



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:	Peter Wilson
Trustees:	Herbert S. Foster, Jr.
	Lynda Wilson Jensen
	Linda Fulda
	Thomas Bennett
	Nancy Latham
	Jeff Frost

**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.

**MAY 2017 VOLUME 138**

**THREE PROUD CUMBERLAND MAY THOUGHTS:**



- 1.) The [2017 U.S. News & World Report](#) ranked Greely High School the 4th best high school in the state of Maine! It was also recognized as being #963 in the United States out of the 22,000 high schools reviewed. Go Greely!

2.)

## Prince Memorial Library News



Prince Memorial Library and its wonderful cadre of Passport Acceptance Agents have been awarded a Certificate of Excellence from the Department of State!

### 3.) **Cumberland Ranked #1**

#### **Safest Community in Maine**

Cumberland was, once again, ranked as being the [#1 Safest Community to live in Maine!](#)

These three “pats on the back” show what a great town Cumberland is !!!!

#### **PAST PROGRAMS AND EVENTS:**

**SPECIAL NOTICE:** The Historical Society will now be open on the **second** and **fourth** Saturdays of each month. Spread the word and come visit with friends and family.

**MAY STUMPER:** What was the original name for Memorial Day, and when did it begin??

### **NEW COMMITTEES ON THE DOCKET FOR NEXT YEAR:**

Bicentennial! The Town of Cumberland will be celebrating its 200<sup>th</sup> 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 150<sup>th</sup> 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! One other project that we have been asked to help with is the celebration coming up in a few years of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Cumberland Fair! A lot going on for this wonderful old town.

### **ACCESSIONS WORKSHOPS:**

Next accession group will be Tuesday morning, June 6, from 9:00 to noon. All are welcome to attend. Refreshments are served. Bring a lunch and sit in for a session.

### **ACQUISITIONS:**

Claire Vining donated a copy of the Allen family members buried in the little private cemetery on Winn Road just at the Cumberland/Falmouth town line.

Falmouth resident, Jim Milan, stopped in at CHS recently with an interesting artifact that he had dug up from the end of the Felt's Falls Brook. It was a large shard of ancient pottery. We all knew that it was pottery, but the circumference was much too wide, and the inside was too coarse for it to be a kitchen type of bowl. Thinking that Thomas Bennett, Director of Prince Memorial Library, might know, it was transported to him for evaluation. He figured that it was a piece of culvert, and, then, the light dawned on us! Probably it was part of the sluice way from the Felt's mill that was in the middle of the stream coming down from Route 88. We felt quite smart coming up with that! Jim also sat down with our box of fossils and Indian artifacts, and helped identify most of them. That was a very productive visit.

**COMING UP:** Six second grade classes will be doing historical tours throughout the month of May. The second and fourth Saturdays will be open for visitors from 9:00 to 1:00, and there will be an Open House before and after the Memorial Day Parade. We will open at 9:00. We also invite you to find some long hidden treasures in your homes that are no longer of any use to you, but might be something that someone else has been looking for, that can be sold at our White Elephant table at the Open House. If you are weeding out overgrown plants in your garden, have a trinket that you would like to repurpose, or are downsizing, please consider us. If you have something that you would like to donate, but are unable to get it to us, contact Carolyn at 829-3757, and we will pick it up. With all these things going on at our dear little schoolhouse, there will be no program this month. Join us in June for the election of officers and a program on June 15<sup>th</sup>. The membership meeting will be at 6:30 that evening with the program, to be announced, will follow. The slate of officers is at the end of the newsletter. There are also some items that need to be voted on. They are listed at the end, too.

In doing some research at the request of Eliza Porter, Communications Director at the Town Office, and Fire Chief Dan Small, who coordinates the parade, we discovered that this has been an event in the Town for about 90 years. Join the crowds on Main Street, visit some of the organizations, Cumberland Historical Society included, that have yard sales and food sales, and

meet up with friends and neighbors while viewing the parade. The school bands, flag bearers, and scout groups put on quite the display.

**MEMORIAL DAY IN CUMBERLAND:** In the looking for when Memorial Day Parades might have started: the first mention of a Memorial Day celebration was in the 1926 Town Report for the year ending February 7, 1927: Article#55 states" To see if the town will vote to raise a sum of money for Memorial Day services." No mention of any services or celebrations was cited before that.

