



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.

SEPTEMBER 2018 VOLUME 151

SEPTEMBER THOUGHTS

"The definition of a Harvest Moon is: the full moon closest to the fall equinox. The Harvest Moon was thus named because it rises within a half-hour of when the sun sets. In early days, when farmers had no tractors, it was essential that they work by the light of the moon to bring in the harvest. This moon is the fullest moon of the year. When you gaze at it, it looks very large and gives a lot of light throughout the entire night. No other lunar spectacle is as awesome as the Harvest Moon." - [Harvest Moon Lore](#)



SEPTEMBER STUMPER: Why is the mascot of Greely “The Ranger”?

THINGS THAT HAPPENED OVER THE SUMMER:

JUNE 12, 2018: We secured a table on Election Day, Tuesday, June 12th. This enabled us to “meet & greet”, and inform people emerging from the voting booths. Some folks just like to stop and chat, some renew their memberships, some join up, and some just ask questions. We sold nine of the Sweetser books, renewed four memberships, enrolled two new memberships, and received a whole beanpot full of generous donations. Many new-to-Cumberland voters and people who have been in the town for a long but never knew that we existed were interested in visiting with us, and appeared pleased that there is such a thing as the Cumberland Historical Society. All is good PR for Cumberland Historical Society.

SUMMER PROGRAMS

“Eleanor Roosevelt” by Jerry Wiles, Wednesday, July 25, 6:30 PM, at the Council Chambers of the Town Office

Another one of Jerry’s insightful programs presented to an audience of 38, including his wife, Beth, and his children and grandchildren, and a few former students from Greely Junior High School. His programs are in-depth views of well-known personalities, and he comes up with some little-known and interesting facts. Unfortunately, this was the last one that he will do for us, as he is retiring from this business in October to enjoy the good life on his beloved Chebeague Island. Good luck, Jerry, we wish you well.



“The Business of Vintage Fashions”, with Verna Scott, Wednesday, August 22, 6:30 PM, at the Council Chambers of the Town Office

A delightful program from Verna Scott of Yarmouth, showing some exquisite clothing from the past. There were 40 folks present to enjoy this program, and there were a lot of questions for Verna.



These two programs drew in good crowds, which is wonderful. Kudos to Kathy Kenny for these interesting programs, and to her husband, Bill, for providing the “muscle” to help set things up, and for the comic relief that he provides.

COMING UP IN SEPTMBER:

THE CUMBERLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY PRESENTS...

GENETIC GENEALOGY – HOW, WHEN, WHERE, & WHY

New to the idea of DNA testing for genealogy research? Lean about the 3 major types, Y-DNA, mt DNA, and DNA. Find out what each test offers, and which might be the best tool to help you with your research. DNA is a wonderful new tool to be used with traditional genealogical research.

Nancy Milliken Mason, a genetic genealogist, has been doing genealogy research for over 30 years and is the founder of Maine Genealogical DIG (DNA interest group). She grew up in Cumberland and will be presenting this fascinating program

Wednesday, Sept. 26, 2018

6:30 p.m.

NEW LOCATION

Cumberland Fire Station

366 Tuttle Road, Cumberland

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



Blanchard Road, Cumberland,
04021 | 207-485-9582

Advertising and promotional support by Atlantic Federal Credit Union

ACQUISITIONS:

A selection of cast iron fireplace cooking pots and pans, a cast iron fireplace tea kettle, a panoramic photo of a Sturdivant family reunion at the Greely Sturdivant home on the Foreside Road in 1907. Connie and Greg Sweetser were cleaning out the old Sweetser family barn in preparation of a barn sale, and felt that these items belonged to the Historical Society. And, finally, a lovely ecru silk dress, belonging to Phyllis Sweetser, dated about 1920. This was donated at the vintage clothing program on August 22.

Two Greely Shield yearbooks, 1965 and 1966, from Bob and Karen Bennett from Falmouth. This was another barn cleaning, and they gave those two to us, and a 1967 one to Greely High School. We already have one from that year, and the high school didn't. Karen told us that, as they clean out their barn, she is sure that there are more up there, and will notify us when they find them, and will get them to us. We are still missing the Shields of 1968, 1975, 1976, 1982, and 2016.

