
**EXETER HISTORICAL SOCIETY
P.O. BOX 141
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**NEWSLETTER
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**MEMBERSHIP FEES:
SINGLE - \$8 / FAMILY - \$12
DUE ANNUALLY
TEL. 285-7903 OR 379-2449**

Well, we finally got a little snow, and Christmas is over with. Now we can get back into our normal routine.

At our last meeting we decided to have our spring Rummage and Bake Sale on Saturday, June 1st, 2002. Hopefully the masons will let us use their hall again, as this seems to be a good location.

Our plans for the "Welcome to Exeter" signs is now taking shape. We are working with Skye Dillon, who designed the signs and is submitting it to the town. We will have signs made for the five major roads leading into town.

We still have about 30 sets of the historical notecards left from the 100 sets we had made. There are four in the set, with envelopes, at a cost of \$3.00 per set.

It is with regret to report that another old building in town has been demolished. The old Butters home at the corner of Valley Avenue and the

Between the Mills Road will soon be gone. Demolition started in November. The Butters family were very prominent in town, involving themselves in the military, politics, and running many businesses in the East Exeter area. Flavel Butters was very active in the towns first library, which was established at East Exeter in 1826. This home was later purchased by Horatio Perkins, and was the home for many years of Stan & Katie Perkins. The home was damaged by fire in July 1979, but was restored. It has not had steady residents living in it since a tragic killing took place there in 1975.

We have finally completed our photography project. We now have photographed every home in town that is 100 years old, or more. We also took pictures of the store, churches, school, municipal building, etc.

We are pleased to announce that our society was chosen as a recipient of the Allstate Giving Campaign through the United Way. We now receive a monthly check to deposit into our bank account.

We have purchased paint and brushes, and this spring will restore the village directional sign at Exeter Corner. This sign is more than 75 years old. We will also redo the signs at the Post Office and the Municipal Building.

MILITARY HISTORY

Exeter has a vast military history, too much to include all of it in these pages.

The Militia Company of Exeter was of the same company formed on the Penobscot River in 1776 during the Revolution. The headquarters was a rude fort on Mt. Hope in Bangor. In 1800, the company covered Bangor, Glenburn, Levant, Corinth, Exeter, and Charleston. In 1805, the company was divided, with the new company embracing the towns of Exeter, Corinth, Levant, and Stetson. On April 30, 1811, Josiah Barker was elected Captain, and on the first Tuesday in May of 1811, there was a training at his house in Exeter, this being the first "militia training" in Exeter. In August of 1811, Corinth and Levant formed their own company, and in 1816 Stetson formed it's own company. This left Exeter with the original company, which became "The Militia Company of Exeter". In 1818, Ira Shepardson was elected Captain, and in 1822, Joseph Tibbetts was elected Captain. In 1824, a new company was formed, called the Exeter South Company, embracing the southern half of the town, and Stephen Chamberlain was elected Captain. The officers of these companies changed about every two years, far too many names to list here. In 1839, a draft was made in the companies by order of Colonel Charles Piper, for minute men, to be

in readiness any moment called for, to enter upon service in the "Aroostook War". Draftees included 11 men from the Exeter Militia, and five from the Exeter South Company. A new company was raised at this time, called the Exeter Volunteers. It consisted of ten men. One member, Nathan Walker, was also a member of the Exeter Cavalry. All of these men of the Exeter Volunteers, were the first to arrive at what is now Fort Fairfield, Maine, on the Aroostook River, where they encamped in snow, and immediately commenced the construction of the fort, which they named in honor of Governor Fairfield, of Maine.

Many of the first settlers of Exeter had served under Washington during the American Revolution. A total of 12 men made Exeter their home, when settlement began, and their burial sites can be found in several of the town's cemeteries.

Although Exeter had only been incorporated for one year, with a population of about 200, seven men had enlisted and served in the War of 1812. Some were stationed at Machias and Eastport, while others went west and fought in the Battle of Chatauguay Woods.

In 1814, when the British ascended the Penobscot River and took possession of Castine, Bangor, and Hampden, Captain Barker and his

Exeter North Company, were called out and ordered to march to Hampden, and to join the regiment there, in order to prevent the British from capturing the warship "Adams", commanded by Capt. Charles Morris, and then lying at anchor for repairs. Upon arriving at Bangor, Barker met up with Morris and his crew, who had blown up the ship, and were on their retreat through the woods. Here, Barker received orders from General Blake to proceed no further, and to return to Exeter. Morris and his crew returned with Barker to Exeter, where they remained several days, to rest. One of Morris's crew, a sailor named Robbins, who had once been cast away on the coast of Barbary, where he was for a long time in captivity, published a journal of his adventures upon his return, which was found in most libraries. When Morris and his crew left Exeter, Robbins presented

to Ira Barker, his musket, which was kept for many years as an heirloom in the Barker family.

The Muster Roll of the Exeter Company, in 1817, consisted of three commissioned officers, eight non-commissioned officers, and 43 privates.

Exeter's record in the Civil War is one to be proud of. With a town population in 1860 of 1,853, the town boasts an honor roll of 191, as recorded in the Office of the Adjutant General. During the war, Exeter paid the third highest bounty in Penobscot County, \$52,605.00, after Bangor and Hampden.

No residents from Exeter served in the Spanish-American War, which broke out in 1898.

During WWI, 26 men served from Exeter, two of whom died in action.

The historical society has the complete list of soldiers' names from these military companies and wars.



FORT FAIRFIELD, BUILT
BY THE EXETER
VOLUNTEERS IN 1839

BUTTERS-PERKINS FARM
EAST EXETER, MAINE
BUILT CA. 1820
PHOTO TAKEN AFTER
FIRE GUTTED THE
HOME
IN JULY 1979

