
**EXETER HISTORICAL SOCIETY
P.O. BOX 141
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**NEWSLETTER
JULY-AUGUST 2002
VOL. 3, NO. 4**

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

On April 14th we attended a regional meeting of historical societies at the Old Town Museum. Ten societies attended, with discussions, refreshments, and a museum tour. Everyone had a great time.

On April 28th we attended the quarterly meeting of the Mid Maine Association of Historical Societies, held at the Corinth Museum. Eleven societies were in attendance. At the meeting, Stewart Bean, President of the Exeter Historical Society, was elected Vice-President of the Association. Each society gave a brief history of their group, followed by refreshments, and a tour of the Corinth Museum. A good time was had by all.

We held our annual spring rummage & bake sale on June 1st at the Masonic Hall at Exeter Corners. It was a great success. We also received a generous money donation from Lee & Edith Stone.

Another project we have planned is to place a marker on the Tibbetts Road

in memory of Sarah Tozier. She was the wife of the first settler. She died in 1803 and was buried next to their log cabin. Her grave still remains beneath the road that was later built over the site.

The historical society has offered to work with the masons to do some much needed work at the masonic hall. We have offered to clean the entire first floor of the building, paint the bathroom, do outside groundwork, help with the building of a ramp & railing, and the purchase of curtains for all the windows. We are still waiting for a response from the masons.

Thanks go out to John Fogler, Charles & Clara Perkins, Lewis & Velma Leavitt, and Dorrice Wetzler, for loaning us many old photos and documents to copy. Thanks also goes to Lori Brown of Mansfield, Mass. who sent us a military history of Exeter, including the WWII list. They were in possession of her father, William Landry, who was born in Exeter, and died recently.

New members: Charles & Clara Perkins, Wayne & Sue Day, Lewis & Velma Leavitt, and Lee & Trudy White, all of Exeter, and Ruth Goff of Bangor.

Congratulations goes to Glenn Ross of Exeter. On June 11th he won the Republican primary race to run for Penobscot County Sheriff in the November elections. He will

be running against the Democratic winner, Timothy Richardson. Ross is currently the Chief Deputy of the Penobscot County Sheriff's Department.

The origin of "SLEEP TIGHT"
Many, many years ago people slept on old rope beds. The beds had to have their ropes rewound and tightened every night at bedtime... so one could "sleep tight".

The origin of "MAD AS A HATTER"
Many years ago local people, called "hatters" made hats of all types. The process for forming the felt in the old stovepipe hats involved using mercury. After many years of handling the mercury, many "hatters" became a little "off" or "crazy". Thus was born the term, "mad as a hatter".

Excerpts from J.T.Morton's store record book at Exeter Mills:
Began to rain about 5 P.M. April 29, 1850 Rained hard all day until 6 PM;
May 6, 1850 Began to rain at 8 A.M. Rained at 10 A.M. Weather cold for the season. Shower & thunder & lightning for 4 hours commencing at 8 o'clock P.M. Cutter floom gave away about 2 o'clock P.M. May 7, 1850; Richard Barley at my store June 15, 1850 loaded with matches & candy, bound west; June 18, 1850 Hot as hell & no rain; July 2, 1850 Weather so cold in the morning that I built a fire in the store. Several remarked it felt comfortable to have a fire; July 17, 1850 Overcast in the morning, a little cloudy all day. Wind & strong all day. Stage passed at 1/4 to 3 P.M.

For the second year in a row, we entered a float in the Corinth Old Home Days parade. This year's parade was held on June 22nd. Last year we took second place, but this year we are pleased to announce that we took top honors. The Stars & Stripes theme float consisted of three of our members in costume as Betsey Ross, the Statue of Liberty, and Uncle Sam. The float was adorned with red, white, and blue garland & bunting, accented with choice antiques and fresh cut flowers.



