



## 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
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	Katrina Rich
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### 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.

## JUNE 2013 VOLUME 100

### JUNE THOUGHTS

My father used to play with my brother and me in the yard. Mother would come out and say, "You're tearing up the grass." "We're not raising grass," Dad would reply. "We're raising boys." ~Harmon Killebrew

It is not flesh and blood but the heart which makes us fathers and sons. ~Johann Schiller

A father carries pictures where his money used to be. ~Author Unknown

When I was a boy of fourteen, my father was so ignorant I could hardly stand to have the old man around. But when I got to be twenty-one, I was astonished at how much he had learned in seven years. ~Author unknown, commonly attributed to Mark Twain but no evidence has yet been found for this (*Thanks, Garson O'Toole!*)

Dad, you're someone to look up to no matter how tall I've grown. ~Author Unknown

### **BUSINESS:**

Our Open House at Memorial Day was a success. We had 22 visitors on the day, and made a few sales. We have a raffle going for a framed sketch of Greely Institute done by Tony Lisa, the funds of which will go into the furnace fund. The raffles are \$3.00 each or 3 for \$5.00. If you would like to buy or sell some for us, please contact Carolyn Small at 829-4423, or by email at [csmall1943@maine.rr.com](mailto:csmall1943@maine.rr.com).

The June meeting will be a MEMBERS ONLY meeting on June 20, at 7:00 PM at the Historical Society building on Blanchard Road. We have some business to discuss and vote on, so it is an important meeting. Please make an effort to attend and help make decisions that will affect the organization.

**JUNE STUMPER:** When Cumberland became a town, how many stars were on the American flag? (Answer at the end of the newsletter)

### **ITEMS FOR SALE:**

Coverlets, and some other items, along with the 2014 calendar with beautiful pen & ink sketches of various buildings, scenes and people from Cumberland in the past. These drawings are created by local artist, Tony Lisa, and each picture has a one-line historical description. There are only 100 of these calendars printed and they are selling for \$10.00 each. Great graduation gifts for a student going away to college! These will all be on sale at the table we will have on Election Day, June 11.

### **I SCREAM, YOU SCREAM, WE ALL SCREAM FOR ICE CREAM!**

If you lived in Cumberland in the 1950's, you probably remember the ice cream stand that B.J. Stratton ran on Gray Road in West Cumberland. That stand is back in business again, named Caddy's, owned by Howell Copp, and run by two of Bubba (Jerald Copp, Jr.) Copp's sons. They are selling Round Top Dairy ice cream. Also at the corner of Blackstrap and Gray Roads, there is a little coffee kiosk sitting where the Pride's Tea Room used to be located, and they sell Shain's of Maine ice cream. Shain's is Hope Foster's

family. In the center of town, Food Stop (formerly Osgood's butcher shop) is selling ice cream, and Doc's is selling gelato. All sorts of cool summer goodies. How many remember Stockholm's wonderful ice cream?



Round Top Dairy Farms, Damariscotta ca. 1940

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Memorial Day May 27, 2013

Thomas Gruber giving his speech



Veterans in front of the monument at Moss Side



Memorial Day Tribute

27 May 2013

Major Thomas Gruber, US Army, Retired, and Town Councilor

I am extremely honored and grateful for this opportunity to address everyone here this morning and represent not only the 725 Veterans, including the 54 new names added this year that are listed on our Memorial Monument behind me. Two of the names include besides myself are my Sisters-in-law. One who is a LTC still serving in the Air Force Reserve and the other, an active member of our community whose kids think it's pretty great that she

served in Iraq. Hopefully, today I will properly and honorably represent all of our veterans and their family members in our wonderful community.

Today is a true demonstration of how we all take the time to come out and display our respects and gratitude to those giving their lives for the most wonderful country in history. We are remembering today these ultimate heroes as well as all those in military service who have served our country and are currently on duty.