**ALWAYS LOOKING:** For folks to help with refreshments. Bake a cookie or two and add them to the goodie table for us. Thanks.

**ANSWER TO THE MAY STUMPER:** **Memorial Day, originally called Decoration Day,** is a day of remembrance for those who have died in service of the United States of America. Over two dozen cities and towns claim to be the birthplace of Memorial Day. While Waterloo N.Y. was officially declared the birthplace of Memorial Day by President Lyndon Johnson in May 1966, it's difficult to prove conclusively the origins of the day. Regardless of the exact date or location of its origins, one thing is clear – Memorial Day was borne out of the Civil War and a desire to honor our dead. It was officially proclaimed on 5 May 1868 by General John Logan, national commander of the Grand Army of the Republic, in his General Order No. 11. "The 30th of May, 1868, is designated for the purpose of strewing with flowers, or otherwise decorating the graves of comrades who died in defense of their country during the late rebellion, and whose bodies now lie in almost every city, village and hamlet churchyard in the land," he proclaimed. The date of Decoration Day, as he called it, was chosen because it wasn't the anniversary of any particular battle. On the first Decoration Day, General James Garfield made a speech at Arlington National Cemetery, and 5,000 participants decorated the graves of the 20,000 Union and Confederate soldiers buried there. The first state to officially recognize the holiday was New York in 1873. By 1890 it was recognized by all of the northern states. The South refused to acknowledge the day, honoring their dead on separate days until after World War I (when the holiday changed from honoring just those who died fighting in the Civil War to honoring Americans who died fighting in any war). It is now observed in almost every state on the last Monday in May with Congressional passage of the National Holiday Act of 1971 (P.L. 90 – 363). This helped ensure a three day weekend for Federal holidays, though several southern states have an additional separate day for honoring the Confederate war dead: January 19th in Texas; April 26th in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, and Mississippi; May 10th in South Carolina; and June 3rd (Jefferson Davis' birthday) in Louisiana and Tennessee.

Red Poppies



In 1915, inspired by the poem “In Flanders Fields,” Moina Michael replied with her own poem:

*We cherish too, the Poppy red  
That grows on fields where valor led,  
It seems to signal to the skies  
That blood of heroes never dies.*

She then conceived of an idea to wear red poppies on Memorial Day in honor of those who died serving the nation during war. She was the first to wear one, and sold poppies to her friends and co-workers with the money going to benefit servicemen in need. Later a Madam Guerin from France was visiting the United States and learned of this new custom started by Ms. Michael. When she returned to France she made artificial red poppies to raise money for war orphaned children and widowed women. This tradition spread to other countries. In 1921, the Franco-American Children’s League sold poppies nationally to benefit war orphans of France and Belgium. The League disbanded a year later and Madam Guerin approached the VFW for help.

Shortly before Memorial Day in 1922 the VFW became the first veterans’ organization to nationally sell poppies. Two years later their “Buddy” Poppy program was selling artificial poppies made by disabled veterans. In 1948 the US Post Office honored Ms. Michael for her role in founding the National Poppy movement by issuing a red 3 cent postage stamp with her likeness on it.

**National Moment of Remembrance:** The “National Moment of Remembrance” resolution was passed on Dec 2000 which asks that at 3 p.m. local time, for all Americans “To voluntarily and informally observe in their own way a Moment of remembrance and respect, pausing from whatever they are doing for a moment of silence or listening to ‘Taps.’

**WHAT’S HAPPENING AT CHS?:** Lots of work is getting done on Monday mornings. We have been sorting, accessioning, cleaning, photographing items in our collection, and clipping Cumberland related items from newspapers, among other things. We have had two visits from a structural engineer, Al Hodsdon, for his evaluation of the physical needs of the schoolhouse. He was hired by the Town of Cumberland, and has done a very thorough job. There are some issues for our dear old building, but nothing that can’t be fixed. Preparations are being made for things coming up; the SCAVENGER HUNT on May 19<sup>th</sup>, Memorial Day Open House on May 29<sup>th</sup>, May visits from the Mabel I. Wilson School 2<sup>nd</sup> grades for their historical walks, two scheduled historic bus tours on June 20<sup>th</sup> and June 27<sup>th</sup> through Cumberland Rec. Department, and the second and fourth Saturdays of the month open doors for visitors. And now, thanks to Eliza Porter at the Town Office, and member Margie Gruber we have a link to the Town of Cumberland website. Check it out. They have worked hard to get this set up, and it will help open us up to the world. Scholarship applications have been turned over to the scholarship committee, and they are reviewing all 15 to present to Greely High School. And, last, but not least, our gardener, Sandy Nickerson has spent several hours already raking up the front two little yards, fixing up the window box and front doors with spring bouquets, and tidying up the front gardens. We are looking good!

