
**EXETER HISTORICAL SOCIETY
P.O. BOX 141
EXETER, ME 04435-0141**

**NEWSLETTER
MAY-JUNE 2002
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**MEMBERSHIP FEES:
SINGLE - \$8 / FAMILY - \$12
DUE ANNUALLY
TEL. 285-7903 OR 379-2449**

We had our meetings on March 11th and April 8th. At the March meeting we voted in as our Board of Directors: Mabel Hawes and Freda Sanborn of Exeter, and Cindi Hicks of Corinth.

We got permission from the town and placed a lock on the display cabinet at the town office to prevent any thefts, as there are historical items on display, as well as the town's trophies.

We chose four old photos that we had printed into postcards, and are now available for 50 cents each.

We decided to reprint the town business directory in May, with updates, & will be available at local businesses.

New members: Elwell & Cindi Hicks of Corinth; Elvin Hawes of Bingham; and Dorothy MacDonald of Corinna.

Further meetings will be held May 13; June 10; Jul.8; Aug.12; Sep.9; Oct.14; Nov.11; and Dec.9, all at 6 P.M. at the town office.

Special thanks goes to Mabel Hawes, who donated a commemorative plate depicting Ft. Fairfield. The plates were

given to the soldiers of the Aroostook War, who built the fort. The plate was handed down from her great grandfather.

Thanks also go to Floyd & Olivia Curtis, and Lewis & Velma Leavitt, for loaning us many papers and photos to copy. Thanks also goes to Sharon Buswell, who sent us records of the Civil War soldiers of Exeter, and to Martha Northup, who sent us a story of the building of the Valley Avenue Road.

A hearty congratulations goes out to Violet Small. On April 10th, Violet turned 103. A party was held for her at the Dexter Nursing Home on April 9th. She was born in 1899 in Ipswich, England. She came from Canada to Monticello, where she met Herman Small, in 1918. They married on November 7, 1918, and moved to South Exeter in 1932. Violet is the current holder of the Boston Post Gold Headed Cane, for being the oldest citizen of Exeter. She has one daughter, Mavis Hewes, who lives in South Exeter.



GEOGRAPHY

Exeter is located 45 degrees north latitude, and 69 degrees west longitude from Greenwich. The town is 50 miles northeast of Augusta, and 20 miles northwest of Bangor. It is 36 square miles and contains 24,480 acres.

The town is bounded on the north by Garland, on the west by Corinna, on the south by Stetson, and on the east by Corinth. It's corners are bounded on the southeast by Levant, on the southwest by Newport, on the northwest by Dexter, and on the northeast by Charleston.

Exeter is in the upper reaches of the Kenduskeag Valley. The town is somewhat uneven, with a high ridge running west to east through the southern part of the town, with the highest points on Bragg and Tibbetts Hills. Most of the town slopes toward the major stream that drains it, French Stream, which runs west to east through the center of town. The four main tributaries to the French Stream are Dow, Footman, Allen, and Andrew Brooks.

The town contains bedrocks of Limestone, and the great slate belt of Penobscot and Piscataquis Counties runs through the town. Veins of ore and galena were found here, and were mined during the 1880's. Small traces of silver were found to be in the ore, but not enough to mine the silver by itself. Although giant granite boulders were found on many farms, no

granite outcroppings have ever been discovered. One granite boulder was so large, half of it was used in the foundation for the Warren Butters farm in 1856, the other half was used in the foundation for the Episcopal Church in 1874. As many as six quartz veins have been discovered in the western part of the town, and were also mined during the 1880's. The Exeter Mining Co. was formed in June of 1880, and mining lasted for 10 years with shafts up to 70 feet deep, and rail lines to transport the ore. The Exeter Iron Works were located at East Exeter.

There is a heavy growth of timber in the town, with a wide variety of trees. Maple trees grow readily, and many farms made maple syrup and sugar. There was a heavy growth of hemlock, which was a money crop when the bark was used for tanning leather. Many large pine stumps can be seen in pastures to show pines were once in great abundance. Many of the older homes are found to contain wide pine boards and large hewn timbers. White cedar is still plentiful. Fruit farming was big business, and the town boasted some of the best apple orchards in the state.

Most of the town today is geared toward dairying and potatoes. In 1934, Exeter grew more potatoes than any other town in Maine, outside of Aroostook County.

EXETER GEOGRAPHICAL FEATURES-PAST AND PRESENT

- ALLEN STREAM:** Source-Garland. Course-Garland, Exeter. Tributary to French Stream. Length-5.5 miles. Fall-80 feet.
- AMES HILL:** Location in Exeter.
- ANDREW BROOK:** Source-Exeter. Course-Exeter. Tributary to French Stream. Length-2.5 miles. Fall-200 feet.
- ATKINS BROOK:** See Allen Stream.
- BOND MILL HILL:** Chamberlain Meetinghouse Road. Elevation-340 feet.
- BRADBURY RIPS:** Location on French Stream near the Fogler Road. Early baptisms were conducted here.
- BRADBURY'S CORNER:** Location in Exeter.
- BRAGG HILL:** See Browns Hill.
- BROWNS HILL:** Tibbetts Road. Elevation-560 feet.
- CANNEYS CORNER:** See South Exeter.
- CHAMBERLAIN BOG:** French Stream, Chamberlain Meetinghouse Road.
- CIDER HILL:** See Crowell Hill.
- CROWELL HILL:** Cider Hill Road. Elevation-460 feet.
- CUTLER MILLS:** See East Exeter.
- DOLE HILL:** Dole Hill Road between Fogler & Tibbetts Roads. Elevation-500 feet.
- DOW BROOK:** Source-Exeter. Course-Exeter. Tributary to French Stream. Length-3 miles. Fall-300 feet.
- EAST EXETER:** Village. Intersection of Valley Avenue, Fogler, & Between the Mills Roads.
- EAST EXETER MILL POND:** French Stream, East Exeter.
- EATON HILL:** Eaton Road near Exeter Mills. Elevation-400 feet.
- EXETER:** Town. Penobscot County, Maine. Area in acres: Land-24,480; Inland water-0; Bog or Swamp-1,056. Bounded by Garland, Stetson, Corinth, & Corinna. Marblehead Academy Grant-March 11, 1793. Settled-April 1801. Incorporated-February 16, 1811, the 179th town. On the 45th Parallel of Latitude. Name before incorporation-Blaisdelltown.
- EXETER CENTER:** Village. Intersection of Valley Avenue, Stetson, & Exeter Roads (Rte.43).
- EXETER CORNERS:** Village. Intersection of Garland Road & Exeter Road (Rte.43).
- EXETER MILLS:** Village. Intersection of Exeter Mills & Eaton Roads.
- FOOTMAN BROOK:** Source-Garland. Course-Garland, Exeter, Corinna, Exeter. Tributary to French Stream. Length-5.25 miles. Fall-200 feet.
- FRENCH MILL POND:** French Stream, French Mills.
- FRENCH MILLS:** Village. Intersection of Stetson & Fogler Roads.
- FRENCH STREAM:** Source-Corinna. Course-Corinna, Exeter, Corinth. Tributary to Kenduskeag Stream. Length-10.75 miles. Fall-250 feet.
- GREENBUSH SWAMP(OR BOG):** South side of Greenbush Road. Area-200 acres.
- HAWK HILL:** Hawk Hill Road, north of Cider Hill Road. Elevation-580 feet.
- HILLS CORNER:** See Linnells Corner.

HODGE BROOK: See Andrew Brook.
KENDUSKEAG STREAM: Source-Garland Pond. Course-Garland, Exeter, Corinth, Kenduskeag, Glenburn, Kenduskeag, Glenburn, Bangor. Tributary to Penobscot River. Length-33.5 miles. Fall-300 feet. Drainage area-214 sq. miles.
KENTS CORNER: See South Exeter.
KINGS MILLS: See Exeter Mills.
LINNELLS CORNER: Intersection of Tibbetts & Brown (Perkins) Roads.
LINNELLS HILL: See Browns Hill.
OAK HILL: Location in Exeter.
PREBLE BROOK: Local name for section of Kenduskeag Stream. Swimming hole.
SOUTH EXETER: Village. Intersection of Stetson, Tibbetts, & Chamberlain Meetinghouse Roads.
SOUTH EXETER BOG: Tibbetts Road, South Exeter.
STEVEN'S MILLS: See East Exeter.
STUBBS CORNER: Intersection of Matteson & Exeter Roads (Rte.43).
TIBBETTS HILL: Tibbetts Road. Elevation-560 feet.
TITCOMB HILL: Location in Exeter. Corinna line. Elevation-500 feet.
WEST BRANCH KENDUSKEAG STREAM: See French Stream.