Brought up in a family that loved the Army and the United States, my dad instilled in us the values of patriotism and sacrifice. Dad served in WWII and the Korean Wars. Dad was at Pearl Harbor on December 7<sup>th</sup>, 1941. He never once complained or spoke of ill will. His influence led me to a military college and a very rewarding career in the U.S. Army as well. Attending a military college and serving during Vietnam and Desert Storm created a true patriotic spirit in my inner being that remains today.

My father-in-law, who also served in WWII gave me not only a beautiful wife whom has been by my side like most military spouses, but she also served as a civilian serving both the Army and Navy over 30 years. Along with my younger brother, who also retired from the US Army, I also have two brothers-in-law that served our country during Viet Nam and Iraq. We have a very patriotic family.

Memorial Day is the occasion for us to remember those that have made the ultimate sacrifice by giving their lives for our country. To date....the combined number of patriots killed in wars and conflicts our country has been involved in exceeds 1.3million lives, 1.5 million wounded and over 38k missing in action. Those numbers should remind us we are here today, in a community and country, that bestows us our individual freedoms and gives us the opportunity to practice our own beliefs.

Today... we have many men and women returning from active duty, who have served our country well and are adjusting to our communities in search of getting their lives back to normal. We must not forget to do all that we can to provide these brave individuals that put their lives in danger; they are in need of our support.

I would like to close with a verse of one of the most notable war related poems in our history, written by LTC John McCrae, MD in 1915, "**In Flanders Fields**".

***We are the Dead. Short days ago***

***We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset Glow,***

***Loved and were loved, now we lie***

***In Flanders fields.***

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The following is an article submitted by Thomas Bennett, Director of Prince Memorial Library to the "Memories of Maine" magazine, summer 2013 issue.

Give me your poor and indigent:

Maine's pauper laws and the Town of Cumberland Overseers of the Poor

In December 2010, Prince Memorial Library received a grant from the Davis Family Foundation to process the Town of Cumberland Overseers of the Poor collection, funds which were augmented in March 2012 with a grant from the Maine Historical Records Advisory Board. The two grants allowed for

the conservation and study of 1,273 documents dating from 1821-1915, helping provide a picture of how the town cared for its most vulnerable residents during the period.

The Cumberland Overseers of the Poor was the board set up under the authority of the so-called pauper laws, which were passed by the Maine Legislature in March 1821 and governed the treatment of the state's poor and indigent citizens. The state's mandate to its municipalities to provide for the support of their indigent residents was a continuation of the laws in effect when Maine had been part of Massachusetts, which in turn were linked directly to English law, specifically the 1601 Poor Law Act and the 1662 Settlement Laws. Maine's pauper laws remained in effect until the major revision of the general assistance law in the mid-1970s.

The pauper laws stated that legal settlement in a municipality was gained by birth or marriage, through warrant at a legal meeting, by living in an unincorporated place when it became incorporated, or through legal settlement in a town that divided. Minors could gain settlement by serving an apprenticeship for four years in a town and setting up lawful trade within one year of the expiration of their term, while individuals over 21 could gain settlement by residing in a town for five years without receiving support as a pauper. In addition, individuals residing in a town at the law's passage who had not received support as a pauper during the previous year could gain legal settlement in that town.

Cumberland seceded from North Yarmouth in 1821, and the oldest documents in the collection bear that date. One of them is titled "A statement of sundry persons of Sam York," and records interviews with various individuals about the birth and circumstances of Samuel York of Durham. The document is a wonderful example of oral history, and its inclusion in the Cumberland Overseers collection indicates that the Overseers were attempting to determine York's legal settlement. The following excerpt provides an example of the document's contents: "(T)hey are certain that Samuel their son was born the time of a great freshet in Durham that carried away Major Gerrish Sawmill and many of the Bridges in Durham... that Mrs. Durin crossed the freshet near their house by swimming the horse, to attend on Mrs. York... and that Samuel was born within 20 minutes after Mrs. Durin arrived..."

Once legal settlement was established for an individual, a municipality was required to provide relief if the person needed it, while an individual's relatives were obligated to contribute to their support in proportion to their ability to do so. Relief could be of two general types: "outdoor" relief, which referred to support provided within an individual's home, through cash or supplies, and "indoor" relief, in which a person received support indoors, generally in an almshouse or poor farm. One example of outdoor relief in the Cumberland collection is an 1828 receipt for supplies purchased for the town's poor over a two month period, which included 11 lb. of pork, 31 lb. of mutton, 11 feet of wood, six yards of flannel, one-quarterpound of tobacco, one pint of rum and a pair of shoes.

The pauper laws empowered a municipality, through its Overseers, to enter into contracts of indenture. These contracts could bind out as apprentices the minor children of parents who became chargeable to the town and who were deemed unable to care for their children. Male children could be bound out until they turned 21, while girls could be apprenticed until they turned 18 or were married. The contracts were to provide for the instruction of both boys and girls in reading and writing, and for boys in math. Adults who were "able of body, but have no visible means of support, who live idly and exercise no ordinary or daily lawful trade or business..." could be bound out for up to a year, or sent to a work house for the same period.

Present in the Cumberland Overseers collection are 11 contracts of indenture; nine are for boys between the ages of six and 18, one is for an infant girl and one is for an adult male. There are two sets of brothers represented: David and Isaac Webber, and Jacob, Samuel, Benjamin and George Easters. David Webber, the youngest boy to be indentured, was apprenticed twice, first to his paternal uncle at age six and then to his maternal uncle at age eight. While a contract of indenture did remove a child from the care and company of his or her parents, it also provided for education and training that the child may not have received otherwise. The contracts for the eight boys included stipulations that each was "to learn the art,

trade, or mystery” of either a husbandman, farmer or blacksmith. The indenture for the infant girl shows that she was the child of a widow who had recently died. She was to be adopted by John H. Emery of Biddeford, who was paid \$52 for taking the girl and agreed that she would in “no case become a charge to the Town of Cumberland after the expiration of the term of one year from the date hereof...”

Post-revolutionary America questioned the traditional colonial system of providing outdoor relief because it was a community responsibility, and poverty came to be seen as a social problem that should be targeted for reform. A less tolerant view towards long-term dependence led towns and cities nationwide to build almshouses for their poor during the 1820s and 1830s. The almshouse would use hygiene, discipline, and routine to transform the poor into valuable and industrious members of society.

Under Maine law, municipalities were authorized to erect work houses for the employment of the idle and indigent, and anyone receiving support from a town was liable to be sent to a work house. On April 3, 1837, Cumberland voters approved the purchase of “a suitable farm on which to keep and maintain the paupers belonging to this town...” They later voted “to erect a new building on said farm for a workshop.” In 1841, a committee was created to consider building a new house on the town farm, and proposals were requested to build the new structure. On January 7, 1843, the committee issued a report on their inspection of the completed structure. Based on the detailed request for bids, Cumberland resident Tony Lisa drew a picture of what the new town farm building, which is no longer standing, should have looked like.

The 1857 Cumberland County Atlas shows that Cumberland’s town farm was located on the Foreside, not far from the shores of Broad Cove. Close by is the Spear shipyard, which was in operation in the area from 1812 through 1859. A receipt for supplies for the town farm for the period May through December 1843 includes 1,453 lb. of oakum at six cents per pound. Oakum is loose fiber obtained by recycling old rope and cordage, and was mixed with tar and used for caulking in shipbuilding. Picking oakum was a common task in British work houses and penitentiaries, and possibly orphanages, and its presence at Cumberland’s town farm indicates that the farm’s inhabitants were engaged in work that offset the cost of maintaining the farm.

