



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: Sue Wall

Trustees: G Morgan Knight

Herbert S. Foster, Jr.

Katrina Rich

Brian Jensen

Lynda Wilson Jensen

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.

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JANUARY THOUGHTS:

Skiing is a dance, and the mountain always leads. ~Author Unknown

Skiing is the only sport where you spend an arm and a leg to break an arm and a leg. ~Author Unknown

All things are possible, except for skiing through a revolving door. ~Author Unknown

Snow: a form of precipitation that usually occurs three weeks prior to and the morning of your departure from your ski vacation. ~Author Unknown

Snowboarding is an activity that is very popular with people who do not feel that regular skiing is lethal enough.... I now realize that the small hills you see on ski slopes are formed around the bodies of forty-seven-year-olds who tried to learn snowboarding. ~Dave Barry

JANUARY STUMPER:

Who is Ezra Knight Sweetser, and what important thing did he do for the Town of Cumberland?

(Answer at the end of the newsletter.)

JANUARY PROGRAM:

Contact: Scott Andrews 207-773-9609 schussme@yahoo.com

Carolyn Small, Cumberland Historical Society, 829-4423 or 415-4589 for further information

Ski Museum of Maine's

'Fireside Chat'

MAINE'S NORDIC SKIING HERITAGE: 1870-2013

Fireside Chat offered by Cumberland Historical Society

and Ski Museum of Maine

7:00 PM Thursday, January 17,

at the Cumberland Historical Society 4A Blanchard Road, Cumberland.

After a 30-year period of declining interest, Nordic skiing regained its popularity beginning in the 1970s. Much of this resurgence can be credited to the growth of ski touring centers such as Pineland and informal community trail systems, such as Twin Brook in Cumberland. Cross-country skiing is still on the upswing, notes Andrews, who expects the trend to continue.

“Skiing has been part of the Maine way of life since the late 1800s, offering recreation and competition to both residents and visitors,” says Andrews. “Our museum’s objective is to feed the passion of Maine skiers and to illustrate the significance of our sport to our state’s lifestyle and economy.”

Fireside Chats are traveling outreach programs of the Ski Museum of Maine, a nonprofit organization located in Kingfield. There is no charge for the program, but donations are gratefully accepted. Cookies, using the late Ruth Norton’s famous Hurricane Ski Slope recipe, will be served with hot cocoa and coffee. Greg Sweetser will be the host.

ACQUISITIONS:

Postcards purchased from Post Card Images in Gray, Maine.:



The man on the motorcycle is a Maine State Trooper, possibly Earle Chase from North Yarmouth. Note the pistol on his hip. We think that the place is the restaurant and inn at the head of Wildwood Park. The Cumberland sign on the eave of the building indicates a train or trolley stop, and the building is not the correct style for either of the train stations in the town. Also, neither of the train stations had rooms to let. Further research is being done on this. If this is the trolley line that ran along the Foreside Road, it was chartered as the Portland and Yarmouth Electric Railway on November 31, 1894, and ran until June 28, 1933. It coincidentally stopped running the same day that the Portland to Lewiston line ceased.



This is an angle of the Cumberland Center Station located at Longwoods Road that was not in our collection. Now it is!



One of several postcards advertising the different courses offered at Greely Institute. We have many of the different ones in our ever-increasing postcard collection, including the science lab, the girls' home economics class, the boys' basketball team, and the picture of the Greely Institute building itself.



Pride's Forest Tea Room, located at the southeastern corner of Route 100/26 and Blackstrap Road. This was one of the "go to" places located in this area, because of the proximity to Forest Lake. The Interurban Trolley, from Portland to Lewiston/Auburn serviced the area from 1914 to 1933.



An inside view of the Pride's Forest Tea Room. It was a very busy place while the trolley line existed.



One more view of the Pride's Forest Tea Room.



A fantastic view, looking from southeast to northwest, of Pride's Forest Tea Room, showing the Tydol gas pumps. Forest Lake would be on the left, in back about $\frac{1}{4}$ mile of the trees.



And a final view of Pride's Forest Tea Room. It must have been about this time that the name of the lake became Forest Lake, changing from Goose Pond.



Gray Road Inn, located at the northeastern corner of Route 100/26 and Blackstrap Road. It later became a rug factory, then a dance hall called The Rug Factory. It was across the road from Copp Motors.



Gray Road Inn Park.

CONDOLENCES TO:

The family and friends of our dear member Ruth Eleanor Blanchard Norton. She will be sorely missed by many.

And to members Bert and Diana Copp on the death of Bert's mother, Virginia Copp, the matriarch of the Copp Movers branch of the family. Member Buddy is a grandson, his son, Eli is a great-grandson, and member Lynn Copp is a granddaughter-in-law.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS:

Richard Ortisi-Best of Edgecomb, Greely Institute class of 1956 and member of the Cumberland Fire Department from 1950 to 1964.

Skip Macgowan, husband of member Rachel Bragg Macgowan, and their daughter Alexandra Lowery. Their daughter is already a member as well.

JANUARY STUMPER ANSWER:

Ezra Knight Sweetser and his wife Clara Sturdivant Sweetser owned the Libbeus Tuttle house which was located at the corner of where the Mabel I. Wilson School and the driveway to the Greely Middle School now stand. Ezra was a teacher at the District #3 schoolhouse, which is where the Cumberland Historical Society is now housed. He bequeathed in his will that part of his land should be given to the school district, and a schoolhouse be built upon it. After his death, Clara fulfilled his wishes, and that is why we now have the E. K. Sweetser School, built in 1913, as part of M.S.A.D.51. It is no longer a school, but the offices of the Superintendent of Schools, and the business offices.

NOTICE:

Starting January 22, 2013, we will resume the Tuesday morning gatherings from 9:00 to noon at the Cumberland Historical Society Museum to work. There are many things to do there...a lot like household chores! If anyone is interested in working a couple of evenings a month, please

contact Carolyn at 829-4423, by cell at 415-4589, or by email at csmall1943@maine.rr.com. We can make arrangements.

Portland and Yarmouth are looking for people to be docents for many of their historical places and events. Workshops will be provided. If you are interested, contact Carolyn.

Windham Historical Society is having a "History Mysteries" program on 9:00 AM, Saturday, January 19 at the Windham Public Library.

The Saco Museum is having a display entitled "I My Needle Ply with Skill" January 12 through March 2. The display features Maine schoolgirl needlework of the Federal era.

We are now rid of the defunct copier in the front hall. It did a great job while it lasted. Eric Jensen dismantled it, with help from John Willis. They reclaimed what they could, and disposed of the remainder. We thank them most kindly for that. There is now room in the front hall to put in the two file cabinets that are hogging space in the vault. Those were donated by Eric's parents, Brian and Lynda.

Congratulations to member Steve Moriarty for winning the election for Maine State Senate, replacing member Meredith Strang Burgess. She is now back to being very busy with her business in Portland.

Meeting at Prince Memorial Library for identifying the Grace Hutchinson newspaper photos collection to be announced.

Upcoming programs

February 21 **AT SKYLINE FARM**

7:00 PM A tour of the barn and the incredible collection of carriages.

Presented by Pamela Ames

Refreshments will be provided by the Cumberland Historical Society