To the Board of Directors and Members of the Cumberland Historical Society:

1. The two bus tours scheduled for this year have been completed with 8 people on board for the first one, and 13 on the second.
2. Met with Kathy Kenny to hand over our each of the quilts in our collection for her to evaluate. She has completed her evaluation of all of the quilts, and has presented a detailed report for our records and for insurance purposes.
3. In conjunction with the quilts, we are researching the names that are on the three signature quilts. It’s proving to be lesson in frustration!
4. Kathy has also made suggestions on proper care, handling, and storage of the quilts and other artifacts. Lynda Jensen, Nancy Latham, Laura Willis and Linda Fulda are working on getting them all in archivally correct storage boxes.
5. Received many artifact donations, and sent some to other historical societies as well. Items received that are not relevant to the history of the Town of Cumberland, are sent, with permission from the donors, to the historical societies where they belong.
6. Laura Willis sorted through the Greely Shield yearbooks, and pulled any duplicates to store in the vault, and made note of the years that we are missing.
7. We have worked diligently, along with the Town Office, on the Paul E. Merrill and Harlan Sweetser monetary bequests to clear up the mystery of the specifications of each. They have, at last, been defined.
8. The Felt’s Mills historic sign, which was due to be installed at the end of the Town Landing Road in May, has yet to be done. Hopefully that will be accomplished soon.
9. The Open Houses on the second and fourth Saturdays continue to provide the opportunity for people to visit the museum and marvel at the artifacts that we have. Lynda Jensen does a good job of making sure that all visitors sign in. It is a positive move and good PR for CHS. All who are working at the museum do a friendly “meet and greet” with them. The coffee and treats help, too!
10. Another special Open House was at the Memorial Day celebration.
11. The following report and press release was issued by MSAD51:

This year marks the 150th year of the Greely Institute. The Institute, which was built in 1868, has been the brand of MSAD #51 since its inception back in the mid 60's. On Tuesday, July 10, a group of community members, district administration, and construction teams met to discuss the restoration of the face of Greely Institute. Over the years, water has seeped into the wood, rotting much of the wooden face of the structure that is standing today. Carolyn Small, from the Cumberland Historical Society and Hope Foster, who started teaching for the district back in 1949, we able to show and talk to district administration as well as the construction teams about the look of the Institute "way back when." Many of the photos looked at throughout the meeting will be utilized to help ensure an accurate restoration. Work will be starting soon. Northeast Test Consultants will be working to remove all of the lead paint. You will see staging and privacy

fencing going up in the next few days along with containment areas. They will also be removing some paint from the bricks. As Northeast Test Consultants are finishing up their work, Doten's construction will start working to restore, repaint and revitalize the Institute back to what it was in 1868, keeping the "brand of the district" for many more years to come. The total restoration is slated to be completed prior to the start of the 2018-19 school year.

This was the press release that was put out by MSAD 51 recently. CHS was invited to add the historical aspect of this project, and samples of our old photos and postcards were made available to Superintendent Jeff Porter to see what the original face looked like. The current face is the same as it was in 1868, when Greely Institute first opened its doors. With a few current safety standards to be put in place, such as railings on the steps, they intend keep it looking as it did in the beginning. The question about the installation a handicap accessibility ramp was resolved by the fact that there is handicap accessibility at a nearby door.



GREELY INSTITUTE, CUMBERLAND CENTER, ME. (Over)

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(From the postcard collection of Cumberland Historical Society)

12. Scholarships were awarded to Maddie Rawnsley and Jennifer Spencer .
13. We had a sales table at the Harvest Green Craft Fair at Val Halla on October 6th.
14. The 150th anniversary celebration of Greely Institute at Cumberland Historical Society was held on October 13th
15. We received the disappointing refusal from the Libra Foundation for the grant for the restoration of the Maude Merrill Thomes painting. I will be making arrangements to retrieve the painting from Fogg Restorations soon.

16. Sandy Nickerson continues to keep our gardens and window boxes looking spectacular.
17. Took the seven classes of second graders from Mabel I. Wilson School on the annual historic tours this past spring, which included a visit from “Captain Reuben Blanchard” in the person of his great grandson, Chet Blanchard at the Center Cemetery. Superintendent of MSAD51 Schools, Jeff Porter also went on one of the tours with us.
18. Collaborated with the Cumberland Congregational Church and loaned their 225th anniversary committee several photos and artifacts for that celebration on October 13th.



from the postcard collection of the Cumberland Historical Society