



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
	Linda Fulda

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.

SEPTEMBER 2013 VOLUME 101

SEPTEMBER THOUGHTS:

It is a thousand times better to have common sense without education than to have education without common sense.

Robert Green Ingersoll

Education is not preparation for life; education is life itself.

John Dewey

JUNE MEETING: Officers and trustees were elected as shown on the first page of the newsletter. There was discussion about the upcoming year and committees established,

SEPTEMBER STUMPER: What was the original name of the school on Drowne Road? (Answer at the end of the newsletter.)

SEPTEMBER MEETING : It will be a Saturday Open House on September 7, from 10:00 to 2:00 (or so). Please stop in and bring a friend who might be interested in joining. There will be goodies on hand. Anyone wishing to donate a plate of goodies or an hour of their time to “meet and greet” is welcome to do so. Cap Bragg’s Town of Cumberland baseball team uniforms will be featured.

THIS FALL: The Red Brick Schoolhouse that houses the Cumberland Historical Society is 160 years old this year. The original school for District #3 was directly across the street, but was closed in order to open up this one. “It was a square wooden structure across the road from the current 1853 building. The interior was lighted by six windows. The teacher’s desk was in the back part of the room, opposite the one door of entrance. A stove stood in the middle of the room. On opposite sides of the room were three rows of seats facing the middle and the space between the stove and teacher’s desk was occupied by reciting the classes. This must have been one of the earlier buildings here at the Center.”(from the 1821 History of Cumberland written by Mary Sweetser).

The bricks for the “new” building were fired in a brickyard behind what is now the Prince Memorial Library. Other buildings using bricks from this same yard are the Prince Memorial Library, Greely Institute, and the old Parish House across Main Street from Greely, now a private residence. The schoolhouse served as such from 1853 to 1951, when it was closed, along with all the other district schools, when the school on Drowne Road was built. Hope Shain Foster was the last “schoolmarm” to teach there, and the Greely graduating classes of 1960 and 1961 were the final second and third grade classes to be there. An earlier teacher of note to teach there was Ezra Knight Sweetser, who donated land and money so that a much needed school in 1913 could be built on Tuttle Road. This school bears his name, the E.K. Sweetser School, now housing the Superintendent’s Office.

Some of the classes that attended the District #3 schoolhouse:



This is about 1898. Back row, left to right, in the doorway: Freda Hamilton, Nellie Barter

Second row: Leila Wilson, Grace Osgood, Grace Burnham, Lizzie Crickett, Genevieve Norton, Marvin Hamilton, Myra Burnell, Nellie(Phinelia) Dunn, Blanche Merrill, Emma Merrill, Mabel Blanchard, Teacher; Olive Hayes

Third row: Almira Merrill, Bessie Blanchard, Grace Burnham, Hazel Wilson, Alice Blanchard, Jennie Dunn, Mollie Moulton, Margelia Thomes, Bernice Blanchard, Ernestine Norton, Ralph Burnell, Robert Blanchard

Fourth row: Henry Merrill, Wendall Hamilton, Walter Barter, John Thomes, Herman Sweetser, Burton Shaw, Ralph Blanchard, Chester Merrill, Whitman Dunn, Wilbur Buxton, Harold Blanchard, Harlan Sweetser, Williston Burnell

The last third grade to attend District school #3. This would be part of the graduating class of 1960



Back row, left to right: Teacher Hope Shain, Sarah Flint, Peggy Chandler, Patty Peterson, Jane Frizell, Sandra Budd, Donald Greer

Middle row: Dan Michaud, Pete Langway, Elizabeth Blanchard, Raymond Thibeault

Front row: Roger Peterson, Donald Rawnsley, Brad Hilton, Larry Gower, Russell Hawkes, Billy Oliver



This is the last second grade at District # 3 school. They were part of the Class of 1961

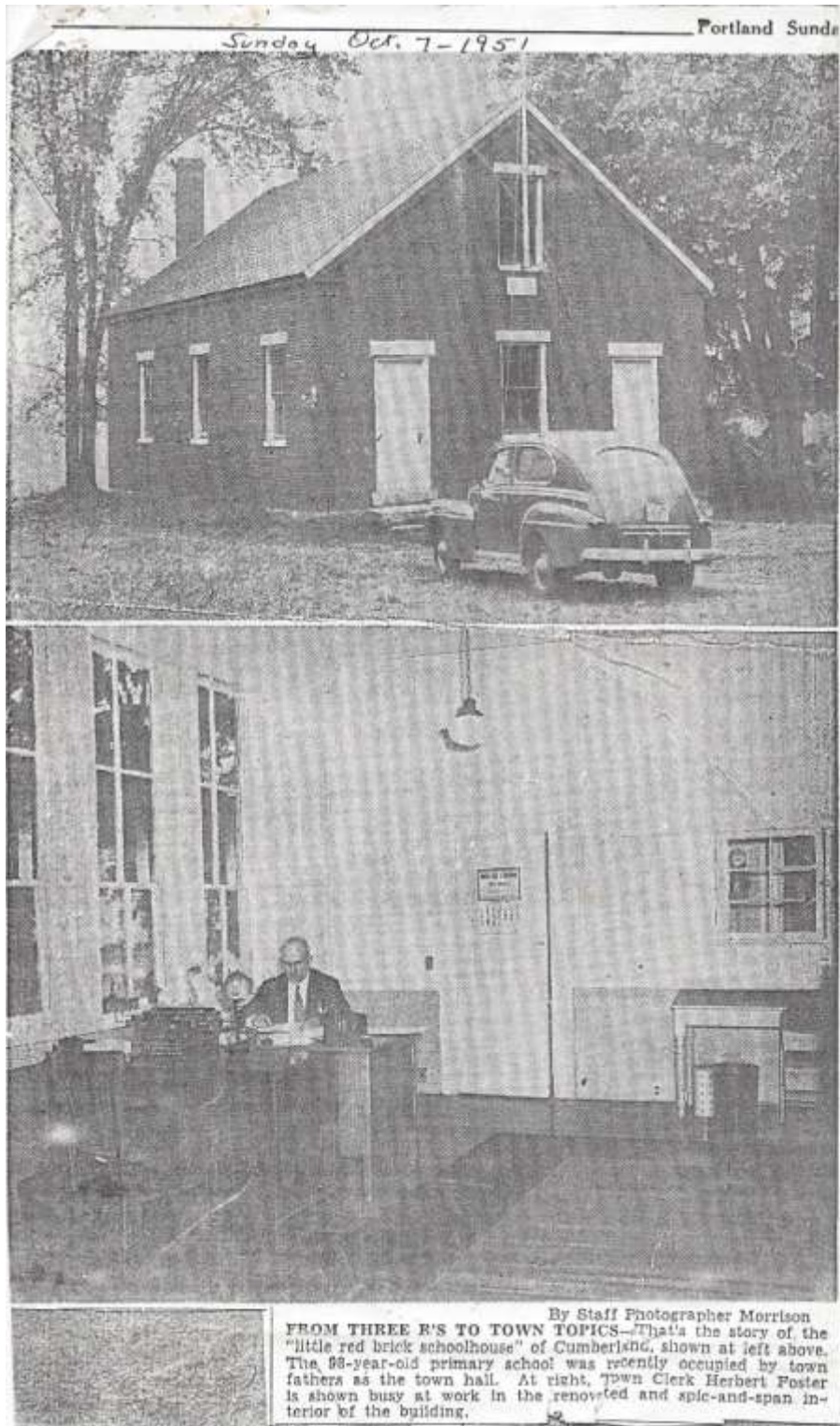
Back row, left to right: Virginia Brown, Kathy Kelly, Nancy Flint, Barbara Jordan, ?, Sandra Joy Brown, Janet Burke, Beverly Dodge

Middle row; Nancy Tame, Sandra Osgood, Frank Bean, Francis Small. ?, ?, Nancy Thibeault

Front row: John Crandall, ?, Jimmy Gower, Stephen Burns, Eddie Newbegin, Jimmy Wiles

The 1853 school, upon being closed, was the Town Office for a number of years, then the Police Station, and finally, the Cumberland Historical Society. In 1989, after years of diligent work by several dedicated folks, the 1853 schoolhouse opened up with grand ceremony as the Cumberland Historical Society. We members today owe a huge thank-you to those who put such great effort into it.

If anyone can identify the “missing persons in these photos, please help us out! Thanks.



The partial newspaper article about the conversion of the District # 3 Schoolhouse to the Town Office.

ITEMS FOR SALE: Coverlets, Christmas cards, “An Ornament of Grace”, 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. There are several large drawings of the Longwoods Road passenger station, sketched by Liz Arbo Wagner for sale, too. Great Christmas gifts!

RAFFLE!!!! To help with the furnace fund, Tony Lisa has donated a framed, matted, drawing of Greely as a fund raising raffle. Tickets are : \$3.00 each, 2 for \$5.00 or 10 for \$10.00.

BUSINESS:

Our big order of business is the furnace situation. The furnace has completely quit. It has served us well all these years, but no longer functions, and the company that made it has been out of business since 2000. We have established a “Feed the Furnace Fund”, and have a committee in place to find options for us to pursue. As we stand now, we’ll have to drain the water pipes for the winter until we can get something put in place. One thing we’re doing to start the fund is a raffle: we’re raffling off a framed sketch of Greely Institute ca. 1900, donated by Tony Lisa. Tickets are \$3.00 each, 3 for \$5.00, and 10 for \$10.00. Another route we’re taking is establishing a 501c3 account to help ensure possibilities for grants. Along that line, Lynda Jensen, Linda Fulda and Carolyn Small have taken a class in Augusta to learn how to write grants. Also there have been three different proposals offered to replace the furnace. We will have a sales table for the week at the Fair. Lynda Jensen is setting up a schedule, so wait for a call from her soon.

ACQUISITIONS:

Barbara Jordan Martin (Greely class of 1961) donated her father’s 1914 Greely Institute diploma. Her father was Ted Jordan, who owned and operated the store and Post Office on Main Street, now the apartment building near the Merrill Monument, and then purchased the Log Cabin Store on Blanchard Road. The family lived in the house beside the store on Blanchard Road.

His wife was Marge and two children were Bruce, Greely class of 1954, and as mentioned before, Barbara, Greely class of 1961.

Pete Langway donated yearbooks from 1963, 1964, 1965 and 1966.

Two items from the Tuttle Road School from Ron Barton of North Yarmouth. One is a program of a presentation at the school on June 17, 1911, and the other is a list of 1903 students in a Christmas souvenir booklet created by the teacher, Carrie B. Humphrey, and includes her picture. These are two items that haven’t been seen before, and are wonderful additions to the collections.

A 1936 and a 1961 Town Report from Donna Bolduc.

NEW MEMBERS: Dick Sullivan of Harrison , Maine. Dick was a 1951 graduate of Greely, and, along with his brother, Don were quite the athletes for the school. WELCOME!

CONDOLENCES: To new member Bernard Michaud , in the death of his wife, Deborah in August.

ANSWER TO THE STUMPER: The Cumberland Elementary School.

Quick overview of Cumberland Historical Society's year from September 2012 to June 2013

September 2012	Open House and membership drive
October 2012	Historical tours for eight 2 nd grades from Mabel I. Wilson School Meeting at Prince Memorial Library hosted by Vice President Annemarie Dawson, and presented by Thomas Bennett, Library Director. Gathering of folks to identify the collection of Grace Hutchinson Portland Press Herald photos. A brief history of Cumberland presented to Rebecca Gervais' 5 th grade class at North Yarmouth Memorial School
November 2012	Maine's first cartographer, Moses Greenleaf, presentation by Holly Hurd Table at Greely High School Craft Fair \$486.00 Election Day table at Cumberland Town Office. \$684.00 Boy Scouts and Webelos raked leaves and toured Cumberland Historical Society Artifact donations from Roger Young Class of 1938 Greely Institute composite picture from Mr. Mason of Falmouth "Willie & Edith" gravestone and story from Brian Jensen and Nancy Latham 8 real photo postcards purchased from Postcard Images of Gray, Maine
January 2013	Ski Me program hosted by Greg Sweetser and presentation by Scott Andrews
February 2013	Meeting at Skyline Farms presented by Pam Ames, Ursula Baier and Gordon Corbett Furnace died
March 2013	Another meeting at Prince Memorial Library. Gathering of folks to identify the collection of Grace Hutchinson Portland Press Herald photos.
April 2013	Meeting at Doc's . Presentation given by owner David Williams.

Acquired 4 bound volumes of Cumberland Town Reports covering the years from 1888 to 1920. from Thomas Bennett, Prince Memorial Library Director

Acquired 4 Rod & Gun Club photos from Dan Fossett

Acquired panoramic photos of Greely Institute from the years 1937 and 1939 from the Potter family. These are two that we did not previously have.

May 2013 Open House at Memorial Day

Acquired a box of artifacts from Ruth Norton's estate.

June 2013 Table on Election Day at Cumberland Town Office. \$426.00

The Tuesday group met every month from September to the end of June. Some of the Tuesdays were skipped, but we met at least two of each month, and got a lot of work done. Still lots to go! It's like owning your own home; there is ALWAYS something to do.

The Cumberland Historical Society was established in 1939. With that in mind, we should plan a birthday party next year. These are excerpts from the 1939 Town Report:

Selectmen elected : Frank M. Rines, Ernest A. Rand, and Fred L. Robinson

Town Clerk: Ann Dunn

Fire Chief: Kenneth W. Chase

Surveyors of Lumber: Gorham L. Farwell, Charles Mountfort, Henry M. Wilson, and Ralph E. Small

Fence Viewers: Henry M. Wilson, George W. Emery, and Ralph E. Small

"The new gymnasium that was built by the town was dedicated last spring as the John T. Gyger Gymnasium. The Manual Training and Agricultural courses are now conducted in this building under conditions much more favorable than previously existed. The old Agricultural room has been converted into a classroom and a game room and made an excellent place to carry on the Dental Clinic."

John Thomas Gyger was the Superintendent of Schools at that time . He died suddenly of a heart two weeks before the "new" gym was to be dedicated. The original name was to be Cumberland Gymnasium, but it was decided to change that name in memory of Mr. Gyger. That name remains today, though it is no longer a gym. Graduates from Greely Institute on June 9, 1939 were Marion Alberta Stevens, Margelia Loring Blanchard, Jane Rand, Gordon Hilbon Rawson, Robert Alton Fields, Chester O. Strout, Millard Kenneth Brown, Emma Alice Robinson, Mary Alice Burnell, Nathalie Ross, Philip Sturdivant Sweetser, George Harold Booth, Grace Evelyn Burnell, Beverly Grace Jacobs.



This is a postcard from the collection at Cumberland Historical Society depicting the students of the agricultural course at Greely Institute. It is one of several postcards from Greely that advertised the courses and athletics offered at the school. Since, at that time, Cumberland was still a town with numerous farms, it was a very important and popular course. The agricultural course students also helped maintain the Town Forest established by Ernest Rand in 1928. As a means of increasing interest in the Town Forest, and incorporating the help from the agricultural class, Mr. Rand organized the planting of pine trees and spruce trees in the Drowne Farm field which abutted the original Town Forest land. That course was discontinued about 1956 or 1957. The website for the Town Forest :

Trailhead

The Town Forest Trail is located behind the Cumberland Town Hall and the old Drowne Road School. Cumberland Town Hall is on Tuttle Road, 0.9 miles from ME Route 9 and 2.4 miles from Middle Road. There is a kiosk marking the beginning of the trail with plenty of free parking. The kiosk features a large map of the trail.

Description

The Town Forest was planted in the 1930s. The trail meanders through distinct forest stands. Plantations of red pine, an old field that is now a white pine plantation, a mixed spruce/pine plantation, and mixed hardwood/softwood stands can be seen along the trail. Some signs remain from a self-guided nature trail explaining some of the natural features of the trail.

The Town Forest Trail is rustic and can be damp at times especially in spring. Caution is advised for small children and the elderly. The trail is mostly flat but there are sections of the trail require navigating tree roots.

There is one section of the trail that is not clearly marked. Roughly a mile into the trail, the trail opens up into a section with tall reeds. Follow the path to the left. You will come out at the bottom of a hill near the town garage. Follow the road up the hill, make a right just before the old school. This leads you to the ball fields. The trail picks up at the far end of the ball fields back to the Town Hall.

Other Information

There is no hunting in the Town Forest, but hunting is allowed on adjacent property. Please use caution during hunting season.

DUES ARE DUE!

Membership Application/Renewal

2013 -2014

CUMBERLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P O Box 82

Cumberland, ME 04021

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

TOWN or CITY: _____

ZIP CODE: _____

TELEPHONE: _____ CELL: _____

EMAIL: _____

Do you your newsletter sent by email _____ or by USPS _____ ?

WINTER ADDRESS: _____

DATES THAT THE WINTER ADDRESS APPLIES: _____

IF YOUR BUSINESS IS INTERESTED IN BEING A CORPORATE SPONSOR, PLEASE INDICATE: _____

Membership dues are \$10.00 per person _____ Corporate membership is \$100.00. _____

Donation to the furnace fund _____

COMMITTEES:

501c3 _____ Furnace _____ Program _____

Refreshments _____ Special Events _____

Publicity _____

75th anniversary of Cumberland Historical Society _____