OUR WINNING FLOAT

Miss Margaret Tibbetts is currently 105 years old. She was born on the Tibbetts farm on the Tibbetts Road on December 4, 1896. She was the daughter of Clarence & Elizabeth Tibbetts. She graduated from Exeter High School in 1914. She afterwards attended the Eastern State Normal School in Castine taking on a teaching career. Her first teaching job was

in Swanville, followed by Stetson and Medford. She attended the University of Maine from 1921-1923, and received her degree. She was the first girl from Exeter to receive a degree from UMO. She then taught school in Houlton, Boston University, and Newton, Mass., She came back to Maine and taught school in Augusta from 1928 until her retirement in 1962. In 1958 she had moved to Manchester, Maine, just outside of Augusta. In 1961 she sold the family homestead in Exeter, after 132 years in the Tibbetts family. She had inherited the farm solely after the death of her sister, Celia, in 1960.

After retirement, she continually volunteered at schools, nursing homes, and community centers. In 1986 she received the Jefferson Award, a national award given by the American Institute for Public Service, Washington, D.C. She is currently the oldest living member of the Maine Teacher's Association. Today she resides at a nursing home in Windsor. "Hats Off" to a wonderful lady.



MARGARET TIBBETTS



MARGARET TIBBETTS - 1920

BANGOR DAILY WHIG & COURIER, July 4, 1899:
EXETER'S BLAZE - CONSIDERABLE PROPERTY DESTROYED ON MONDAY - Hotel Hill, Public Hall, and Residence Burned - Blaze Caught in Barn Belonging to George S. Hill - Loss, \$85,000.

The town of Exeter was visited by a fire on Monday which destroyed considerable property. The residence of George S. Hill, the Hill House, and the public hall at that place being burned. The fire caught about noon in the stable of George S. Hill and spread very rapidly. Herbert Brockway was employed there and he had left shortly before for Ripley on business. He does not smoke and the cause of the fire could not be discovered.

Efforts were made to save the nearby residences and the house of F.W. Hill was rescued. Part of the furniture in the George S. Hill house and in the hotel was saved. The race program arranged for the Fourth will not be interfered with by the fire. The wires were down between Garland and Exeter and news of the fire could not be obtained to the full extent.

BANGOR DAILY COMMERCIAL - July 3, 1899:

FIRE AT EXETER - Hotel Hill, Public Hall, and Residence Burned - Blaze Caught in Barn Belonging to George S. Hill - Residence of F.W. Hill Saved with Difficulty - Loss \$85,000

Exeter had a bad fire Monday, which destroyed the residence of George S. Hill, the Hill House, and the public hall at that place. The fire caught about 12 o'clock in the stable of George S. Hill and from there spread very rapidly. Herbert Brockway was employed there and he left shortly before for Ripley on a business trip. As he is a man who does not smoke, it is difficult to ascertain the cause of the fire. Efforts were directed towards saving the nearby residences and the house of F.W. Hill was rescued from the grasp of the flames. Part of the furniture in the Geo. S. Hill house and in the hotel was saved. The loss is estimated at about \$5,000; insurance, \$3,500. While the destruction of the hotel and the hall will be felt seriously, the race program arranged for the Fourth will go on as planned.

The wires were down between Garland and Exeter and news of the fire could only be gathered with difficulty.

BANGOR DAILY COMMERCIAL - July 6, 1899:

A NEW HOTEL FOR EXETER

F.W. Hill of Exeter, owner of Hotel Hill destroyed by fire Monday, with other valuable property in that town, was in Bangor on Wednesday, in an interview with a reporter, Mr. Hill said: "I shall rebuild the hotel, making a much better house than was on the site before, modern and up-to-date in every particular. It will contain 30 sleeping rooms, with conveniences, and will be ready for occupancy by the date of the opening of the Exeter Fair". Mr. Hill said that in addition to the insurance already mentioned in these columns, there was \$1,500 on furniture, enough to raise the total to \$5,000. Mr. Hill said that he shall also, later, build a dwelling near the hotel site, to replace one destroyed by the fire. Races will be held at Exeter on August 15.

