Newsletter *of* the Buxton Family Association

110th Annual Reunion

SUMMER 2015

THIS YEAR the Buxton Family Association of America is celebrating its 110th Reunion.

> "What is now known as The Buxton Family Association of America began with a family picnic at the home of Mary Buxton Parks (now Church) at Douglas, Massachusetts, in 1903. Those present were all descendants of Otis Buxton, son of Capt. James Buxton, a soldier of the American Revolution and a direct descendant of Anthony Buxton, a pioneer from England to America in 1637. This family picnic was so thoroughly enjoyed, that before we parted, another picnic plan was already under way for the following year. In 1904, the picnic was held at the Douglas Camp Ground with 30 attending. We expect to continue these gatherings as long as the name of Buxton continues. So—
>
> RAH! RAH! RAH! BUXTON! BUXTON! BUXTON!"

Thus began the history of our great association. (From a handwritten notebook, *Some of the Remembrances along the Road of Life*, written by Mary Buxton Church and given to her great niece for her 10th birthday, July 14, 1941.)

In recent years the BFA has held its Annual Reunion in Slatersville, Glendale, Harmony, North Smithfield (Rhode Island); Danvers, Falmouth, Harvard, Newburyport, Salem, Southbridge (Massachusetts); and Deering, Jaffrey, Keene (New Hampshire). Suggestions and help with our 2016 Annual Reunion will be greatly appreciated. Do you know of a good place to gather?

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS met by e-mail on several occasions to discuss the Mary Buxton Church Scholarship Committee Report and awards, financial status of the scholarship fund and general fund, and planning for our Annual Reunion this year.

We encourage all of you to support the education awards in light of the enormous cost of higher education today. These awards also help students acknowledge their Buxton heritage.

Please consider volunteering your time to our association by becoming a member of the Executive Committee. All offices are open for a vote on August 2, 2015. We need your help.

Hope to see you in Jaffrey.

BUXTON MOTTO: **DO IT WITH THY MIGHT**!

Joyce Buxton Blythe, *President*

IN MEMORIAM

LET US SPEND a few moments with thoughts of our recently departed Buxtons. Our thoughts and prayers are always with them for their place in our Buxton heritage.

John Cullen passed away in Naples, Florida, on February 2, 2015, aged 77.

Philip A. Ellis passed away on December 20, 2014, in Hope Valley, Rhode Island at the age of 87. A great outdoorsman, a proud veteran, a man with a wonderful memory—one who loved to tell

many interesting Buxton stories, He was the nephew of Gertrude Angel, the originator of the MBC Educational Fund and Great Nephew to Mary Buxton Church herself. For many years, along with his uncle Charlie and cousin Allen, he kept the Buxton Cemetery in North Smithfield, Rhode Island, in pristine shape. He is survived by his daughter, Diane Ellis Torres and her husband Weber of Middleton, Massachusetts, and Kyle Ellis and his wife Karen of Hope Valley, Rhode Island.

To all departed Buxtons, we express our thoughts and memories of all, with our thanks for your part of our heritage. ❦

MARY BUXTON CHURCH EDUCATIONAL FUND

The Mary Buxton Church Educational Fund had its beginning in the early 1960s. The first scholarship was granted in 1979. This past year was an eventful one for our scholarship program. Guidelines for the operation of the program were updated and approved by the Association and six scholarships were awarded at the August 2014 meeting.

Our 2014 scholarship recipients came from across the country, hailing from Connecticut, Rhode Island, Georgia, Kentucky and Nebraska. They are studying at both the undergraduate and graduate level. Each received $1,000. They are:

- **Jennifer Bourque**, majoring in Environmental Sciences at the University of Connecticut
- **Margaret Buxton**, majoring in Business at the Georgia Institute of Technology
- **Hanna Putz**, studying Law at the University of Nebraska School of Health and Insurance Law
- **Leah Putz**, studying Surgical Technology at South Eastern Community College
- **Shawn Simpson**, studying Humanities at Bluegrass Community College, and…
- **Jacob Gansert**, majoring in Education and History at Roger Williams University.

