



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

President:	Carolyn Small
Vice President:	Diana Copp
Secretary:	Linda Fulda
Treasurer:	Peter Wilson
Trustees:	Herbert S. Foster, Jr., Trustee Emeritus
	Brian Jensen
	Margie Gruber
	Thomas Bennett
	Nancy Latham
	Sandy Nickerson

**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.

**NOVEMBER 2017 VOLUME 143**

**NOVEMBER THOUGHTS:**

“What I love about Thanksgiving is that it's purely about getting together with friends or family and enjoying food. It's really for everybody, and it doesn't matter where you're from.” Chef Daniel Humm



**NOVEMBER STUMPER:** How did the cranberry get its name?

**COMMITTEES ON 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.

Another one coming up is the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Greely Institute/ High School. 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!

**ACQUISITIONS:** A tin can with the label still attached from Merrill Brothers canning company was donated recently by Joanna Drummond who found it in the attic of the home she was living in on Foreside. She didn't know what to do with it until she found out about Merrill Brothers canning company when went on the last bus tour. The can is in delicate shape, but the colors of the label are still quite clear. AND, though we do have other labels, we do not have a **can** from that company. The home, barn and mill of the owner D. Merrill, was on Turkey Lane, later to R. Merrill, as listed on the 1857 and 1871 maps of Cumberland. The can doesn't look like much of a treasure, but it really is.

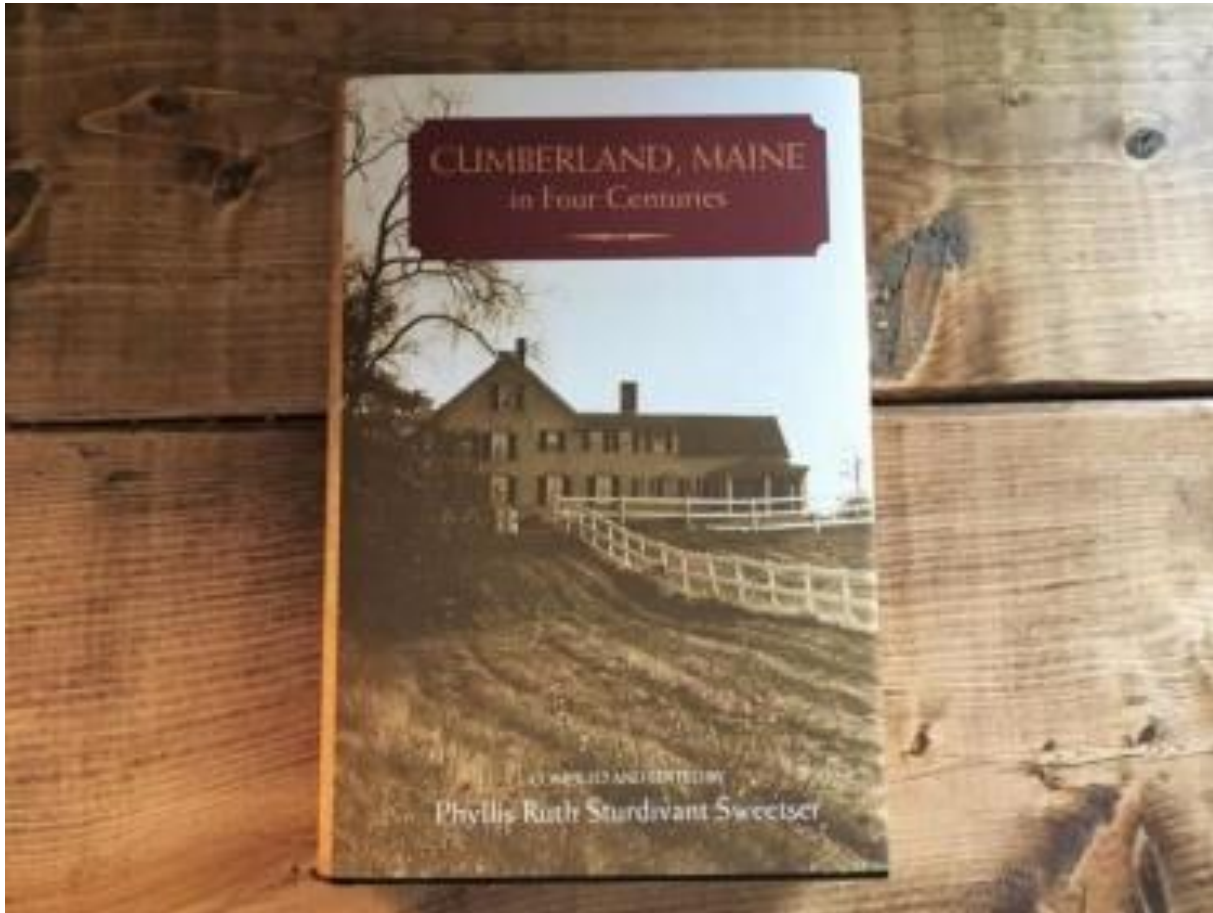
From Cumberland, Maine in Four Centuries: " In the late 1890s there was a Corn Canning Shop, located at the present 231 Main St. (*ed.'s note: just south of the Maine Central Railroad tracks on the southwest side*), run by Charles E. Herrick and his son, Horatio, where many of the young people of the town found seasonal employment. A later Corn Shop, about 1906, was located on the SE side of the tracks near Cumberland Junction known as the Cumberland Packing Association, with C.E. Merrill as manager. Other crops such as beans and tomatoes were also canned there."

Merry Chapin from Phippsburg sent in a picture of Frank Blanchard and one of his wife, Elizabeth Sweetser Blanchard, Fred Blanchard's (Frank and Elizabeth's son) from June 1979 obituary, and Bill Garsoe's obituary. Fred Blanchard was the father of Stanley Blanchard, Richard Blanchard, and Ruth Blanchard Norton. He had an extensive butter business in the greater Portland area, stemming from his Springbrook Farm on Greely Road. The machine used to squeeze out the excess water from butter from his farm is in the Farm and Fair Museum at Cumberland Fairgrounds. A unique antique!

**WHAT'S HAPPENING AT CHS?:**

During the storm of Halloween this year, the lovely big linden tree on west lawn of Sevee & Maher (Redmen's Hall) fell over on to the roof of the Cumberland Historical Society. Fortunately, the only damage done was the removal of about six shingles. It could have been much, much worse, but we all think that the tree fell slowly enough to NOT go crashing through. That would have been a real disaster. The two bus tours in October seemed to go over well. The weather was perfect, and we got a bus that was air conditioned, had seats that did not have high backs, and had a working PA system. Each trip hosted 16 people for a 3-hour tour (like Gilligan's Island!), with a brief stop in the middle for a visit to the Cumberland Historical Society, a snack break, and use of the "facility". We managed to sell a few of the Sweetser books, too, and received a check from the Cumberland Rec Department for \$434.00. All in all, a pretty good deal for us and the Rec Department. We are already making plans with the Rec Department for more trips next year.

## Cumberland, Maine in Four Centuries



Don't miss out on getting an updated copy of *Cumberland, Maine in Four Centuries*, written originally in 1976 by Phyllis Sweetser! With the forthcoming 200th anniversary of this town in 2021, this book is a must for you and your family. Books can be purchased for \$25 (plus \$1.38 sales tax) at the Town Hall or through the Cumberland Historical Society. For further information, contact Carolyn Small at 829-3757, 415-4589, or by email at [csmall1943@maine.rr.com](mailto:csmall1943@maine.rr.com). There are only 500 of these books printed, so get your copies while you can!

We were able to secure a table in the Town Office on Election Day, Tuesday, November 7<sup>th</sup>. Linda Fulda and Carolyn Small were there to sell memberships, Christmas cards, and Sweetser books. Did very well, depositing \$791.77 for that effort. The Sweetser books went best; we sold 19 of them there.

We will be at the Greely High School Craft Fair on Saturday, November 18th. Diana Copp, Lynda Jensen, and Linda Fulda will be at that table. If anyone else is interested in joining these folks, please contact Carolyn Small at 829-3757, 415-4589, or by email at [csmall1943@maine.rr.com](mailto:csmall1943@maine.rr.com). The Phyllis Sweetser updated book is selling well, but there are still some remaining. It would be a really nice Christmas gift! If you purchase it at the Greely High School Craft Fair, it will be gift wrapped for you. How's that for a deal?



**CONDOLENCES:**

To member Eileen Wyatt and her family on the death of her daughter, Erin, at the much too young age of 61.

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

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

Just a quick reminder that the 2017-2018 dues are due, and they have been steadily coming in. Thanks to those who have sent them in.

**ANSWER TO THE NOVEMBER STUMPER:**

The name "cranberry" derives from the Pilgrim name for the fruit, "craneberry", so called because the small, pink blossoms that appear in the spring resemble the head and bill of a Sandhill Crane.



### **SOME VETERANS DAY TRIVIA FOR NOVEMBER**

Veterans Day was originally known as Armistice Day. The term comes from an armistice between Germany and the Allied Nations on November 11, 1918. It was the armistice ending on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month.

The first Armistice Day was acknowledged on November 11, 1919.

On June 1, 1954, Armistice Day had its name changed to Veterans Day. The reason for the change was to honor, not only World War I veterans, but to include the veterans of World War II. Nowadays, all veterans are honored on Veterans Day.

Arlington National Cemetery has ceremony on Veterans Day every year to honor those who died during times of war. The ceremonies are held around the Tomb of the Unknowns, and at 11:00 AM, on November 11, a combined color guard, representing all military services executes "Present Arms" at the tomb.

There is no apostrophe in Veterans Day.

Cumberland had 47 mainland men who served, and 24 Chebeague Island men who served in World War I, and 117 mainland men and 39 Chebeague Island men who served in World War II. We thank all of them for their service.





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The 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 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, about 13 miles north of Portland, just off of Route 9, which is Main Street for the town.

