



CUMBERLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P O Box 82

4A Blanchard Road

Cumberland, ME 04021

President: Carolyn Small

Vice Presidents: Diana Copp
Annemarie Dawson

Secretary: Pat Larrabee

Treasurer: Alberta Haynes

Trustees: G Morgan Knight
Herbert S. Foster, Jr.
Katrina Rich
Brian Jensen
Sue Wall

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.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY CUMBERLAND: (the following information is from The History of Cumberland County, Maine)

“The town of Cumberland was incorporated by an act of the Legislature of Maine, dividing the town of North Yarmouth, passed March 19th and approved March 28th, 1821.

MARCH 2013

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MARCH THOUGHTS: "I have never tasted any better sugar than what has been made from the maple, when it has been properly refined. It has a peculiarly rich, salubrious, and pleasant taste."
- Samuel Williams, *A Natural and Civil History of Vermont 1794*

FEBRUARY MEETING:

In spite of the REALLLLLLLLLLLY cold night, we had a good showing at the Skyline Farm sleigh meeting. Pam Ames, Ursula Baier, and Glenn Corbett gave us a tour of the sleighs and carriages on display, and a brief slide show to explain some different aspects of the collection that is there. What gems they do have! Thanks to Pam, Lynda Jensen, and Betty Stanhope for providing great refreshments. Pam sent the following history of the Farm for us to use in the newsletter:

HISTORY OF SKYLINE FARM

Thomas Loring was the first settler of the land which eventually became known as Skyline Farm. He was the son of Reverend Nicolas Loring, the second minister to serve the early Meeting House under the Ledge on Yarmouth Foreside. He moved to the Walnut Hill area in the late 1700's, where he cleared some of the land in lot #24, and established his homestead. Some of Thomas Loring's brothers also moved to the area, firmly establishing the Loring family in North Yarmouth. By 1801, we can trace the development of a working farm producing small grain crops and animal husbandry with which Thomas and his wife Phoebe supported their eleven children. Six of these children married and had children. Members of the Loring family settled close by. Their daily life and the evolution of both the Loring family and the community can be traced over the next 200 years in the intriguing town records and family papers available today in the North Yarmouth Town Hall less than a mile from the farm. Many families in town can trace their ancestry back to the Lorings, and the name itself is still represented locally. All around the farm of Thomas and his wife Phoebe one can see the old homes, which his relatives and neighbors established and which are still cherished today. In most cases the land has been divided into small lots with many modern houses now interspersed amongst the historic homes of the Loring family and their contemporaries. In contrast, roughly fifty-four of the original 83 acres of woodland and hay fields that was Thomas Loring's original homestead are still intact.



Over the years, various buildings were constructed at Skyline Farm. In the 1850's and 1860's a half story farmhouse typical of this area and period, with an attached ell and ample dairy barn, replaced the original early dwelling and its small detached barn. In 1876 the last Loring own the farm, Charles R. Loring, conveyed the house and farm to Abby A. Dolloff, the wife of Oscar Dolloff. At that time, the original line of the Maine Central railroad had recently been established which

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ran close by the farm, facilitating the transportation of dairy and forest products to markets in Portland and beyond. Several generations of Dolloffs used the premises primarily as a dairy farm. Descendants of the Dolloffs still live in the area, several of whom have supported the recent preservation efforts at Skyline Farm. Abby Dolloff and Carl Semmes were married in the early 1940's and then purchased the farm from various Dolloff heirs in 1944.

In the late 1940's, the farm became known as Skyline Farm. Perhaps the name originated from the view of the farm as one drives up The Lane from the center of town. Alternatively, maybe the name was inspired by the view of Bradbury Mountain and surrounding landscape from the Northeastern end of the farm. The Semmes developed the farm as a riding school. It is fondly remembered by generations of children who learned to ride there while also learning a love of horses and country life.

The indoor riding arena was completed around 1959 and is believed to be the oldest purpose built arena in the state still standing. There are newspaper photographs of its curved, laminated wood trusses being installed. The blacksmith's shed was also added during this time to support the transition of the farm from a dairy operation to a riding school. Many lovely trails were built through the fields and woods both on Skyline Farm and in the surrounding area for riders to enjoy.

