



CUMBERLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P O Box 82

4A Blanchard Road

Cumberland, ME 04021

Phone: 207-489-9582

Board of Directors: Chairman: Linda Fulda

Vice Chair: Brian Jensen

Secretary: Margery Gruber

Treasurer: Peter Wilson

Curator: Carolyn Small

Directors: Elizabeth (Betsy) Huston

Nancy Latham

Sandy Nickerson

Trustee Emeritus: Herbert S. Foster, Jr.

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.

OCTOBER 2018 VOLUME 152

OCTOBER THOUGHTS

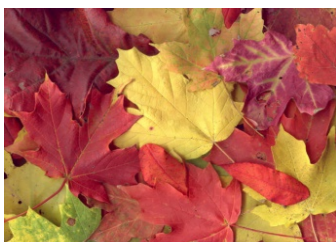
October's the month when the smallest breeze

Gives us a shower of autumn leaves.

Bonfires and pumpkins, leaves sailing down —

October is red and golden and brown.

~Author unknown



OCTOBER STUMPER:

What year was the first graduation at Greely?

MEMBERSHIP MEETING AGENDA

YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND...

THE CUMBERLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

WHEN: On Thursday October 18 AT 7pm

WHERE: The Council Chambers at Town Hall

7: 00 Welcome/Introduction Town Manager....Linda Fulda, Chair of the Board

7:05 Town Vision for Proposed Move and Annexation of the Historical Society Building to the
Town Library... presentation by Bill Shane, Town Manager

7: 30 Questions and Answers

7: 45 General Membership Vote...Support or Non Support of Town Vision

8: 00 Annual Report by the Chair of the Board of Directors...Linda Fulda

8: 10 Annual Report by the Curator....Carolyn Small

8: 20 Announcement of slate for new BOD & any new nominations

Proposed Slate:

1.Linda Fulda	2.Sandy Nickerson	3.Margie Gruber	4.Judy Gagnon
5.Deb Dugas	6.Martha Morrison	7.Kathy Kenny	

8:25 Vote on slate for Board of Directors for 2018-2019

8:30 Closing remarks... Linda Fulda

Note: In order to vote, you must be an active member (I.e. dues are paid up!)

Per the revised By Laws approved September 2018... A slate for the seven board members will be elected at a CHS general membership meeting for a term of one year. The Board Members will elect a Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer. The Board of Directors will (1) appoint a Curator to manage the museum, (2) appoint committees as needed, and (3) review and approve policies as needed.

REPORT TO THE MEMBERSHIP
CUMBERLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

OCTOBER 18, 2019

As the Town of Cumberland prepares to celebrate 200 years as an incorporated community in 2021, the Cumberland Historical Society will celebrate its 80th anniversary of its founding in 1939. A group of Cumberland residents got together with the express purpose of starting an organization that would preserve and promote Cumberland's heritage and so the Cumberland Historical Society was formed in 1939.

Now housed in the 1953 school house on Blanchard Road, the Society continues the work that the original members began. This past year saw Carolyn Small given the title of Curator – a title which certainly befits her years of knowledge of all things Cumberland as well as her devotion to the Society.

In today's busy times, many organizations are finding it hard to find board members and/or volunteers. The Society is no different. We have been extremely fortunate in having a vibrant board of directors who have brought their ideas and experience to our monthly meetings. A new board member manual is in the final stages of completion which will act as a procedures guide to new members of future boards. Retiring from this year's board are Elizabeth Huston, Brian Jensen, Pete Williams, and Nancy Latham. A big thank you to them as they have been instrumental in the workings of the board.

A special thank you also to the weekly and special events volunteers: Lynda Jensen, Laura Willis, Kathy Kenny, Deb Dugas, Judy Gagnon, Liz Orser, Leigh Fulda as well as board members Elizabeth Huston, Brian Jensen, Nancy Latham, Margie Gruber and Carolyn Small. From volunteering Monday mornings to manning information and fund raising tables, coordinating monthly programs, recording and keeping membership records, being hosts of bi-monthly Saturday morning open houses, designing flyers, and writing books and grants, serving on a scholarship committee, and the list goes on and on. They are truly the backbone of the Society.

As most of you know, the Society is bursting at the seams at the small school house where we currently reside. After a meeting with Town Manager Bill Shane and another with the Town of Cumberland Finance Committee, we are looking at ideas for a future home for the Society. I hope many of you were able to attend the annual meeting to hear the Town Manager speak on his ideas. This is still in the "idea stage".

Thank you for your continued support through your membership in the Society.

Linda S. Fulda, Chairman of the Board

Cumberland Historical Society

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)

03

(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

GARDENER'S REPORT:

October 4, 2018 2018 CHS Fall Gardening Update: After the hot dry summer the gardens are winding down. We still have some fall color left and other plants are being cut down and put into a compost pile. With the help of Jonathan Carpenter and the Public Works Department the walkway has been reconfigured and new edging and more crushed has been put down. Big improvement. Thanks, guys!! Notes, ideas and plans are being made for next year.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sandy Nickerson, Gardener (This report is on file.)

