



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

President:	Carolyn Small
Vice President:	Diana Copp
Secretary:	Elizabeth (Betsy) Huston
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Trustees:	Herbert S. Foster, Jr. Lynda Wilson Jensen Linda Fulda Thomas Bennett, Director Prince Memorial Library Nancy Latham Jeff Frost Margery Gruber

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.
Cumberland Historical Society is a non-profit, tax exempt, 501c3 organization.

MARCH 2017 VOLUME 137

MARCH THOUGHTS:

"The March wind roars like a lion in the sky,
And makes us shiver as he passes by.
When winds are soft, and the days are warm and clear,
Just like a gentle lamb, then spring is here."
- Author Unknown



PAST PROGRAMS AND EVENTS:

The February program, "Tree Tapping and Maple Sapping" welcomed a group of about 14 brave people who weathered the weather to attend. Carolyn Small presented a program on the how to do maple sugaring, and what hard work it is. It included a tasting of real maple syrup and maple oatmeal bars. Thanks to Eileen Wyatt and Linda Fulda for providing the refreshments.

CUMBERLAND BECOMES A TOWN OF ITS OWN

(From the Mary Sweetser 1921 book, History of the Town of Cumberland, Maine for the Centennial Celebration July 2-4, 1921) "The town of Cumberland was incorporated March 28th, 1821. The town was set off from North Yarmouth for the convenience of its citizens. They were far removed from the center of the town and petitioned for their separation in the spring of 1820. A petition was drawn up and 176 men signed in favor of the separation, 19 men remonstrated, and 38 men were neither for nor against the petition. These 233 men were probably the number of voters here on the main land. The Act of Incorporation contained nine sections and was presented to the Legislature of 1821 under the title; 'An Act to divide the town of North of North Yarmouth and incorporate the westerly part thereof into a town by the name Cumberland.'

Section 1 gives the boundaries of the town.

Section 2 determines the method of paying the arrears on taxes and of distributing the expense of a county road from New Gloucester to Walnut Hill.

Section 3 explains the division of the paupers between the towns.

Section 4 reads 'Be it further enacted, that the town's stock of powder, balls, flints, guns, and camp equipage on hand at the time aforesaid, shall be divided between the towns in proportion to the number of men borne on the rolls of militia of the respective towns.'

Section 5 'Be it further enacted, that the privilege of using the several burying grounds in common, and the privileges of obtaining clams and muscle mud from the flats in said towns which inhabitants have been accustomed to use, from time immemorial, shall continue in common as heretofore.'

Section 6 explains the method of dividing and caring for school funds.

Section 7 states that this act shall be effective on the 2nd day of April and explains the method of calling the first town meeting through a warrant issued by any Justice of Peace in the county.

Section 8 gave the people living on the division line the right to choose which of the two towns they would live in, and explained the method necessary to follow. It also explained the division of the highway. This election among the land owners accounts for the irregular line on the Greely Road boundary.

Section 9 arranged for a committee to determine the costs and settlements of this division.

The Act was signed by Benjamin Ames, Speaker of the House, and William D. Williamson, President of the Senate; approved by William King, first Governor of Maine, and filed at the office of Secretary of State, Portland, Maine, March 28, 1821. It was recorded July 7th, 1821 by James Prince, Town Clerk. The first town meeting was held in April, 1821.

SCHOOLS IN CUMBERLAND:

From the 1975 Phyllis Sweetser book, "Cumberland, Maine in Four Centuries" p. 166

"The first record of a school was that of the school house on lot 160 on the Tuttle Road near the Foreside Road, where Daniel Mitchell taught, beginning in 1764.

'In 1788 William Martin, a London businessman who had come to America with his family, purchased the Jeremiah Powell estate near Broad Cove and moved his family to this town. Here, in the Powell mansion, his daughter, Penelope Martin, educated in England, with the assistance of her two sisters, Eliza and Catherine, in 1790 established a private school for girls, which is remarkable as being one of

the first institutions in this part of the country to undertake the higher education of women. It was a boarding school in which were taught the branches now included in our high school course as well as those accomplishments then deemed necessary in a girls' school. It became prosperous and well known throughout the state, attracting pupils from a distance because of its reputation for imparting a thorough education. The Misses Martins' School was conducted in North Yarmouth (now Cumberland) till the family removed to Portland in 1804 and there the school was continued, being one of the first in New England to bring to it the cultivated Christian elegance of the old world.'

