

President's Report for the Year July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017

Cumberland Historical Society June 15, 2017

To the Officers, Trustees, and Members of the Cumberland Historical Society:

This year at the Cumberland Historical Society has been a busy, productive, active, and interesting one. Changes, both in the physical appearance of the museum and in our paperwork, are being diligently worked on, thanks to many dedicated members who have devoted countless hours to their individual projects in their own homes and at the museum. The recorded volunteer hours added up to nearly 1,000. That constitutes quite an effort for a small totally volunteer organization like ours, and reflects the commitment that these folks put forth. Thank you all so very much.

The Cumberland Brass Band drum, part of our permanent display at the museum, is at East Point Furniture Restoration in Brunswick, being renovated in order to halt the deterioration that dirt and mold had taken root. This project was funded by a \$5,000.00 grant awarded to CHS by the Davis Family Foundation. We had applied for \$15,000.00 to completely restore the drum, but were grateful for the money awarded to preserve it. We had applied to other grant givers to supplement the cause, but were refused, which was a disappointment, but not a setback. We will try again. Money makers started last summer with the three historical tours we offered in conjunction with the Cumberland Rec Department, which were very well received. We tabled two craft fairs last year, at Election Day at the Town Office last fall, and at the "Welcome to New Residents" evening this spring. We welcomed visitors by hosting several Open Houses and sold some of our items at the museum.

At the museum, we completed several research requests, accepted some very nice artifact gifts, accessioned numerous gifts, and have added open hours on the second and fourth Saturdays of each month. There were a couple of accession workshops held for folks to learn how to do that paperwork and help get us caught up with recording all the great items that come to us. We are not fully caught up, but are closing in on the backlog. Once we get things in order, we can then move forward by putting everything into the computer. There have been volunteers to help us out with that "techie" stuff.

We assisted with MSAD#51's 50th anniversary celebrations last fall by offering historical data and having an Open House on the day of the event. People came by to visit to view in awe at what we have in our dear little schoolhouse. Besides the programs that we presented as our usual procedure, we also presented one for Aging in Place and the Cumberland Congregational Church. Both were well received. A new event this spring that was very popular, and ever so much fun, was the Scavenger Hunt, created by members Debbie Knight Dugas and Judith Taylor Gagnon. Their very clever clues, riddles, and rebuses led the forty participants on a historic quest of places in our town. Took some thinking there! These two ambitious ladies are already working on the one for next year. Memorial Day Parade and events went well, despite the cold weather and the threat of rain. National Guard Brig. Gen. Gerard F. Bolduc, Jr., son of member Sylvia Bolduc and the late Gerard Bolduc, was the keynote speaker for the event. Afterwards, he was pleased to meet up with three of his 1977 Greely classmates, Retired Maine State Trooper and now Cumberland Councilman, Mike Edes, Retired FBI agent, Pete Bickmore, and Soon-To-Be-Retired Cumberland Police Lieutenant Milt Calder. Those of us who knew them "back when" are saying "Who'd of thunk it?" Our Open House and White Elephant table drew in a few people and a box full of artifacts from the Clough homestead on Pleasant Valley Road. Thomas Bennett, Director of Prince Memorial Library, had some photos of Cumberland veterans from all different

wars made up into large sizes and offered to let us borrow them for the Memorial Day Open House. They are proudly on display in the front hall, and make an impressive exhibit.

Margie Gruber has connected with Eliza Porter, Communications Director at the Town Office, and they have created a link for us with the Town of Cumberland website, keeping our events and happenings up to date for all the world to see! Margie and Linda Fulda are working with Thomas Bennett to finish the revisions of the bylaws that Brian Jensen and Jeff Frost started, and uniting them with the constitution to make a more comprehensive and less cumbersome set of guidelines. Brian and Linda Jensen cleared up and cleaned up the membership list, and will now be able to easily access it, and keep it up to date. The scholarship committee awarded a \$1,000.00 scholarship to Riley Soule this year, upon review of hers and 14 other Greely Cumberland students' essays. All entries were good ones, but hers stood out as the best. Sandy Nickerson has done a great job of keeping up with the gardens at the museum, and is very capably aided by the Town Crew from the Cumberland Parks Department. The gentlemen from that department seem to always show up to mow the lawns for us on Monday morningsperhaps the coffee and treats offered upon their arrival might have something to do with that! Nancy Latham has started working on research for the 150th anniversary of Cumberland Fair. Mary Maloney has eagerly offered to help with that, so that project is in motion. We will also be partnering up with people from Greely for their 150th anniversary, and with the Town Office for Cumberland's 200th anniversary. Looks like we will have enough to keep us busy for a few years.

There are currently two bus tours offered again this summer on June 20th and June 27th from 1:00 to 4:00. The one on the 20th is booked, but there is only one for the 27th, so there is room for 14 more on that one. There will be a slight reconfiguration from the ones done last year, due to time constraints, and several road projects. If these do well, we are talking about doing an early evening or Saturday one for those who cannot attend on a weekday. The six second grade classes at Mabel I. Wilson School completed their annual historical tour of Cumberland, in spite of the several postponements that had to take place because of the weather!

We are currently hoping that someone will gather up a team to have a float in the Cumberland Fair Parade. We have the truck, the trailer, the theme, and the driver, but need folks to cook up their creative juices and put it together. It could be a money-maker for us. The Parade is on Opening Day of the Fair, September 24th.

Girl Scout, Erin O'Donovan, is finishing her Gold Star project with us, and is excited about presenting it to us, probably next fall. She has been working on this for two years, and has managed to fit it in with her many other efforts at school and home. Boy Scout, Ben Follett, has been working on his Eagle Scout project for several months now, but is still looking for some help with research. We will also be contacted soon by Girl Scout Izzy Chandler, granddaughter of John and Barbara Chandler, for her Gold Star project, the history of the Cumberland Congregational Church. Isn't it wonderful that these young people are doing historical things for their projects?

The Town of Cumberland has contracted an architectural company, Resurgence, to remedy some issues that have plagued the museum. More details on those things when they decide which to do first.

Monday mornings at the museum are always abuzz with activity; researches being researched, newspaper clippings being clipped and filed, rearrangement of items in the gallery, accessions being accessioned, gardens being gardened, and whatever else needs to be done. There is always something, to be sure!

The Phyllis Sweetser history of Cumberland book is reaching completion, and will be in our hands

in the near future. It has been a long time coming, and has overcome several hurdles, but it will be here.

You are cordially invited to visit the Cumberland Historical Society and view what we have been working on this past year.

Respectfully submitted, Carolyn F. Small