The Fund total now exceeds $192,000. Won't you help to keep this wonderful program growing by making a donation? For further information, contact the Chairperson: Donna Buxton Munroe, 24 Pond View Road, Bolton, CT 06043. *E-mail:* donna.munroe@att.net ❦

THE BUXTON CEMETERY

In a letter to our President, **Steve Higgins**, our Cemetery Chair, reports on the Buxton Cemetery in North Smithfield, Rhode Island: "In late fall, I went to the Buxton Cemetery…to plant a few bulbs. Whenever I divide any plants, I take some to the cemetery and plant them along the wall. When I was doing that, a man and boy crossed the road and chatted with me. I don't know if you remember him, but Paul LeClair lives across the street and he kept an eye on the cemetery. I don't know if Paul is still

living, but his son Heath and Heath's son were the two people with whom I talked. Heath's brother… and Heath are the ones who cut up and hauled away the old hemlock that came down near Capt. James Buxton's grave. When the tree came down, it broke one of the grave markers and I was going to have it fixed, but Heath had already done so. The cemetery looks pretty good, but I will cut down some saplings in the cemetery and putter around in the spring. Anyway, it appears that the LeClairs are still keeping watch over our Buxton-Buffum ancestors." ❦

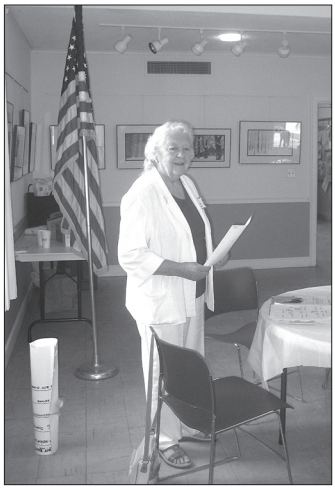
LAST YEAR'S GATHERING

The 109th Buxton Family Association annual reunion was held at the Civic Center in Jaffrey, New Hampshire. About 20 attended, caught up on Buxton matters, enjoyed lunch and even were entertained by a magician! ❦

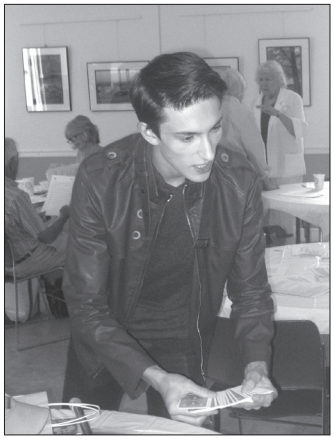
At rear, L to R: Steve Higgins, Rob Stephenson, Art Bliss, Joy Bliss, Jack Child, Donna Buxton Munroe.

L to R: Norm Preece, Barbara Buxton Boisse, Alice Preece, Frances Rollinson, Theresa Maze, Wendy Mayhew with daughter Hannah, Leon Jones, Avis Child.

Kneeling in center: Sally Jones. *Kneeling at right:* Joyce Buxton Blythe with Whitney, the dog.



Retiring president, and long-time Association genealogist, Barbara Buxton Boisse.



Christopher Commander plied us with magic.

MORE ON THIS YEAR'S REUNION

Jaffrey, New Hampshire, is once again the site of our Annual Reunion. The town lies at the foot of Mt. Monadnock in the southwest corner of the Granite State. **NOTE THAT THIS YEAR IT IS BEING HELD ON A SUNDAY: AUGUST 2, 2015**.

Our venue is the **American Legion Post 11**, 20 Webster Street, Jaffrey. It's just off Route 202 as you approach Jaffrey from the north. *Mr. Mikes* convenience store is on the corner of Webster and Route 202.

We'll have coffee and tea at the outset of the day and a lunch of hamburgers & hotdogs, salads, desserts and a variety of drinks. ❦

YOUR CURRENT OFFICERS

Joyce Buxton Blythe, *President*
426 Hedgehog Mountain Road
Deering, NH 03244

John Child, *Treasurer*
P. O. Box 721
North Eastham, MA 02651

Donna B. Munroe, *Scholarship Chair*
24 Pond View Road
Bolton, CT 06043

Frances Rollinson, *Vice President*
182 Wright Crossing Road
Pomfret, CT 06259

Avis Buxton Child, *Secretary*
(See listing above)
Summer address: 24 Point Lane
Pascoag, RI 02859

Steve Higgins, *Cemetery Chair*
19 Lisa Ann Circle
Greenville, RI 02828

THE COLONEL AND THE JOURNAL: AN AMAZING CAREER

by Patrick T. Conley

Gonzalo Edward "Ned" Buxton Jr. (1880-1949) was born in Kansas City, Mo., to Dr. G. Edward and Sarah A. Harrington Buxton. When he was a teenager, his family moved back to their Rhode Island ancestral home. Showing early signs of leadership and intelligence, Ned graduated from Worcester's Highland Military Academy in 1898 as class valedictorian.