After H.K. Ken Sowles and his wife Margaret purchased the farm in 1970, he built three additions to the indoor arena to house his extensive carriage collection all under one roof. At one time the collection numbered close to 300 antique carriages and sleighs. Hundreds of local school children and other interested people visited the farm and its well-known carriage collection to hear Ken describe the important historical role of carriages and horse-drawn transportation. Ken shared his knowledge and love of carriages with fellow collectors and school groups alike.

After Ken Sowles' death in 1997, the farm was to be sold by the family and development of the property for house lots seemed inevitable. In the fall of 1999, a non-profit organization to save the farm was formed and by the summer of 2000, they were able to buy Skyline Farm, preserving it for future generations. Many individuals, the Town of North Yarmouth and several local foundations contributed to the purchase. The group was also able to secure a loan for a portion of the purchase price from one generous supporter and received a major gift from another. This allowed the group to complete the purchase of the entire farm. The Sowles family's flexibility throughout the process and their willingness to sell the farm below its appraised value also made it possible to keep Skyline Farm intact.

Today, numerous volunteers, friends and supporters are working to transform Skyline Farm into a community resource as a living carriage museum with an antique carriage & sleigh collection, while also preserving the farm's open space and historic buildings for recreational and educational use. A conservation easement on the 46 acres of fields and woods at the farm was presented to the North Yarmouth Land Trust (now the Royal River Conservation Trust).

In addition, the historic indoor riding ring has been restored as the Skyline Farm Carriage Museum's primary exhibit space, multi-use trails are being redeveloped and educational programs and demonstration events are being presented to school groups and the whole community. The completion of the brand new visitor's center enables the vision and mission to move forward.

Due to a serious illness, our presenter for the March program has had to cancel. Instead, the Cumberland Historical Society will meet 2:00 Thursday afternoon, March 28, at the Prince Memorial Library. Thomas Bennett, Library Director, has had another group of the Grace Hutchinson newspaper photos scanned, and has invited any and all to attend to help identify them. Refreshments will be provided by the Cumberland Historical Society. This is a free program and is open to the general public. For further information, contact Carolyn Small at 829-4423, or 415-4589, or by email at csmall1943@maine.rr.com, or Thomas Bennett at the Library.

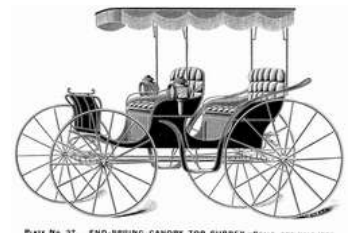


PLATE No. 37. END-SPRING CANOPY TOP SURREY—SCALE ONE-HALF INCH

THE TUESDAY GROUP:

We are beginning to see the light at the end of the tunnel! Linda Fulda, Lynda Wilson Jensen, Laura Wilson Willis, Nancy Wilson Latham and I have been getting our belongings in order at the museum. Organizing, accessioning, researching, eliminating, filing, etc. Things are hopping! If anyone wants to join in on all this fun, stop in. We'll put you to work!

CORRECTIONS, CONNECTIONS, AND COLLECTIONS OF THE FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER:

1. Julia F. Varney Cheney emailed: Received a copy of the CHS newsletter.....Very interesting as I do have some Cumberland roots on my side and on my husband's. I noted there were a few names missing on the photo of the 1963 Basketball Champions from Greely. I can fill in one for you as the 4th person from the left in the front row is Terrance "Terry" A. Jewett. I remember distinctly our team from Windham playing that team and LOSING! Great newsletter!
2. Carolyn, Has it already gone to press? You left out Cheryl's younger sister Brenda. Other than that it's great. Is the Bob Shaw in the photos the same Bob Shaw that lived across from me on Greely Rd.? *(Does anyone have the answer to that? Ye Ed)* Since Eddie Bolduc was one of 4 boys and a girl and Fay Brown was one of 4 girls and a boy maybe a good follow up story would be the PJ and Joy (Jewett) Brown family what with PJ's Texaco being a central fixture in the town and Ralph being a former fire chief. Pete Gagne (Fay's son-in-law)
3. Hi Carolyn, Betty Stanhope here. Just read the article about the Bolduc's. Very interesting. It is our son Bob who is the member, not Tom. Unless Tom has joined which we didn't know. Liked the article. The Bolduc's were good friends of my Mom & Dad. My Dad worked with Eddie on the railroad and they would visit each other many times for social chats, etc. My Dad's name was Charles William Trufant (nickname Bill). My Mom's name was Gladys Trufant (maiden name Moore).
Regards,
Betty Stanhope
4. From a phone conversation with Councilman George Turner, who is the unidentified player seated at the far right: He also identified the other players. Thanks, George.

