

## New Bradley Beckett Local History Fund

Bradley Beckett published A History of Thomaston, Maine for Young Readers in 1974. This book grew out of his avid interest in local history from an early age and a love of teaching. For 26 years he taught 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade, first at the Thomaston Academy building and later at the Thomaston Grammar School. He wrote the History of Thomaston, his third book, with his 5<sup>th</sup> grade students in mind, and even included some of them in completing the production, as noted in the Acknowledgments section. Tragically his life was cut short by cancer in 2002, shortly before his 50<sup>th</sup> birthday.



Bradley Beckett at a favorite pastime

Recently the Beckett family donated a case of the second printing of his book to the Thomaston Historical Society. It is being used to help kick off the **Bradley Beckett Local History Fund**, which will seed school projects in local history. Currently Oceanside Middle School teachers, Rachel Burns, Bruce Gamage, and Lynnette McLaughlin, are planning future projects with Susan Devlin, President of the Thomaston Historical Society. Under discussion are a possible Then and Now book, a cemetery cleaning and profiling project, and a Thomaston time line to be displayed in the former Lura Libby School if preliminary plans to convert the former school into a municipal building come to fruition.

The first 50 donors of more than \$20 to the fund will receive one of the books. Donors are encouraged to write a memory note about Brad to include in a booklet being prepared for the family and school. All funds will be held by the Historical Society for future school history projects. Donations can be made out to Thomaston Historical Society, PO Box 384, Thomaston, ME 04861. Please note that the donation is for the Bradley Beckett Local History Fund. Contact [info@thomastonhistoricalsociety.com](mailto:info@thomastonhistoricalsociety.com) for more information. Donors will be kept apprised of the progress of the projects if an email is included with their donation.