After graduation from Brown University in 1902, Buxton worked as a staff reporter and telegraph operator at The Providence Journal, before entering Harvard Law School from which he graduated in 1906. For the next decade, he combined a military career in the Rhode Island National Guard with work at The Journal, where he rose to treasurer and business manager. From 1912 to 1916, he held the rank of major and served as judge advocate of the Rhode Island National Guard.

When World War I began in August 1914, Buxton became a war correspondent for The Journal (whose publisher, John R Rathom, avidly pro-British) in France, Germany and Belgium. When the United States entered the war, in April 1917, he was commissioned major of infantry and assigned a command in Georgia of the Second Battalion of the First Officers' Training Camp. In this capacity, he met and mentored the man who would emerge as the war's greatest American hero, Alvin York.

York later awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor, was weighing whether to apply for conscientious objector status because of his religious beliefs when he came under the command of Buxton. During several meetings in which they discussed the Bible's teachings, Buxton persuaded York that there were instances when the sword could become the instrument to restore peace and preserve justice.

Buxton let York take a 10-day leave to visit his mountain home in Tennessee where he could wrestle with his conscience. When he returned, York was ready to engage the Germans. Years later, Sergeant York stated that Buxton "was the first New Englander I ever knowed [sic}.... I was kinder surprised at his knowledge of the Bible. It made me happy to know my battalion commander was familiar with the word of God."

In 1941, as the United States geared up for World War II, Hollywood made the film "Sergeant York," in which Colonel Buxton was played by Stanley Bridges while Gary Cooper starred as York. Both the colonel and the sergeant attended the premiere of this Warner Brothers movie at the Astor Theater in New York City.

Buxton performed his own heroics upon his arrival in Europe in May 1918 by engaging in such crucial battles as the Battle of Saint-Mihiel and the Meuse-Argonne Offensive. He was awarded the Purple Heart and the Distinguished Service Medal.

Soon after the war, Buxton became prominent in a movement among 20 officers to establish the American Legion, chairing the committee that drafted its constitution. In 1922, following his return to

Rhode Island, he was promoted to colonel and commanding officer of the 385th Rhode Island Infantry, 76th Division, and held this post until his retirement, in 1932.

Buxton's life in the private sector was equally impressive. In 1926, he rose to the presidency of the giant textile firm of B.B. & R. Knight Company, which at one time had 22 cotton mills under its Fruit of the Loom trademark. He held that post through the 1930s.

After the outbreak of World War II, Buxton was recruited by President Franklin Roosevelt and William J. Donovan, one the Buxton's fellow founders of the American Legion, to join a new civilian unit attached to the White House. It was charged with informing the president concerning the intelligence activity of the Army, Navy, State Department and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. This unit evolved into the Office of Strategic Services, forerunner of the Central Intelligence Agency.

Donovan appointed Colonial Buxton as his first assistant director of the OSS. After distinguished service with the organization, Buxton resigned in June 1945. Many of the critical activities of Buxton ("Number 106") remain classified.

Following World War II, Colonel Buxton reentered the business world, heading several boards and companies and continuing his civic involvement, including the chairmanship of a $6-million housing and development campaign for his alma mater, Brown University.

He died in Providence after a long illness on March 15, 1949, at 69. He was survived by his wife Aline, his only son, Coburn, and three grandchildren. In November 2014, Buxton was inducted into the Rhode Island Heritage Hall of Fame. ❦

Patrick T. Conley is historian laureate of Rhode Island and president of the Rhode Island Heritage Hall of Fame.

Gonzalo Edward "Ned" Buxton Jr.

ANTHONY BUXTON from *FIND A GRAVE*

The Website **Find A Grave** (http://www.findagrave.com) has an extensive record of our Ancestor, **Anthony Buxton**. He's reported to be buried in an unmarked grave in Goodale Cemetery (also known as Buxton Cemetery), in Danvers, Massachusetts. The photo below (from *Find a Grave*) is captioned "Section of veterans plaques and flags set aside to honor men of the Buxton family who served their country from the Revolution, War of 1812, Mexican War and Civil War. Exact locations of their graves have been lost to time."

Birth: 1601, Wookey, Somerset, England.
Death: May, 1684, Salem, Essex County, Massachusetts.

Father: John Taylor BUXTON
b: 1568 in Wookey, Somerset, England.
d: 08 March 1629 in Wookey, Somerset, England.
Mother: Isabell BROWNING
b: 1580 in Yarley, Wookey Parish, Someset, England.
d: 1632 in Wookey Parish, Someset, England.