THE CUMBERLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY PRESENTS...

VINTAGE PORTLAND GLASSWEAR



Do you collect Portland Glass? Are you aware that Portland Glass was produced from 1863 – 1873 right here in Portland, Maine? Would you like to see actual examples of this rare glassware and learn more about it?

October's program for the Cumberland Historical Society will be all about the Portland Glass Company. It will be presented by Ellen Heath of Little River Antiques and Estate Sales in Biddeford, Maine. Her expertise has been developed over her many years as an antique dealer and as an avid collector of Portland Glass.

You will hear about the history of the Portland Glass Company, how pressed glass was produced, the patterns offered, and the variety of the glassware produced.



6:30 p.m. October 24, 2018
Cumberland Fire Station
366 Tuttle Road, Cumberland

*** Please use the entrance at the lower level**



A BRIEF HISTORY OF RAILROADING IN CUMBERLAND

From the 1921 History of Cumberland, Maine compiled by Mary E. Sweetser:

"The Grand Trunk Railroad, first called The Atlantic and St. Lawrence Railroad, was the first to cross the town. The first twelve miles, the most difficult and expensive of the whole route, were open from Portland to North Yarmouth in July, 1848, and in the autumn to Mechanic Falls, a distance of 37 miles. The friends of the undertaking had the crowning satisfaction of seeing the Atlantic Ocean and the St. Lawrence River united by iron bands over a space of 297 miles early in 1853. The Kennebec and Portland Railroad Company was chartered in 1836 and constructed its railroad from Augusta to Yarmouth. Afterwards it crossed the town of Cumberland by a track constructed from Yarmouth to Portland in 1851. A branch line ran to Lewiston connecting with the main line at Cumberland Junction built in 1870–1872. The route of this branch line was changed after forty years because of the heavy grade through Cumberland and North Yarmouth and now leaves the main line at Royal Junction. Two electric roads also cross the town. One at the Foreside put through in 1897 runs from Portland to Yarmouth and Brunswick. The Interurban, running between Lewiston and Portland and crossing the western part of Cumberland, was built in 1914. The days when they rode to church on horse-back, often two on one horse and over winding trails, have long since passed, and the automobile, supplemented by good roads has revolutionized methods of travel."

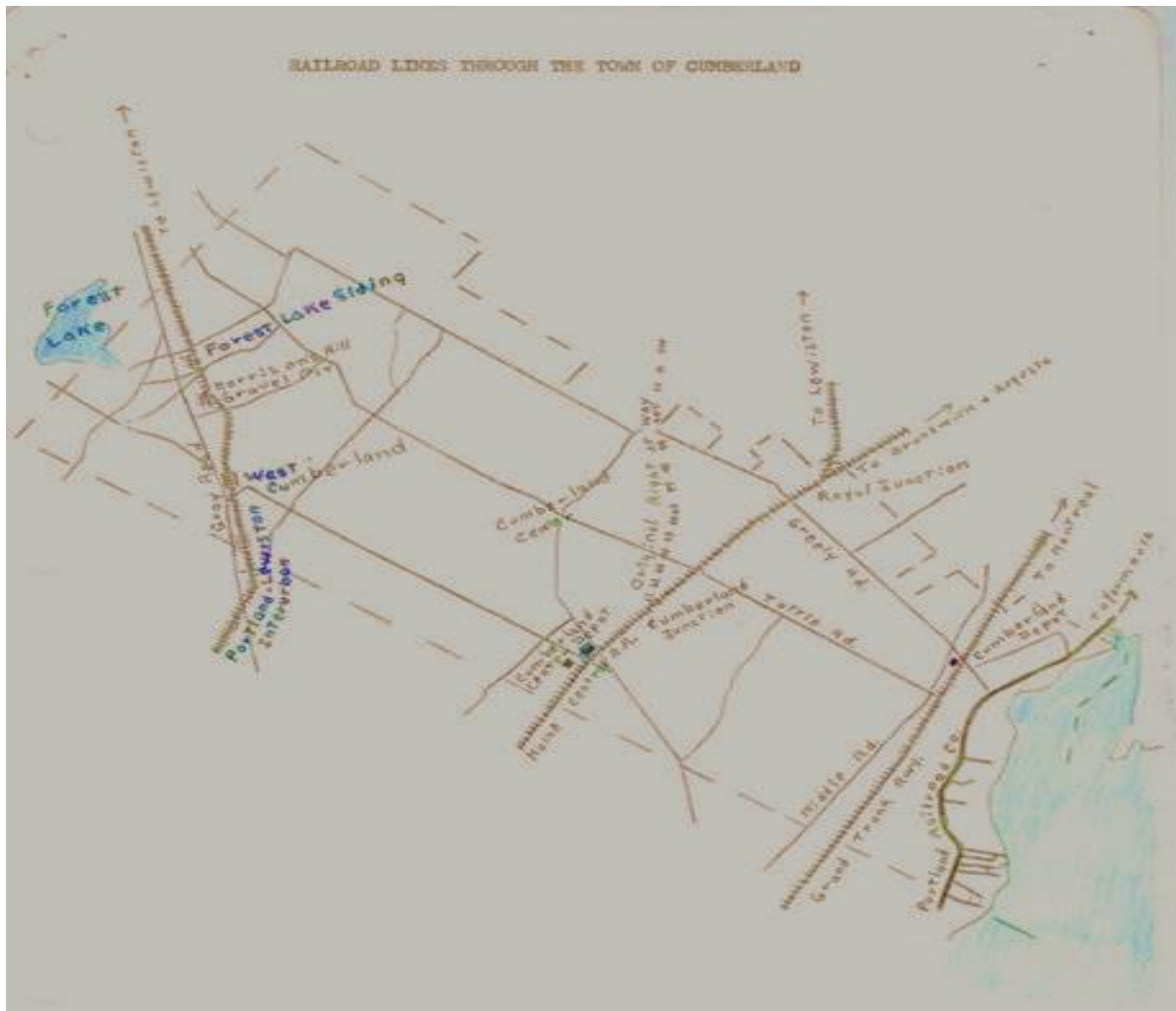
From the 1976 Cumberland , Maine in Four Centuries by Phyllis Sweetser:

"Steam railroading through Cumberland began with the opening of the Atlantic & St. Lawrence Railroad as far as North Yarmouth in 1848, connecting at Yarmouth Junction with the Kennebec & Portland Railroad from Brunswick, Bath and later, Augusta and Waterville. The Atlantic & St. Lawrence road became the Grand Trunk Railway..... The second steam rail line through was the extension of the Kennebec and Portland Railroad from Yarmouth Junction into Portland. In 1871 this road was merged with the rapidly growing Maine Central Railroad system and a connection was built from a point near the Cumberland depot to Danville Junction to link up the so-called 'back road'.On September 5, 1960, the final scheduled passenger train on the Maine Central Railroad left Vanceboro at 11:30 P.M., ending at Portland Union Station at 6:30 A.M. the next morning. This was the last passenger train to run through the Town of Cumberland." Now, passenger service is back again since 1990 with the Downeaster Railroad.



Passenger station of the St. Lawrence & Atlantic Railroad at Middle Road and Tuttle Road. From the postcard collection of Cumberland Historical Society.

Map showing the railroad and trolley lines in Cumberland.



The former Morrison Hill station of the Portland-Lewiston Interurban, which served Cumberland from 1915 to 1933. The station is now restored and located at the Seashore Trolley Museum in Kennebunk.

FACEBOOK:

Steve Helphand is looking for someone to give a “helping hand” (sorry, I had to do that) , or someone who is interested in taking over the job, or maybe work with him, on the Facebook account.

ANSWER TO OCTOBER STUMPER:

June of 1880, and the first Principal was T. Jefferson Emery. Prior to 1880 no graduations were held. In June of 1880, six students graduated. There were three young ladies, Addie Dunn, Annie Leighton, and Lena Pinkham. The three young men were Roland Blanchard, Edward B. Osgood, and Edward Warren. In 1883 the Alumni Association was established, and exists today. In the collections at Cumberland Historical Society there are several graduation programs to view.

In 1870, a Bowdoin college classmate of Mr. Emery's, Charles Chamberlain, was hired as a botany teacher. Since Cumberland was still very much an agricultural community, it was a fitting appointment. The classes were interested in growing things, and Mr. Chamberlain made the decision to plant trees on the grounds. In the spring of 1871 a day was selected to do so. It was a big celebration, with local farmers supplying teams of horses and oxen, tools and equipment, and loam. With the guidance of Mr. Chamberlain's chart, the trees were set by the students who placed their names in cans buried beside the tree that they planted. Some of these trees still stand today. Below note the postcard showing the trees about forty years later. Notice, too, that the card says Greely High School. How strange that the name became just that many years later. Postcard is from the postcard collection of Cumberland Historical Society.



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



THANKS TO ATLANTIC REGIONAL FEDERAL UNION IN CUMBERLAND FOR
PROGRAM ADVERTISING SPONSORSHIP



Federal Credit Union



P O Box 82
Cumberland, ME 04021
207-489-9582

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, in a brickyard behind what is now the Prince Memorial Library. CHS is a group of 120 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 walking historical tour at the center of town, is given to the second grades at the Mabel Wilson Elementary School as a part of their community curriculum. They step back in time to about 1868, focusing on the agricultural aspect of living in the town at that time. 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.