Bob Dyke donated a 1920's International Harvester farm equipment catalog that will be a useful research tool and will be put in with the Cumberland Fair boxes.

Audrey Northway, a teacher for many years at Greely, retired this year, and asked Joanna and Pam in the office to see if CHS would be interested in some of her historical research items.

What a colossal treasure trove!! She had students catalog the Congregational Church Cemetery and map it out, including all the epitaphs on the stones. There are also numerous interviews that the students did with some of our celebrated locals about life at Greely and also what it was like living through World War II. We are so very lucky to have received these priceless items.

Aubine Whitney Dingwell from Gray and Florida brought a small boxful of items to us a couple of weeks ago. It contained, among other things, the minutes of the 1920's of the Universalist Church on Morrison's Hill. Another priceless gem.



If you are a veteran (or if you know a local veteran) we want to make you aware that over the next few months, an intern at the Prince Memorial Library will be reaching out to our vets to help you get signed up for the [Library of Congress's Veterans History Project](#). Of course participation is voluntary - we simply want to make you aware that this is a legitimate initiative. Last but not least, thank you for your service to our nation and this community!



A notice from the Town:

Tree Removal



In the next few weeks, Whitney Tree Service will be coming to take down the existing Christmas Tree in the center of Cumberland. Unfortunately the tree is dying and most of the lights wrapped around it no longer glow. We are looking at some alternative options for a future display in the center of town and we will post once we have more information!

The following is an in-depth history of the mill on Mill Road. An earlier history is described in the Sweetser book, but this is an "up close and personal" account.

The Mill submitted by Bob Humphreys

7/28/18

Sometime around 1958 in the late summer or fall my step father Spike Dumaine came to Cumberland Fairgrounds to race his trotting horse. While unloading from the trailer, the horse became excited and managed to break one of the shafts on the sulky. Clearly racing was cancelled and finding someone who could make a new shaft or repair the old one was in order. After asking around, it was suggested that perhaps Spike Thurston who was over at the mill on Mill Rd. might be able to help.

As it turned out, Spike Thurston was the man to talk to and literally overnight he had made a replacement shaft and helped install it on the sulky. During the conversation, my dad became enamored with the mill. It was old, decrepit, the roof had holes, the floor had holes, there were holes in the walls where birds flew without restriction; but, it was loaded with the old wood cutting equipment. The saw and carriage, the cross-cut cut-off saws were all there, the 2 and 4 sided planers were in place; all it needed was some power and it could run again.

Or, it would make an outstanding summer home, right on a pond full of water, with a big sawdust pile on one side and an even bigger pile of shavings on the other. So, my dad told Spike Thurston that if the mill ever became available, he'd be interested. Some time went by and he got a call from Maine that perhaps the mill was available if he could take a trip from Wayland, Mass. to Maine, they could talk about it.

The mill: Built in, well, late 1700's or early 1800's as a lumber/carding/grist mill. The history is all verbal and very inconsistent. The mill is on the West Branch of the Piscataqua River which begins in Forest Lake. It was made up of 2 buildings, one roughly 70x35', the other roughly 50x25'. The larger building was perpendicular to Mill road and had a 15' dog-house which extended over the road and was the "saw" building. The other building was perpendicular to the longer building and ran parallel to Mill road and held the planers. Both were built on built-up stone foundations made up of round stone between 2 and 20' in diameter and about 25' high. The "original" mill on the current site was believed to have been a carding mill and was powered by an overshot water wheel which, based on the placement of the stone foundation must have been 20 to 30 feet in diameter. Overshot means the water to do the work is sluiced to fall on the top of the wheel and the weight of the water in the 'buckets' of the wheel cause it to turn and that energy can be taken off to do work.