**CONGRATULATIONS:**

Member Leigh Fulda is one of 5 recipients of "volunteer of the year" for WinterKids. She does a lot of work for them, and this honor is well deserved.

**CONDOLENCES :** To Town Manager Bill Shane and his family in the death of his mother, Marlis Shane.

**~\*~\*COMMITTEES THAT NEED HELP STAFFING: ~\*~\***

Education: \_\_\_\_ Fund Raising: \_\_\_\_ Programs: \_\_\_\_ Refreshment: \_\_\_\_ Bicentennial \_\_\_\_  
MSAD# 51 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary \_\_\_\_ Nominating: \_\_\_\_ Publicity: \_\_\_\_ Scholarship \_\_\_\_  
Cumberland Fair 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary \_\_\_\_



**WE WELCOME YOU TO JOIN US! CHS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

\_\_\_\_\_ \$10.00 Individual  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$25.00 Household  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$100.00 Sustaining  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$100.00 Business  
\_\_\_\_\_ FREE Student  
\_\_\_\_\_ Other

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ Town: \_\_\_\_\_

State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
(Home): \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (Cell): \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

To save printing and mailing costs, it is our policy to send newsletters by email. However if you would prefer to have yours sent to your mailing address, please check the block.  
Please mail this form and your check to: Cumberland Historical Society PO Box 82 Cumberland, ME 04021  
The Cumberland Historical Society is a 501(c)(3) organization

**CUMBERLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
SLATE OF OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES for 2017-2018**

**OFFICERS**

Carolyn Small, President  
Diana Copp, Vice President  
Linda Fulda, Secretary  
Pete Wilson, Treasurer

**TRUSTEES**

Thomas Bennett  
Sandra Nickerson  
Brian Jensen  
Margery Gruber  
Elizabeth Huston  
Nancy Latham  
Herbert Foster, Trustee Emeritus

If anyone wishes to submit other names for any of these positions, please do so. Betsy Huston has resigned as Secretary, but is willing to stay on as a Trustee,

Jeff Frost has decided to step down as Trustee as he feels that he might be of better use as Curator. So there are a couple of changes here to take a look at. Minutes from 2016 meeting that need membership approval as written:

**CUMBERLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING – JUNE 16, 2016  
MINUTES**

President Carolyn Small called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. in the Town Council Chambers, Cumberland Town Hall, Cumberland, Maine.

The Secretary's Minutes of the last membership meeting held on June 18, 2015 was read and accepted for file.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** No Treasurer's Report was presented although Treasurer Susan Wall assured those present that the Society's finances were "solid".

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT:** President Carolyn Small read her report as some in attendance had not read the report which was included in her e-mailed newsletter.

**NOMINATING REPORT:** Chairman Brian Jensen read the proposed slate of officers and trustees for 2016-2017. With no nominations from the floor, the nominations were closed and the following were elected:

President: Carolyn Small

Vice President: Diana Copp

Secretary: Elizabeth Huston

Treasurer: Susan Wall

Trustees: Herbert Foster, Jr., Lynda Jensen, Linda Fulda, Jeffrey Frost, Thomas Bennett, and Nancy Latham.

**SCHOLARSHIP AWARD:** Matt Morgan was introduced as the recipient of the 2016 Cumberland Historical Society Scholarship. He will be attending Central Maine Community College in the fall.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Linda S. Fulda, Secretary Pro-tem

SPONSORED BY SEVEE & MAHER, ENGINEERS  
4 Blanchard Road, Cumberland, ME 04021



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



**There is still time to sign up. Come join the fun, and learn a few things about Cumberland.**

The Cumberland Historical Society is excited to be sponsoring their first local scavenger hunt on Friday evening May 19<sup>th</sup>. 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](mailto:DJGagnon@maine.rr.com) or call 400-9334.

**Cumberland Historical Society**



**Friday, May 19, 2017      7:00-10:00 p.m.**



**Registration Form**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone No.: \_\_\_\_\_

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.