It is very helpful to get the corrections and additions added to the newsletters. Thanks.

★ *Sequence of Events*

Introduction

MSgt Lisa Menard, Narrator

Entrance of the Official Party

*Brig Gen James Campbell, The Adjutant General, MeANG
Brig Gen Stephen Atkinson, Commander, MeANG
Col Gerard Bolduc, 101st Air Refueling Wing, Vice Commander, MeANG*

National Anthem

SSgt Joel Crowley

Invocation

Lt Col Richard Bach, Wing Chaplain

Video Presentation

Guest Speaker

Mr. Steven Dyer

Remarks by Brig Gen Stephen Atkinson

Presentation of the Meritorious Service Medal

SMSgt Daniel Moore

Publishing of the Promotion Order

SMSgt Daniel Moore

Pinning Ceremony

*Mrs. Sylvia Bolduc, Mother
Fred Leblond, Uncle
Sisters Terry, Denise, and Stacy*

Family Program Presentation

Mr. Drew Matilus

Oath of Office

Brig Gen Stephen Atkinson

Flag Presentation

Chief Mark Andrews, SMSgt Chad Smith

Remarks from Brig Gen Gerard Bolduc

Conclusion of the Promotion Ceremony

Colonel Gerard F. Bolduc



Colonel Gerry Bolduc is Vice Commander, 101st Air Refueling Wing, Bangor Air National Guard Base, Bangor, Maine. As Vice Commander, he is responsible to act for the Wing Commander on the full range of command, discipline, training, and morale issues of a KC-135 air refueling wing. He ensures the Wing and all subordinate units are combat ready at all times to support USSTRATCOM War Order Plans, air refueling for Higher Headquarters directed tasks, ANG training and operational requirements, and all Northeast Tanker Task Force Coronel and Airbridge refuelings for the Department of Defense.

Colonel Bolduc entered the Maine Air National Guard in June 1981 after receiving his undergraduate degree from the University of Maine. He received his commission in March 1982 from the Air National Guard's Academy of Military Science. He has commanded the 101st Air Refueling Wing Communications Flight, Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, Maintenance Group, and served as Chief of Safety for the Wing. Other assignments were as the Wing's Operations Plans Officer, Chief of Scheduling, and StarEval Navigator.

EDUCATION

1981 Bachelor of Science, University of Maine, Orono, Maine
1986 Squadron Officer School, by correspondence
1995 Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell AFB, AL (in-residence)
1995 Master of Science, Auburn University at Montgomery, Montgomery, AL
2000 Air War College, Maxwell AFB, AL (in-residence)
2020 Master of Strategic Studies, Air War College, Maxwell AFB, AL

ASSIGNMENTS

1. June 1982 – February 1983, student, Undergraduate Navigator Training, Mather AFB, CA
2. February 1983 – August 1983, Combat Crew Training School, Castle AFB, CA
3. August 1983 – April 1986, Squadron Navigator, 101st Air Refueling Wing, Bangor, ME
4. April 1986 – March 1991, Operations Plans Officer, 101st Air Refueling Wing, Bangor, ME
5. March 1991 – August 1994, Chief of Scheduling, 101st Air Refueling Wing, Bangor, ME
6. August 1994 – June 1995, student, Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell AFB, AL
7. June 1995 – May 1996, Standardization/Evaluation Navigator 101st Air Refueling Wing, Bangor, ME
8. May 1996 – June 1997, Communications Flight Commander, 101st Air Refueling Wing, Bangor, ME
9. June 1997 – July 1999, Chief of Safety, 101st Air Refueling Wing, Bangor, ME
10. July 1999 – June 2000, student, Air War College, Maxwell AFB, AL
11. June 2000 – February 2001, Chief of Safety, 101st Air Refueling Wing, Bangor, ME
12. February 2001 – September 2009, Commander, 101st ARW Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, 101st Air Refueling Wing, Bangor, ME
13. September 2009 – July 2009, Commander, 101st Maintenance Group, 101st Air Refueling Wing, Bangor, ME
14. July 2009 – present, Vice Commander, 101st Air Refueling Wing, Bangor, ME

FLIGHT INFORMATION:

Rating: Master Navigator
Flight hours: More than 3,000
Aircraft flown: T-37, T-43, KC-135A, KC-138E

MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS:

Meritorious Service Medal
Air Force Commendation Medal with 2 oak leaf clusters
Air Force Achievement Medal
Meritorious Unit Award
Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with six oak leaf clusters
Combat Readiness Medal

EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION

Second Lieutenant: 4 March 1982
First Lieutenant: 4 March 1985
Captain: 8 March 1987
Major: 17 April 1991
Lieutenant Colonel: 16 October 1997
Colonel: 9 January 2007

This is the pamphlet handed out at Gerry Bolduc's (Brigadier General Gerard F. Bolduc, Jr.) promotional ceremony. To those who knew his father, don't you notice a remarkable likeness?

CONDOLENCES TO:

The family of member Diane Oulton Roberge. She was very instrumental and enthusiastic about getting the Oulton family stories from her father, Frank, and her uncle, Ed. We all met a couple of times, and we were pleased to get an interesting look into the family and farm life on Winn Road.

The family of Barbara Frances Blanchard Garsoe, member and former President of the Cumberland Historical Society. Barbara was so proud of and devoted to her family, her Blanchard heritage, her Cumberland heritage, and the wide circle of friends that she had. She will be sorely missed by many. Barbara delighted the membership with a program about the carnation business in Cumberland a few years ago. This is her narrative:

Carnations and More Carnations

A presentation by Barbara Blanchard Garsoe

With technical help from Bill and Sue Wall,

and historical help from Peter Garsoe

March 20, 2008

“ Cumberland was once known as the carnation capital of the country. At one time there were four greenhouse ranges in Cumberland: the Chase brothers, Charles Jenkins, and Sunnyside, owned by Howard Blanchard. Greenhouses were popping up all over_ Portland, Yarmouth, Gorham, Biddeford, Lewiston & Falmouth. The small farms were beginning to close and it seemed like a good industry to bring along. About 1892 the Chase Brothers, Frank and Arno, had a greenhouse on Tuttle Road. By the way, their father was Heber Chase, who died during the Civil War in Salisbury Prison. We have some of his letters written home saying he could hardly wait to get home to see his little boys, Arno and Frank. He never made it, as he died of a disease in prison. Arno & Frank sold plants from a wagon with the name Chase Brothers painted on it. In 1896 Arno moved to the Center and built his own greenhouse on the southerly corner of Main Street and Tuttle Road. Frank added to the original buildings on Tuttle Road, and was in business until 1915 when his home and business were destroyed by fire (located where Smalls now live). He then moved his family to 327 Main Street and built a new greenhouse. Harold Bragg, his son-in-law, later became manager and built the small greenhouse and shop still standing on the corner of Main Street and Farwell Avenue. It is now closed. Back to Arno; his greenhouse was in the center of town. One night in March 1933, a large crowd had gathered at the Congregational Church to hear Donald MacMillan lecture and show pictures of his trip to the Arctic. The fire alarm blew and the male members of the audience disappeared to help fight the fire at Arno Chase's. I remember that we were getting ready to go to the lecture when my father saw the sky all aglow. As he was a fireman, he left immediately. My mother, sisters and I decided to walk and see what was happening. It was during the Depression, and there were no street lights, as the town couldn't afford them. It was very dark, but seeing the glow in the sky kept us going. It looked as if the whole town were on fire. Luckily, the fire department kept it from spreading, and none of the nearby homes were lost. Arno later rebuilt and was in business his carnations for ½ to 1 cent apiece until about 1940. A third greenhouse, Jenkins Greenhouse, was on Blanchard Road near the Sweetser's Apple Barrel. Interesting how the Jenkins came to live in Cumberland. Hollis True lived across the street and served in Co. E 17th Maine Volunteers (in the Civil War). He was wounded in a battle near Petersburg and ended in a hospital in Washington. Harrison Jenkins had joined the war from Massachusetts and, when his company fell ill with dysentery, he became an aide at the hospital and took care of Hollis True. After the war, Harrison moved to Cumberland where he lived the rest of his life across the street from his friend, Hollis True. His son, Charles Jenkins, decided to build a greenhouse, built his first house in 1913. In 1938 he enlarged and improved his buildings, and dealt in wholesale only until his retirement in 1945. Maurice Small