Just below the Mountfort mill is a foundation for another previous mill but I've heard no history on what type of mill might have been there. It is clear that whatever kind of mill it was, it would have been dependent on the upper mill for water to provide power and there would not have been much "head" or distance for the water to drop, so it would not have had much power available. The available "head" for the Mountfort mill currently is 16-18', so is considered by today's standards as "low head". Power available to a water powered mill is derived from either volume or head height. Big head height creates more velocity which can be turned into work. Low head height creates less velocity so more flow (volume) must be used to do the same amount of work.

The Mountfort mill has a dam which holds back water in a 9 acre pond which is fed from the West Branch of the Piscataquas river which begins at Forest lake, meanders through Gray flats, through and over many beaver dams paralleling Rt. 100, eventually crossing the Skillins road at the location of what is now known as Rich's mill and then into the mill pond. The Mountfort's had the water-rights for the river which I believe emanated from the original Kings land grant and gave the mill owners the right to raise or lower Forest Lake at will in order to have water available to operate the mill. It was also considered appropriate to canoe up along the river and dynamite or remove the beaver dams as necessary because they dramatically reduced the volume of water available to the mill.

Prior to 1900, the Mountfort mill was powered by an overshot water wheel as discussed above and operated an 'up and down' saw. The water powered a large lever which raised and lowered a saw blade while a large escapement wheel (my terminology) fed the log into the saw on the down-stroke and backed it off one tooth on the up-stroke. Lumber sawn on an up and down saw exhibits a unique pattern and are readily identifiable once you know what to look for. In or around 1900 the Mountfort brothers, Charlie and Walter decided to upgrade the mill and installed a circular saw and a DC Edison generator all run off a penstock which was a 6' square tube open to the pond at the upper end and closed at the bottom end with 2 exits that were blocked by bronze turbine water wheels. Water entered the wheels at the center and exited through variable gates on the outer periphery. The gates were variable to regulate the speed and power generated by the wheels. The wheels spun while sitting on lignum vitae wood bearings which had a lifetime of about 25 years of continuous use. Lignum Vitae (the Tree of Life) comes from South America and is now endangered but is the primary lower bearing material used in water power generating stations around the world. It is very dense and oily and when placed in water will sink instantly. The Mountfort mill had 'extra' bearings sunk near the waterwheels. Interestingly, the waterwheels, when removed, were still functional and with minor work one was repurposed to run an electric generating station on the Penobscot River and is still running today. The "big" turbine which was 55 horsepower turned a vertical 4" steel shaft with a cast iron bevel gear mounted on top. This bevel

gear drove a mating bevel gear which had wood teeth, so when the teeth became worn, they could be repaired locally and also were more tolerant of mis-alignment. The driven gear shaft then ran belts to other shafts to run the planers, main saw, cut-off saws, and the blowers to blow the sawdust and shavings up into the piles. Also, the original 'escapement' wheel which moved the logs into the up-and-down saw became the winch wheel that was used to pull logs in from the pond. Local tree owners would bring their logs to the pond using horse and oxen, keeping each person's logs separate by log booms chained together from one shore to the other.

Forest Lake is about 211 acres, so there seems to have been ample water available to operate the mill as long as the watershed remained clear of obstructions. The mill pond had several 12" or so trees jammed vertically into the bottom of the pond in the area right in front of the mill. These were there to hold up the ice when the mill ran in winter. Without those logs, the ice would sink as the water was depleted and eventually either get drawn into or block the penstock.

The 'small' turbine was about 15 horsepower ran the Edison DC 110V generator. This generator powered the mill and both the Montfort brothers houses and a 3rd house which was across the road from the mill. The generator ran primarily lights and possibly some electric appliances in the houses. The penstock was opened, and a timer was set which allowed the water to flow until a preset time, then the penstock would close, the generator would stop until the next night. Because of the nature of the Edison DC system, the load in amperes needed to remain fairly constant, so when the generator was run, the load was established and the field current would be set. If the load increased, it dimmed the lights unless the generator field current was adjusted. Conversely, if the load decreased a lot, the generator output increased a lot and it would blow out light bulbs. In larger installations, the generators would either have operators or a more expensive automatic system could be used to regulate the generator output. The Edison generator was excited by fairly large 1.5V zinc batteries about 3" in diameter and 10" tall and even in 1959 after many years of non-use, there was enough current available in these six batteries to give me a good shock while turning the generator by hand. The speed of the generator was maintained by a fly-ball governor like was common on steam engines, the governor controlled a rod that varied the angle of the vanes in the waterwheel. So generator output was controlled by the preset field current and the waterwheel speed.