On February 26, 1866, Cumberland voters approved a measure to “sell the Town Farm and all the appurtenances thereof...” The 1865 Overseers report gives one reason for the sale, stating that in “regard to the Paupers now in the almshouse, from the large number that have been supported there for years past, death has swept them away & but one remains as a living monument to mark the house as an almshouse. On the 19<sup>th</sup> inst. Lemuel Hamilton died, he was found dead, having fallen into the fire & burned to death. Emery Gould ran away a few weeks since and has not been heard from.”

Cumberland closed its almshouse apparently due to a lack of residents; this occurred at a time when communities across the country were shuttering their town farms and reinstating outdoor relief as the norm. Indoor relief lost favor in part due to the efforts of Dorothea Dix, the Maine native, social reformer and champion of the mentally ill who during the 1840s travelled the country documenting the conditions and treatment of prisoners and poorhouse residents.

Cumberland was without an almshouse from 1866 through June 1888, when it purchased “a farm and buildings for a town farm and almshouse...” The reason for the change in policy is not given, but hints are available in the Overseers’ annual reports and other town documents. The 1881 report states that “Mrs. Abbie A. Perry made her second appearance in town, being left at the M. C. depot alone and in a feeble condition... Since that time she has been a very troublesome and expensive pauper... Miss Anna A. Merrill became chargeable as a pauper... with a probability of being a constant receiver of aid... Miss Mary Wyman became chargeable... She is in a feeble condition and liable to be a constant expense...” Concerns about ongoing expenses are supported by an examination of town budgets for the period 1879-88, which shows that expenditures on support outpaced appropriations every year, and

increased from 15.36% of the total town budget in 1879 to 22.76% in 1888. The population of Cumberland decreased 13% from 1860 to 1890, so more was being asked of fewer taxpayers in supporting the poor.

Expenditures on support decreased dramatically with the purchase of the town's second almshouse, from \$1,830.44 in 1888 to \$206.42 the following year. Sale of produce from the farm and labor performed by the farm superintendent and residents offset town appropriations, resulting in real costs of between \$40.19 and \$612.80 annually for the period 1889-98. Clearly, the return to indoor relief resulted in savings for the town.

Miss Olive Titcomb, the last resident of Cumberland's second town farm, died on July 12, 1901, at the age of 65, and the almshouse was sold on May 23, 1904. Prior to her death, the words the Overseers wrote in 1866, "but one remains as a living monument to mark the house as an Almshouse," rang true again. Titcomb's passing marked the final chapter of the town's indoor relief system for its poor and indigent.

Outdoor and indoor relief alike were provided throughout the years, and historical analysis allows speculation about the motives behind why one type of aid was chosen over another, and why Cumberland decided to resurrect the almshouse system in 1888. The Overseers' reports include comments implying the welfare of the paupers was important (e.g., "...the paupers... all appear to be comfortable, and contented." "Mrs. Stowell... has taken good care of the poor in the house..." "Israel A. Skillings and wife... have taken good care of the poor..."). These statements indicate the town was providing relief in a concerned fashion, but the fact that Lemuel Hamilton fell into the fire and burned to death in 1865 while living in the almshouse raises questions about the level of care the paupers received. One hopes that Hamilton's situation was atypical, and that the Cumberland Overseers of the Poor provided the town's paupers with the attentive relief and support deserved when the successful members of a community aid their more unfortunate neighbors.

(Thanks for this great article, Thomas.)

Answer to the Stumper: 23 stars



Description: A map of the United States and territories in 1821 after the Missouri Compromise, showing the Free States and territories, the Slave States and territories, and the transitional territories at the time. The States that were absolutely free were Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire, and Massachusetts, the States undergoing gradual abolition New York, Connecticut, Rhode Island, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania, Free by the Ordinance of 1787 held by the courts not to free pre-existent slaves and by the constitutions of the states Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, and the Michigan Territory, territory free by the Missouri Compromise of 1820 (Unorganized Territory of the Louisiana Purchase), and the Slave States and territories Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, Kentucky, Missouri, Arkansas Territory, Tennessee, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, and the Florida Territory.

In keeping with the commemorations of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Civil War years, the following excerpt comes from “Cumberland in Four Centuries” by Phyllis Sweetser:

### Cumberland in the Civil War

#### Hollis True diary

Hollis True enlisted in the U.S. Army in Portland, Maine on July 24, 1862. After spending time at Camp King, he was sent to Fredericksburg, VA, in which he served Co. E., 17<sup>th</sup> Maine Volunteers. His Company was reviewed by President Abraham Lincoln.

Seventeenth Infantry. — Cols., Thomas A. Roberts, George W. West, Charles P. Mattocks; Lieut.-Cols., Charles B. Merrill, William Hobson; Majs., George W. West, Charles P. Mattocks. This regiment was recruited chiefly from the counties of York, Cumberland, Androscoggin and Oxford, and was mustered into the U. S. service at Camp King, Cape Elizabeth, Aug. 18, 1862, to serve for three years. On June 4, 1864, 129 of the recruits of the 3d Me., whose term of service had not expired on the date of the muster-out of that command, were transferred to the 17th. The war department also directed on Feb. 1, 1865, the transfer to this regiment of Co. D, 2nd U. S. sharpshooters. The members of the regiment whose term of service expired prior to Oct. 1, 1865, were mustered out at Bailey's cross-roads, June 4, 1865, and the remaining men were transferred to the 1st Me. heavy artillery. The 17th left the state for Washington Aug. 21, 1862, and occupied the line of forts on the east side of the Anacosta and north side of the Potomac rivers, until Oct. 7, engaged in both heavy artillery and infantry drill and garrison duty. It then joined the 3d brigade (Berry's), 1st division (Bimey's), 3d corps, at Upton's hill, Va. On Dec. 13, 1862, it participated in the battle of Fredericksburg, losing 2 men killed and 19 wounded, and was complimented by Gen. Berry for the steadiness of the men, who were under fire for the first time. The regiment remained encamped at Falmouth, Va., until May 1, 1863, when it took part in the Chancellorsville campaign, being hotly engaged at Chancellorsville on May 2-3, losing 113 men in killed, wounded and missing out of about 625 men in the action. The regiment was next engaged at Gettysburg, during the last two days of the battle, where it lost 132 in killed, wounded and missing. On Nov. 27, it took a prominent part in the battle of Orange Grove, losing 52 men. It wintered at Brandy Station until March 25, 1864, during which time its ranks were filled by returned convalescents and recruits, and numbered about 500 men for the spring campaign. It was now assigned to the 2nd brigade, 3d division, 2nd army corps, and participated in the battle of the Wilderness, losing 24 men killed, 147 wounded and 12 missing. On the 12th, the corps made its famous charge upon the enemy's lines at the Po river, where the regiment lost 53 men, and on the 23d, in the charge which drove the enemy across the North Anna river, it lost 23 men. It was under fire at Cold Harbor, and in two assaults on the enemy's works at Petersburg it lost 84 men. Subsequently it encamped near Fort Sedgwick, where it remained until Feb. 5, 1865, having meanwhile taken part in the attack on the Weldon railroad under Gen. Warren. They subsequently participated in all the movements of the 2nd corps in the vicinity of Hatcher's run, until March 29, 1865. On May 1, it left Burkesville, Va., for Washington, where it was mustered out on June 4. Its aggregate losses during the years 1862, 1863 and 1864 were 745.



NOTICE: THIS WILL BE THE LAST NEWSLETTER UNTIL SEPTEMBER 2013. Happy Summer to all.

Partial agenda and slate of officers for the June 20<sup>th</sup> meeting:

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

WRITE-INS \_\_\_\_\_

Committees needed:

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|-------------------|-----------------|
| 1. 501C3          | 6. Fund raising |
| 2. Program        | 7. Publicity    |
| 3. Furnace        | 8. Other        |
| 4. Refreshments   |                 |
| 5. Special events |                 |