Other private schools were held in old homes which are still standing – one the present McCarthy home on the old Drowne Farm at 306 Tuttle Road. (*this is the house on the corner of Tuttle Road and Drowne Road.*), the other at Top Knot Farm at 100 Middle Road. The latter was conducted by Squire William Buxton and his wife Mary and their daughter Maria. Squire Buxton had served as an officer in the colonies before he settled down to life at home as a school master. Pupils came from as far away as Bethel & Cape Elizabeth. Two of the girls who attended this school left their marks: their names are scratched on a pane of glass and dated 1839. They were Phoebe Buxton and Capt. Ephraim Sturdivant's daughter, Hannah, who later married Capt. John Smith and lived in Japan for many years.

At one time there were 15 school districts in the Town of Cumberland, but usually only 14 as shown on the accompanying map. An old Register from District 15 dated 1853 is explained as follows; The number of school districts would rise and fall. Perhaps this was because the population in one district became so low as to justify closing the school and sending the scholars to a neighboring district. In 1838, the selectmen voted to form a new school district from districts now numbered 2 and 3. Said plan is placed on file and marked School District No. 15.'"

- District #1 A wooden structure across the road from what is now Dean's Way on Rte. 88. It was accidentally burned in 1950 after a half century of disuse. (picture in the Phyllis Sweetser book)
- District #2 On Tuttle Road diagonally across from the Tuttle Road Methodist Church. It became a private residence in 1950, and remains so today.
- District #3 Original school was a wooden structure across the street from the current #3. It burned and in 1853 the new #3 was built of bricks. In 1952 the 1853 building became the Town Office, then the Police Department and is now the Cumberland Historical Society .
- District #4 Shawtown School is now J Brothers Store on Rte 100.
- District #5 Called the Gurney School. Was moved from original location at the junction of Skillins Road and Blanchard Road to the westerly side of Skillins Road. Became a private residence, and stood until a few years ago when it burned. Was Brenda Sherwin's day care until it burned.
- District #6 Actually located in the Town of Yarmouth, it was built for the children in the area of Springbrook Farm on Greely Road. Photo of it at CHS
- District #7 Brick school house at the corner of Winn Road and Range Road. Built in 1846.
- District #8 Now the Chebeague Island Community House.
- District #9 On Chebeague District #10 Hope Island District #11 Crotch, now Cliff, Island
- District #12 On Blackstrap Road across from West Cumberland Methodist Church Cemetery.
- District #13 Now a private residence on Bruce Hill Road at the fork in the road with Pleasant Valley Road.
- District #14 Stave, Bates, and Ministerial Islands
- District #15 created in 1838 when Districts 2 and 3 were closed.

E K Sweester School was built in 1914. Now houses the Offices of MSAD 51

Drowne Road School, originally named Cumberland Elementary School opened in 1950, and thus closed all the small district schools.

Greely Institute, now Greely High School, opened in 1868.

Mabel I. Wilson School was built in 1967,

Many singing schools were in existence throughout the years: Master Benjamin Sweetser had one in the early 1800's. The room at the top of Capt. Nicholas Humphrey's store had a singing school taught by Samuel Chase and Capt. Reuben Blanchard around 1851. The store was located on Main Street next to the Congregational Church.

A store at the top Morrison's Hill, Rte 100, had a singing and a dancing school in a room over the store.

In 1878 there was a dancing school held in the old Cumberland Town Hall, which was located where the Cumberland Fire Station is on Tuttle Road.

ONGOING NOTICE: NEW COMMITTEES ON THE DOCKET FOR NEXT YEAR:

This announcement will continue in each newsletter. 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! We will start having meetings in regards to these events soon. And one more: Cumberland Fair will be celebrating its 150th anniversary next year. The Officers and Directors are looking to do something special with that. Looks like there will be a lot of activity in the next few years!

EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT STILL NEEDS VOLUNTEERS TO HELP :

Ben Follett's Eagle Scout project has received a start, but REALLY needs some folks to help him out. He has got a big spreadsheet to work on, and needs help filling in the blanks. Ben is working closely with Thomas on this effort, and it is, indeed, a huge one. He has two years to complete it, so any amount of time and at any time would be much appreciated. The finished product will be an in-depth study for the Town, the Library and the Historical Society.

COMMITTEE UPDATE:

The Scholarship Committee developed a new scholarship application and has sent it to Greely High School. They will soon be getting in applications. Last year they received 17.

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:

OOPS! Misidentified one of the students who joined us last month. His name is RYLAN Harrison.

COMING UP:

At 7:00 pm, March 16th, in the Council Chambers of Cumberland Town Office, we will host **"From Petticoats to Pockets and Banyans to Breeches"**, a program exhibited by the sewing group from the Tate House in Portland. This group will display the inside and outside clothing of colonial times in America. Refreshments will be served before and after the program. There will be no April program. Our meeting time comes during April vacation from school, and many folks will be heading for places away.

FEBRUARY STUMPER:

In men's clothing, what is a banyan?

Check out the following NEW event that members Judith Taylor Gagnon and Debbie Knight Dugas have cooked up. They have done this sort of thing in the past with the Yarmouth Historical Society, and found it to be a huge success! They have started advertising already and have been receiving requests for applications even now. If you are interested, get your requests in soon!



The Cumberland Historical Society is excited to be sponsoring their first local scavenger hunt on Friday evening May 19th. Teams in cars will be taken on a fun, and very interactive adventure throughout the town. The cost will be \$10.00 per person and the proceeds will benefit the Historical Society's GHS Scholarship Fund. If you like to solve 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. Space will be limited, so pull your team together and get ready for a super fun night. To sign up and request a registration form, contact Judy Gagnon at DJGagnon@maine.rr.com or call 400-9334. There is also a registration form at the end of the newsletter.

ACCESSIONS WORKSHOPS:

There will be a couple more accessions workshops this month. More people have expressed an interest in helping out with this task. One will be on Monday evening March 27th from 6:30 to 8:00ish, and the other will be Wednesday morning March 29th from 9:00 to noon-ish. As stated previously, this 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.

ANSWER TO THE FEBRUARY STUMPER: From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia: A banyan is a garment worn by men in the 18th century influenced by Persian and Asian clothing. Also called a morning gown, or nightgown, the banyan was a loose, T-shaped or kimono-like cotton, linen, or silk gown worn at home as a sort of dressing gown or informal coat over the shirt and breeches. The typical banyan was cut with the sleeves and body cut as one piece. It was usually paired with a soft, turban-like cap worn in place of the formal periwig. An alternative style of banyan was cut like a coat, fitted, with set-in sleeves, and was closed with buttons and buttonholes. Despite the name "nightgown", the banyan was not worn for sleeping. Below is a fitted banyan ca.1750



~ COMMITTEES THAT NEED HELP STAFFING: PLEASE HELP WITH ONE OF THESE ~

Refreshment: _____
Education: _____ Fund Raising: _____ Programs: _____ Greely
Institute/High School 150th Anniversary _____ Nominating: _____ Publicity: _____
Bicentennial _____ Scholarship _____ Cumberland Fair 150th Anniversary _____
Town of Cumberland 200th Anniversary _____

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

SPONSORED BY SEVEE & MAHER, ENGINEERS

4 Blanchard Road, Cumberland, ME 04021



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



Cumberland Historical Society Scavenger Hunt
Friday, May 19, 2017 7:00-10:00 p.m.
Registration Form

Name: _____
Address: _____
Cell Phone _____
No.: _____
Email: _____
Car Make/License Plate #: _____
Car Passengers/Team Members:
(Who will be joining you) _____

Cost is \$10.00 per person. Please mail your registration form, along with your check made out to the Cumberland Historical Society to:

Judy Gagnon, P.O. Box 530, Cumberland Ctr., ME 04021

Space is limited and entry will be on a first come, first serve basis.

We will email you with more specific details as the date gets closer.

On the night of the hunt, either you or one member of your team will need a cell phone that can take photos and has texting capability. If you have any questions, feel free to call Judy at 400-9334.