The buildings as they stood in the late 1950's were of 2 different construction methods. The bigger building was standard post and beam with large roof rafters and carlans. The smaller building was post and beam up to the eave, then had a more modern rafter system of 2x8 rafters with collar ties. The foundations for both buildings were extremely robust, with two 24" x 40' beams providing the main support for each side of the building and 14" beams across. The amount of weight these timbers had to support was extraordinary, so the size was not surprising. The posts and beams were hand hewn in both buildings, though the smaller building had hackmatack knees providing support for the beams. The saw (longer) building had one unique feature in that 30' of the front of the building could be opened providing an unobstructed platform from which to throw the sawn boards. This construction was – to me – very similar to the construction of most of the wood "covered bridges" around the state. Whoever built this building was very clever and provided me great direction for later in life.

The mill pond averaged about 4' deep, though it may have been more, but for many years the mill on the Skillins Road dumped their sawdust directly into the water stream and that sawdust eventually settled to the bottom of the millpond. I've found there is about 4' of sawdust muck and the color of the water is quite dark from the tannin that continues to leech out of the sawdust. Also there are literally

hundreds of trees which sank while waiting to be sawn. In modern days, this wood would have some significant value but over the years, we have hauled a lot of it out, cut it into fire wood and burned it. Most of what we found was red oak (you can tell by the smell!) and was 8-12" in diameter, 8-12 feet long and mostly clear of knots.

After my dad purchased the mill, we commenced making improvement. There is a town in Massachusetts called "Old Sturbridge Village" which has several old mills open to visitors and they kind of acted as the basis for that we tried to accomplish. We had the mill equipment removed, patched holes in the floor and roof and made the walls more or less weather tight. There was a "drying room" attached to the planer building which had no floor, so we put one in and turned that into a kitchen and bathroom. Water came from the pond which we used without any filter. We put in a Queen Atlantic cook-stove, many of which were available for less than \$5 from the farms and houses that had converted to electricity and gas, an electric hot water heater and actually drank the pond water. The 'big room' became our bedroom, with my brother and I sleeping on single beds which allowed us to awake in the morning, slide the screen aside and dive directly into the pond. It turns out pickerel really like ivory soap and if you leave a bar floating, they will nibble the bottom of it and push it around. Snapping turtles really like to be left alone, horseflies can bite without landing, mosquito population was largely controlled by bats. Thousands and thousands of bats! Every barn for miles was wide open and heavily populated by bats, the mill was as weather tight as we could make it, but there were more than enough small openings to let thousands of bats enter and leave without bothering us humans – mostly. We did keep badminton rackets handy in case some wayward bat found its way into our living area. We had the kitchen cook stove, a Franklin fireplace in the small room and a large "Round Oak" wood/coal burning stove in the big room. We could make the mill comfortable at outside temperatures down to perhaps 40, though at that point, we would tend to sit closer to the stove or think about spending more time in the kitchen. We didn't have trash or garbage. We bought, cooked and ate what we needed, then burned our trash and garbage. As a young man, there were few, if any, places in or under the mill that I did not manage to find. The trash and wood under the mill represented an archeologists delight. Old forged tools, hand forged nails, a real Edison generator, water wheels, pulley wheels, all hand made. Old whiskey bottles hidden away for a cold day. There was no place you could sit and not clearly see a hand hewn beam or a hand cut mortise or a board sawn on an up-and-down saw, or just for comparison, a board sawn on a circular saw. There were 30" wide boards, obviously cut during the Kings reign where all trees over 18" were reserved for the Kings masts. Mill Road was a 2 rod road which everyone knew meant it was a 12' right-of-way. All water was safe to drink and you could head out for a walk and go North or South or East or West until you got sick of it and no-one complained that you were trespassing. Well, they might complain, but if they didn't post their land, you could walk where your up-bringing and good manners said you could. You could shoot a deer on someone's property and the only thing they might do is be bullies and demand you give them the deer. I heard of this, but it never happened to me.

