



CUMBERLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Advisor:	Barbara Garsoe

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.

DECEMBER 2011 VOLUME 84

DECEMBER THOUGHTS:

"I'll be home for Christmas

You can plan on me.

Please have snow and mistletoe,

And presents under the tree."

Our member, Buddy Copp (son of members Bert and Diana Copp, husband of member Katie, and father of member Eli) is now in Korea for a tour of duty. He left shortly after Thanksgiving, and will be there much longer than anyone back home wants him to be. The following is for him, all members of the military, and for all folks who are away from home this time of year from loved ones.

"**I'll Be Home for Christmas**" is a Christmas song, written by [Kim Gannon](#), [Walter Kent](#) and [Buck Ram](#). In 1943, this song joined "[White Christmas](#)" to become one of America's most popular Christmas songs. The recording by [Bing Crosby](#) shot to the top ten of the record charts that year and became a holiday musical tradition in the United States. The idea of being home for Christmas originated in World War II when soldiers at first thought that the war would be quick and they would return by Christmas time. This inevitably did not happen, hence the line "if only in my dreams". A song titled "I'll Be Home for Christmas" was first copyrighted on August 24, 1943, by Kent (music) and James "Kim" Gannon (lyrics). The two revised and re-copyrighted their song on September 27, 1943, and it was this version that was made famous by Crosby. The label on Crosby's recording credits "I'll Be Home for Christmas" to Kent, Gannon, and Ram. Later recordings usually credit only Kent and Gannon. The discrepancy arose from the fact that on December 21, 1942 [Buck Ram](#) copyrighted a song titled "I'll Be Home for Christmas (Tho' Just in Memory)"—that song bore little or no resemblance, other than its title, to the Crosby recording. [1] According to Ram, who was primarily a lyricist, he had written the lyrics as a 16-year-old, homesick college student. Prior to his publishers planned release, he had discussed the song with two acquaintances in a bar. He left a copy with them, but never spoke to them about it again. Both he and his publisher were shocked when the song was released by a competing publishing house. Per news articles of the day, Ram's publisher, who had been holding the song back a year because they were coming out with "[White Christmas](#)," sued Gannon and Kent's publisher and prevailed in court. [2] On October 4, 1943, Crosby recorded "I'll Be Home for Christmas" with the John Scott Trotter Orchestra for [Decca Records](#). Within about a month of Kent and Gannon's copyright the song hit the music charts and remained there for eleven weeks, peaking at number three. The following year, the song reached number nineteen on the charts. It touched a tender place in the hearts of Americans, both soldiers and civilians, who were then in the depths of [World War II](#), and it earned Crosby his fifth [gold record](#). "I'll Be Home for Christmas" became the most requested song at Christmas [U.S.O.](#) shows in both Europe and the Pacific and [Yank](#), the GI magazine, said Crosby accomplished more for military morale than anyone else of that era. In December 1965, having completed the first U.S. space rendezvous and set a record for the longest flight in the U.S. space program, the astronauts [Frank Borman](#) and [Jim Lovell](#) hurtled back to earth aboard their [Gemini 7](#) spacecraft. Asked by [NASA](#) communication personnel if they wanted any particular music piped up to them, the crew requested Bing Crosby's recording of "I'll Be Home for Christmas."

NOVEMBER MEETING:

Our guest speaker, Don Perkins presented an in depth program on the history of barns from early England to present day United States. This young man has certainly dug into this subject, and showed all different types, sizes, uses, and ages of barns, including many right here in Cumberland. He will also do his barn show at the May 5th Maine Mayflower Descendants meeting in Auburn.

NEW MEMBERS:

Carl & Jean McPherson.

Norene Ward

Bobbi MacCallum

Kim Dorsky

Jennifer Robbins and Rick

Steve Lawrence

John & Susan Martin

Patsy McSweeney

Lynn & Matthew Goldfarb

Barbara McManus

Welcome to all of you .

ACQUISITIONS:

Mabel I. Wilson School pennant from the Open House held in 1967 from member Ellen Turner. Thank you, Ellen.

A collection of photos from Linda Hanson from the Windham Historical Society of the Arthur Blanchard/ Dr. Hanson property at the corner of Tuttle Road and Maine Street. Linda is a real estate agent, and now that the house is sold, now longer needs the photos in her files. Thanks, Linda

RECONSTRUCTION

The following pictures are from the house and back shed at the house on the corner of Tuttle Road and Main Street. Many remember this as the Arthur Blanchard house; others remember it more recently as Dr. Louis Hanson's office. Thanks to member Alan Small for sending them to us. The first photo is of the fireplace at the Main Street end inside the stable at the back of the house. This room appeared to have been a workshop area. The second is a view of the house taken from the Central Fire Station end of the house. The only part remaining of the house now is the original front part of it. The next photo is of the stable before it was torn down, and the final one is of the new building that is replacing the stable. This will be apartments. As this is being written, there is now a roof on the building, and rotted boards of the house are being replaced.



A HISTORY OF THE HOUSE AT THE CORNER OF 371 TUTTLE ROAD AND MAIN STREET:

Known in the 1790's as the Prince Tavern, was first acquired August 7, 1773 by John Powell, one of the original proprietors of Ancient North Yarmouth. This is lot #70, one of the 100 acre lots in the early subdivision of the town. The land remained in the Powell family until October 18, 1781, when it was sold by Jeremiah Powell to James

Prince, yeoman, for 60 pounds for the northerly half of lot #70, and in 179, he sold one acre of this land for use as a burial ground, now the Congregational Church Cemetery. Later, James Powell's son, Joel, became the owner of this property, and thus became the proprietor of Prince's Tavern. The main highway ran under the archway where stagecoaches stopped and horses were changed from a stable of 15 stalls. Overnight travelers were accommodated in this spacious house. It's not known exactly how long this establishment served as a tavern, but in 1829, Joel Prince sold the homestead to Nathaniel Blanchard, who in 1833 sold it and 74 acres of farmland for \$3,000 to Captain Enos Blanchard. His son, George became the owner in 1874, and his son, Arthur, became owner in 1935 until his death in 1972. In 1974 it went out of the family when it was sold to Dr. William Wyatt. Doctor Wyatt then sold it to Dr. Louis Hanson, who sold it this fall to Steven and Rebecca Williams. This young couple both grew up in Cumberland, are Greely graduates, and have made great strides in renovating the house. The stables had to be torn down, unfortunately, as can be seen by the photos. The structure being built in its place will become apartments, and with this season's mild weather, the builders are able to really move along. The house will stand, and will become a café. Sort of coming full circle to being a tavern-like establishment.

Here are some interesting stories related to the Blanchard family who lived in that home.

The ancestry of the Blanchard family in Cumberland, starts with Thomas Blanchard, who left England in 1639, and settled in Charlestown, Massachusetts. The first Blanchard to come here from there was Nathaniel Blanchard, who arrived in 1743 from Weymouth, Massachusetts. He lived on Route #88, and is buried in the Gilman Street Cemetery on Gilman Street in Yarmouth. Nathaniel had a son, born in 1728 whom he named Nathaniel, who had a son named Beza, born in 1765. Beza married Prudence Rideout in 1792, and they had twelve children. At least three of these sons were sea captains. Beza and Prudence had twin sons born to them in 1798. They were Enos and Sewall. Enos is the son who acquired the farm at 371 Tuttle Road.

Union Hall was built about 1868 for the Cumberland Center Fair which was held for the most part in the pasture owned by Captain Enos Blanchard. He deeded a lot 110' by 82 1/2' to the Agricultural Hall Co. for \$35.00.

During the pastorate of Reverend Isaac Weston in 1831, the Congregational Church was torn down because it was practically in the right of way for a new County Road. The revival meetings for the church were held in the new barn of Captain Enos Blanchard while the new meeting house was being built.

George Blanchard, whose collection of papers, logs, account books, and other ephemera we were able to purchase through the generosity of donations made in memory of Eleanor Copp a few years ago, established a top quality milking herd of Jersey cattle at this farm. A couple of the more interesting papers in that collection are the passport papers for a cow from Jersey, England, and her pedigree paper. We actually have a bovine genealogy at the Cumberland Historical Society. Not many places can claim that.

Many folks remember the apple orchard in the back of the farm where the Middle School now stands, and many young people in Cumberland picked apples for Arthur Blanchard, as well as for Herman Sweetser. The apple stand was dismantled in the 1970's by George and Francis Small, and is now a hunting camp in Bethel, Maine for Francis.

Most of the history of this farm comes from Phyllis Sweetser's Cumberland, Maine in Four Centuries.

CUB SCOUTS DO THEIR FALL RAKING JOB AT THE MUSEUM

The Cub Scouts under the direction of Bob Curtis, who works at Sevee & Maher, once again did a wonderful job of raking leaves, trimming the hedges, cutting back the vegetation at the west side of the building, and staking out the lines for snowplowing. We are all tidied up for the winter weather now. Thanks to them for all that hard work, and to members Dan & Tricia Small for serving them the cocoa and donuts.



DECEMBER STUMPER:

What is wassailing?

NOVEMBER STUMPER:

What is a hornbook?

Answer: A **hornbook** is a book that serves as **primer** for study. The hornbook originated in England in 1450 (Huey, Edmund Burke). The term has been applied to a few different study materials in different fields. In children's education, in the years before modern education materials were used, it referred to a leaf or page containing the alphabet, religious materials, etc., covered with a sheet of transparent **horn** (or **mica**) and fixed in a frame with a handle.



Upcoming programs at Cumberland Historical Society:

January 2012

Ski ME and the Maine Ski Museum Scott Andrews

February 2012

(pending)

March

Maine Maple Syruping

Carolyn Small

April

(pending)

May 2012

The History of Boy Scouts in Cumberland

Michelle Josephson and John Chandler

June 2012

In the Beginning..... the birth of the Cumberland Historical Society Museum

HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL FROM THE CUMBERLAND HISTORICAL
SOCIETY!