Immigration: Came to Salem in 1637 with his cousin William VINCENT and Wm. Vincent's mother. All noted in Roger Conant's list of grantees of marshlands, made December 1637.
"On 9 August 1637, at Salem town meeting, Anthony BUXTON was allowed five acres of land. He was an appraiser of Ann Fuller's Estate in March 1662. His wife was witness to a nuncupative will of John Leach in April 1669."
Anthony BUXTON was joined by his brother Thomas BUXTON, who was at Salem by 1648. Thomas BUXTON was a widower, and died at Salem 1654. Anthony BUXTON was appointed to administer his estate.

Marriage: Elizabeth N.
b: 1623 in England
d: 1713 in Lancaster, Worcester, Massachusetts.
Marriage: 1643 in Salem, Essex, Massachusetts.

(In 1692 Elizabeth BUXTON signed the testimonial to Rebecca NURSE's character in the Witch Trials. She signed as Elizabeth N. BUXTON. In the June 1692 witch trials, Elizabeth BUXTON was described as being "grand, wise and skillful.")
Children: Anthony, Samuel, James, Thomas, Joseph, Hannah, Rachel, Elizabeth, John, Lydia, Mary and Sarah. In 1662 they lost two children in six days; and in 1676 they lost three children from infectious disease. These were a son of 22 years, a daughter of 20 years and another grown daughter.

"Will of Anthony Buxton, of Salem, dated March 8, 1683-4, mentions wife Elizabeth, daughter Elizabeth, wife of Isaac Cook, to son, John Buxton, his 80 acres (given him by the town of Salem lying on Ipswich river, daughter Lydia and her children, daughter Mary and her children, daughter Sarah & her children, to my son John my great bell metal morter which I brought out of England, son Joseph to have what is left to his mother after her decease, daughter Hannah ten pounds to be p'd her on her marriage; appoints his wife Elizabeth ex'tx of the will, and his son Joseph to assist her.
Witnesses, Nath'l Felton, Robert Fuller & Wm. Orne. Proved in Court 29 July, 1684.
Inventory of above estate taken May 30, 1684, by Robert Fuller & Sam'l Aborne Sen'r, amount £238, returned by widow Elizabeth who is app'ted adm'x, 29 July, 1684."

Source: Ira Patch. "Abstracts from Wills, Inventories, &c., on file in the Office of Clerk of Courts, Salem, Mass."

Children:

John BUXTON
b: 01 July 1644 in Salem, Essex, Mass.
d: 16 May 1715 in Salem, Essex, Mass.
Marriage1: Mary SMALL
d: 27 Feb 1676 in Salem, Essex, Mass. (dau. of John and Anna SMALL)
Married: 30 March 1668 in Salem, Essex, Mass.
Marriage2: Elizabeth HOULTON (dau. of Joseph HOULTON and Sarah INGERSOLL)
Married: 07 Oct 1677 in Salem, Essex, Mass.

Mary BUXTON
b: 1646 in Salem, Essex, Mass.
d: 25 March 1716 in Lancaster, Worcester, Mass.
Marriage: John COOKE
b: 06 July 1647 in Salem, Essex, Mass. (son of Henry COOKE and Judith BIRDSALL)
d: March 1716 in Lancaster, Worcester, Mass. (Will proved 20 March 1716)
Married: 28 Dec 1671 in Salem, Essex, Mass.

Elizabeth BUXTON
b: 1645 in Salem, Essex, Mass.
d: Dec 1690 in Salem, Essex, Mass.
Marriage: Isaac COOKE
b: 3 April 1640 in Salem, Essex, MA (son of Henry COOKE and Judith BIRDSALL)

d: 11 Sept 1689 in Salem, Essex, Mass.
Married: 03 May 1664 in Salem, Essex, Mass.

Lydia BUXTON
b: Feb 1647 in Salem, Essex, Mass.
d: 1708 in Salem, Essex, Mass.
Marriage1: Joseph SMALL
d: May 1676 in Salem, Essex, Mass.
Married: 26 Dec 1672 in Salem, Essex, Mass.
Marriage2: Joseph HUTCHINSON
b: 1635. (son of Richard HUTCHINSON and Alice BOSWORTH)
Married: 28 Feb 1678 in Salem, Essex, Mass.

Rachel BUXTON
b: 27 Feb 1650 in Salem, Essex, Mass.
d: 24 Dec 1675 in Salem, Essex, Mass.