We ended up making the mill into a really nice summer home with a walkway behind the dam and a small outside sitting area in the back so you could watch deer, fox, fisher, beaver, ducks, geese, the occasional swan and once, a cow. There was no limit to the number of animals you could see in a day and the mill pond was truly a mirror. There is no place I've ever seen that can be quite as flat and smooth as a mill-pond. We bought antiques and populated the interior furnishings so they complimented businesses in which my dad had been involved or areas in which he had interest. We had nautical antiques, railroad antiques, hand made furniture and tools, lanterns made during the

revolutionary war, a table from West Virginia that is unique. It was all dark wood with great character and personality.

Walter Mountfort came down once, before he died and lamented that he had hoped he'd live to see the mill fall into the brook one day but he was pleased to see it had taken on a second life. Like so many antiques, you don't really own them, you kind of 'care-take' them and after my dad died, we emptied the mill and sold it, it ended up reverting to being used commercially by Greg Lipton who makes custom furniture. We rebuilt the dam twice in our nearly 50 years of ownership and Greg Lipton has had to rebuild part of it since. As long as we build it out of wood, it'll last as much as 35 years. Pressure-treated wood lasts about the same, but costs more. Underwater, wood will last nearly forever, but at the air/water interface, rot sets in.

Spike Thurston lived in "the caretakers house" just up the road from the mill and he was in his 70's when we bought the mill. When he sold, a family moved in and after a few years they bought a chicken farm and sold the house to us. That is where I lived until I joined the Navy for 10 years. My step-father and mother, Spike and Evelyn Dumaine stayed in that house until the 80's when they built an extended ranch on property adjoining the mill on the other side of the brook.

CONDOLENCES: To Dan and Tricia Small and family for the death of her grandmother, Martha Pettengill. Many of us who went to school at MSAD51 will remember Martha as one of the "lunch ladies" for many years.

To Alan and Laura Small for the death of her 100 year old great aunt.

To Jason and Lynn Copp, on the death of his grandmother.

CHECK US OUT AND LIKE US ON FACEBOOK: Go to [Cumberland Maine Historical Society Facebook](#), and see what interesting items are there to see. Another connection is through the Town of Cumberland. Click on to COMMUNITY NEWS, then to CUMBERLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

RESTORATION OF THE FACE OF GREELY INSTITUTE

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. 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, were 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.

NOTICE FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

Here's what the slate looks like for next year so far.

Sandy Nickerson

Margie Gruber

Kathy Kenney

Linda Fulda

Judy Gagnon

Martha Morrison

Deb Dugas

Annual Membership Meeting is THURSDAY, OCT. 18TH IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS. AT 7 P.M. GUEST SPEAKER: Bill Shane, Cumberland Town Manager who will talk about his vision for the Historical Society. Election of Directors will also be held.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY,
GREELY INSTITUTE!**

Come join us on Saturday, October 13, from 9:00 until 1:00 at the Cumberland Historical Society to honor Greely Institute, which will be celebrating its 150th anniversary on September 28th. There will be a display of

photos, yearbooks, programs, and other items on hand, along with refreshments.



ANSWER TO THE SEPTEMBER STUMPER:

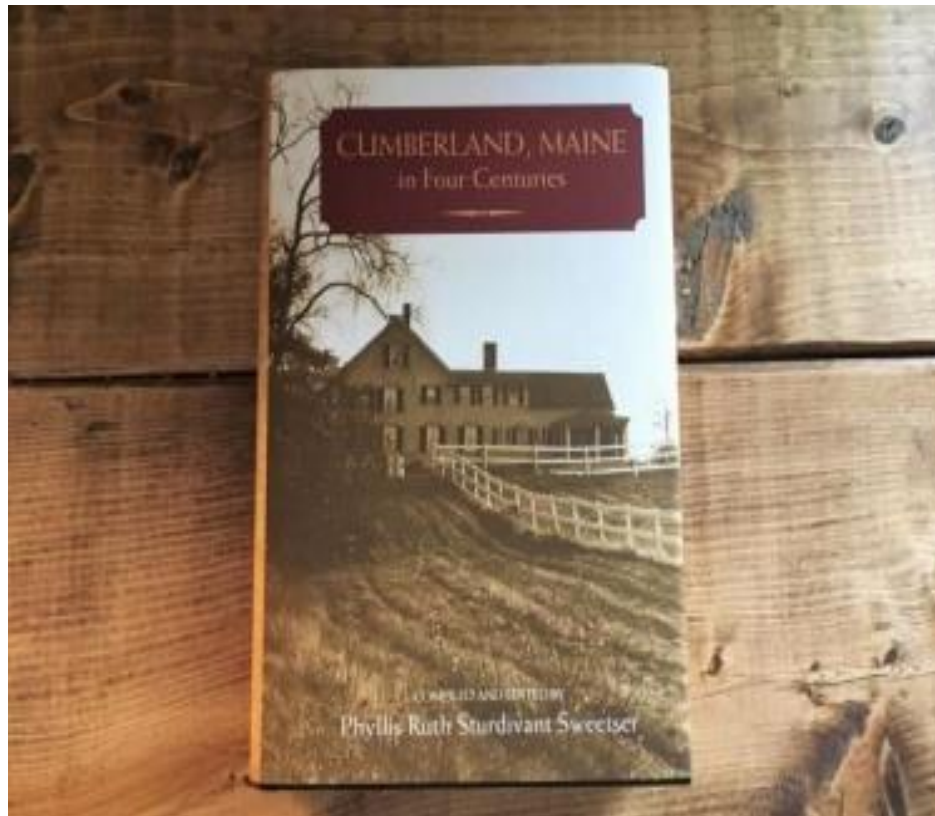
Why we are the "Rangers". Eight miles west of Omaha Beach, soldiers from the American Second Ranger Battalion scaled the cliffs of Pointe du Hoc, France, on the morning of June 6, 1944. By the end of the day, the Rangers had become the first of the American forces to accomplish their D-Day mission by disabling the six 155 mm German guns that were trained on Utah Beach. According to Linwood Crandall, principal in 1949, it was time to name Greely Institute's athletic teams. Basketball coach and teacher, Into Suomi, suggested the Institute look to the heroes of World War II for inspiration. After hearing the story of the assault of Pointe du Hoc, Greely Institute chose the Rangers as its mascot. In whatever we do, may we always remember the Ranger motto:

“Rangers Lead the Way.”

LOOKING FOR: Does anyone have a cassette recorder/player that we could borrow for an undetermined amount of time? The oral histories done by Audrey Northway’s classes at Greely are on cassettes, but we do not have a player to hear them. There are about 30 or so of these, so it will be a long time before we get through them all. Nancy Latham is anxious to get started on transcribing them. Thanks in advance.



Cumberland, Maine in Four Centuries



There are still copies of this history of Cumberland available for sale at Cumberland Historical Society, the Town Office and the Prince Memorial Library. There are also other items for sale, including note cards, Christmas cards, Christmas ornaments, cookbooks, and the Cumberland coverlet . We will have all these items on display and for sale at the two craft fairs coming up at Val Halla in October and at Greely in November. "One stop shopping" and a good boost to the coffers of Cumberland Historical Society.



Christmas card from Barbara Garsoe collection. The card shows a horse and sleigh at the corner of Tuttle, Blanchard and Main, taken in 1895 from the steeple of the Congregational Church.

WWW.CUMBERLANDFAIR.COM

2018 CUMBERLAND FAIR



SEPT 23-29

MAINE FAMILY FAIR AT THE CUMBERLAND
FAIRGROUNDS IN CUMBERLAND, MAINE

SPONSORED BY THE CUMBERLAND FARMER'S CLUB

SPONSORED BY SEVEE & MAHER, ENGINEERS

4 Blanchard Road, Cumberland, ME 04021



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



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





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.