then bought the business, and later (1964) sold it to Charles Haynes, whose son later had it taken down. Maurice moved, built a home and a small greenhouse on Tuttle Road on the same site of the first business of the Chase Brothers. Two small greenhouses were built in 1914 by Howard Blanchard as the expansion of the operations of Sunnyside Farm on 70 Blanchard Road. Later structures, 30,000 square feet were built in two stages in 1921 and 1927 by Howard Blanchard. Carnations which were shipped to market in New Jersey and New York were the principal crop. In 1949 the business was purchased by Mr. Blanchard's son-in-law, William J. Garsoe. At the time, local markets were expanding, and by 1960 the entire crop was distributed in Maine and New Hampshire. My job was to go to Portland three days a week and deliver carnations to Vose-Smith, Harmon's, Minott's, and Dodge. A wholesale outfit, A.N. Pierce, came to Portland. Any extra carnations we had we took them there and they could sell them in other parts of the state, out of our reach. Margelia (Barbara's younger sister) and I were "strippers"; that is, we graded the carnations, stripped off the lower foliage and packed them in bunches of 25. Carnations with split calyxes were thrown onto the floor. When the weather was not right, many ended on the floor. Many owners belonged to the New England Carnation Growers Association, based in Massachusetts. There were as many as 150 members who belonged at one time. When it shut down, there were only five left. As the plants grew, support had to be put in place. Wires were strung the length of the bench and strings were tied crosswise, making a small square for the plant to grow through. Being sure the plant went through the square we called "poking up" - a great job for kids. Also, each plant had to be disbudded in order to keep one strong flower. A person hung a burlap bag on his shoulder, put a plank across the aisle, on which to stand, and inched their way along, disbudding all of the way. Each year, starting the seedlings used to be a tiresome task. Cuttings from established plants were taken and placed in outside beds. Then the soil in the greenhouses was all wheeled out and new soil brought in and placed in the beds. The plants could then be brought inside and grown there. Later on, a sterilization process of the changed all that. After the plants were removed, tarps were laid over the tops of the beds inside, then the dirt was fumigated and steamed. That would kill anything that was not favorable for the growing of the plants. Even though this did require quite a lot of hard work, it was still much easier and less expensive than the former way of doing things. We had a night man until we changed our heat from coal to oil. Then we had all kinds of horns and whistles if the heat dropped, signifying that there was a problem heat wise - a lovely sound to hear in the middle of the night. Of course, there were different interesting problems, but I would be here until dawn if I included them all. Another aside: There was a large barn on the Sunnyside Farm. As the night man was checking the temperatures in the greenhouse, the big barn next door burst into flames. A team of workhorses, a cow, and some pigs were in there and were lost. It seems a man got inside, set the barn afire, went outside closing the door so it was not seen until it was pretty well burned inside. After he set another barn on fire, he was caught. In the sixties, carnations began to come into the country from Central America, where they could be landed in Florida much cheaper, than we raise them. They arrived in bud form. The florists put them into warm water to assist the opening. What were we doing, keeping the greenhouses warm in zero temperatures? It took a lot of decision making, but in 1972 we shut the doors and let it all freeze - a little heartbreaking. A man York showed interest in dismantling them. It took many months, but he dismantled them, dragged them in a truck, and now they are standing as a working greenhouse! All Cumberland greenhouses raised carnations. Cool nights and warm days were necessary, and that's what Maine had. However, as time went on, some turned to snapdragons, chrysanthemums, and plants. And so ended the carnation capital of the country. Now Cumberland and the surrounding area have no greenhouses. Thank you to my son Peter, Debbie Dugas, Philip Chase, Carolyn Small, and Bill & Sue Wall for helping me with pictures, information and computer work."

Thanks to Sevee & Maher, Engineers, our corporate sponsor.