Sarah BUXTON
b: 1651 in Salem, Essex, Mass.
d: May 1676 in Salem, Essex, Mass.

Anthony BUXTON
b: 06 Sept 1653 in Salem, Essex, Mass.
d: May 1676 in Salem, Essex, Mass.

Samuel BUXTON
b: 14 Aug 1655 in Salem, Essex, Mass.
d: 24 Feb 1675 in Salem, Essex, Mass.

James BUXTON
b: 08 Aug 1659 in Salem, Essex, Mass.
d: 15 Oct 1662 in Salem, Essex, Mass.

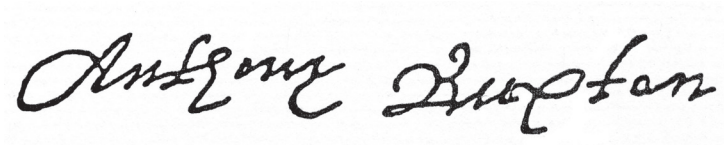
Thomas BUXTON
b: 24 Feb 1661 in Salem, Essex, Mass.
d. 20 Oct 1662 in Salem, Essex, Mass.

Joseph BUXTON
b: 17 July 1663 in Salem, Essex, Mass.
d: Feb 1752 in Salem, Essex, Mass.
Marriage: Hester SOUTHWICKE
b: 26 June 1665 in Salem, Essex, Mass. (dau. of Daniel SOUTHWICKE and Hester BOYCE)
Married: 1689 in Salem, Essex, Mass.

Hannah BUXTON
b: 27 Jan 1665 in Salem, Essex, Mass.
d: 1732 in Salem, Essex, Mass.
Marriage: David FOSTER
b: 16 Oct 1665 in Salem, Essex, Mass. (son of John FOSTER and Martha TOMPKINS)
d: 18 Sept 1748 in Salem, Essex, Mass.
Married: 13 Jan 1687 in Salem, Essex, Mass.

Sources:
Walter Goodwin Davis. "The Ancestry of Sarah Johnson, 1775-1824." Portland, Maine, 1960, p.86
Sidney Perley. "History of Salem, Mass." p.450
New England Historical Genealogical Register, Vol. 103, p.223

Burial: Goodale Cemetery, Danvers, Essex County, Massachusetts.
Created by: Lisa Clark
Record added: January 23, 2014
Find A Grave Memorial Number: 124002674



The signature of Anthony Buxton (1601-1684), the Pioneer. This appears on the will of John Marsh that Anthony witnessed on March 28, 1674.

"In 1638 the selectmen of Salem granted to the Reverend John Phillips, a non-conformist rector of Wrentham Church, England, right to establish a village on the land now called Danvers and Peabody. His condition was that he would settle and build up the place. He agreed but did not fulfill his promise. However, such men as Hutchison, Goodale, Flint, Needham, Buxton, Swinerton, Andrews, Fuller, Wolcott, Pope, Rea, Felton, Osborn and others who had come earlier or at that time to the area of the new village, remained and may be regarded as the founders of Salem Village. They were called 'the farmers' to distinguish them from the people of Salem Town."

Goodale Cemetery (also known as Buxton Cemetery), in Danvers, Massachusetts, where Anthony Buxton lies in an unmarked grave.

110th Annual Buxton Family Association Reunion

Sunday, August 2, 2015, 10 am to no later than 3 pm.

American Legion Post 11, 20 Webster Street, Jaffrey, NH.

Please complete this form and return it to Avis Child at P. O. Box 721, North Eastham, MA 02651 no later than **July 24th**.

- ❑ I/we plan to attend. Number of adults & children 12 or older at $15: _____ Children under 12 (free):_____
- ❑ I/we would like to made a donation to the Mary Buxton Church Educational Fund $_____
- ❑ I/we would like to made a donation to the Buxton Family Association General Fund $_____
- ❑ I/we enclose a check made out to the "Buxton Family Association" for a total of: $_____
- ❑ I am/we are not able to make it this year but keep me/us on the mailing list.

Name: _____

Address: _____

_____

Telephone: _____ E-mail address: _____

NOTE: If you wish to attend and have not made reservations by July 24th call Joyce Buxton Blythe at (603) 464-2770.

The American Legion Post 11 at 20 Webster Street , Jaffrey, NH.

TO:

Buxton Family Association
c/o Avis B. Child
P. O. Box 721
North Eastham, MA 02651

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED