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

**NEWSLETTER
JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2003
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**MEMBERSHIP FEES:
SINGLE - \$8 / FAMILY - \$12
DUE OCT.1ST ANNUALLY
TEL. 285-7903 OR 379-2449**

Well, we sure hope Santa was good to all of you this Christmas, and we hope you are all keeping warm on these cold winter days.

THE CALENDARS ARE READY!!
Our Exeter Historical calendars for 2003 are now ready for purchase. They include a double cover photo, and a photo for each of the twelve months, with descriptions. Each month also had two to three historic facts described in that day's box. The calendars sell for \$7.00 each, and may be purchased from Deanna Wetzler at 379-2449, Stewart Bean at 285-7903, Exeter Variety, or you can order by mail. Just send a check to our address, with an additional fee of \$2.00 for postage & handling. Checks may be made out to Exeter Historical Society.

It is with great sadness to report the death of Azure Dillon of Exeter. She died in a tragic auto accident on December 21st in Guilford, along with

two others. Our deepest condolences go out to Paul & Genie Dillon and their children.

Congratulations goes out to Glenn Ross of Exeter. He won in the November elections against Timothy Richardson by a 2-1 margin. Ross is now our new Penobscot County Sheriff.

At our last meeting we decided to have our annual spring rummage & bake sale on the first Saturday in June.

New members: Sandra Eldridge of Casco; James Sady of Rockport; and Paul & Elizabeth Eaton, and Patty Jubinville, all of Exeter.

Our new "Welcome to Exeter" signs are now finished and have been installed. Many thanks go to Skye Dillon and Jeff Eastman for all their work.



Some people have complained about the location of the signs not being at the town line. We had to find a location that was level for installation, not in an isolated area where teenagers could destroy them, an area where they would

not block the view for people coming out of their driveways and respect of their maintained property, and an area where they would not be buried in drifting snow during the winter. We hope this explains why they are where they are.

MISCELLANEOUS HISTORY, NEWS, & NOTES

The first saddler in town was John Chamberlain, who came here in 1803, and died in 1830. The first shoemaker was Thomas Townsend, who came here in 1809, and died of smallpox in 1821. Ebenezer Quimby, Townsend's neighbor, also died at the same time of smallpox. The two were buried side by side between the two farms on the Greenbush Road, where they still remain today. The first house-joiner was Samuel Hersey, who finished off the first schoolhouse in 1812. He was followed by Stephen Holt in 1815, who was also a wheelwright. He built the first wagon ever constructed in town. The first hatter was Joseph Bradbury who came here in 1806, and opened his hatter shop on the Dole - Peabody - Fogler Farm in 1814. The first blacksmith was Zenus Dexter who came here in 1817. His shop stood very near the site of the East Exeter schoolhouse. The first printer was Benjamin F. Tozier, who started a newspaper here in 1843, called "The

Pioneer", but it didn't last long, from lack of patronage. The first cabinet maker was David Adams, who built his house at Exeter Corner in 1821. The first tanner was Hazen Eastman, who came to Exeter Mills in 1820. The first tin-plate workers were William C. & Leonard P. Smith, who opened their business at Exeter Mills in 1835. The first goldsmith was John A. Mayhew, who ran his trade at Exeter Corner for many years. The first chair-maker was Samuel K. White, who died here of cholera in 1849. The first tailor was David Dinsmore, who died shortly after leaving town in 1851. The first painter, glazier, and paper-hanger was Daniel Dole, who purchased the Joseph Bradbury Farm in 1816. This later became the Peabody - Fogler Farm, on the Fogler Road. The first butcher & meat vendor was Consider Glass, who started buying farmers' calves and lambs in 1841. The first library was opened at East Exeter in January of 1826, and John Huckins was the first librarian. Later, libraries were opened at Exeter Corner and Exeter Mills. The first post office was established at Exeter corner on May 1, 1824. The first State Senator from Exeter was Ebenezer Higgins, in 1837. The first State Representative from Exeter was Winthrop Chapman, from 1827 - 1831. The first coroner was Josiah

Barker on June 24, 1829. The first Dedimus Justice was Isaac Jacobs on July 7, 1821. The first Justice of the Peace was John Chamberlain on March 20, 1816. The first Deputy Sheriff of Penobscot County from Exeter was Francis Hill. The first Sheriff of Penobscot County from Exeter was the Hon. Francis W. Hill, in 1855. The first merchant was Samuel Currier, who came here in 1819, and opened his store at East Exeter in 1821, on the site where afterwards stood the Abbee House, and now the site of Mac Peirce's house. The first physician was Dr. Benjamin Evans, who came here in 1817. The first lawyer was John B. Hill, Esq., who settled at Exeter Corner in 1827. His successors at Exeter Corner include David Barker, who became a well known poet, and Samuel Cony, who became Governor of Maine in 1864. The first saw and grist mill was built by Levi Stevens at East Exeter in 1813. These mills lasted for 104 years, burning to the ground in the summer of 1917, along with the other businesses on the west side of the village. The first carding and cloth-dressing mill was built by John Atkins at East Exeter in 1821. This mill burned in the winter of 1825, and then was rebuilt by John Cutler, where afterwards stood the Cutler Mills for more than sixty years. The first militia training in Exeter took place on the first Tuesday in May of 1811, at the home of Josiah Barker,

on the Tibbetts Road.

There are a total of eight cemeteries in town, and three private burial sites, that we know of. The oldest is the Bragg Cemetery on the Tibbetts Road, originally known as the "Old Burial Ground" on Browns Hill. This was established in 1803, with the oldest existing stone dated 1823. The next one is the Osgood Cemetery on the Peabody Road, established in 1805, with the oldest existing stone dated 1821. The Tibbetts Cemetery on the Tibbetts Road was established in 1832, with that being the oldest existing stone. The Vickery Cemetery is located on the Downing Road. It was established in 1840 with that being the oldest existing stone. This cemetery contains the only private family mausoleum in the town. The Skinner Tomb contains the remains of that family. The Exeter Mills Cemetery is on the Eaton Road in Exeter Mills. The oldest existing stone here is 1834. The Crowell Cemetery is on the Cider Hill Road, and the oldest existing stone is 1812. The Exeter Center Cemetery is located on the Stetson Road in Exeter Center. This is the largest cemetery in town, and the oldest existing stone is dated 1826. The Chamberlain Cemetery is located on the Chamberlain Meetinghouse Road, and the oldest existing stone here is 1836. The Episcopal Churchyard

Burial Ground is located directly behind the former Holy Trinity Episcopal Church at Exeter Corner. It is a fenced in burial site containing the graves of two of the ministers of the church, along with the wife of one of them. Thomas Townsend and Ebenezer Quimby are buried side by side in a field on the Greenbush Road which was located between the two farms the men owned. They both died in 1821 of smallpox. Sarah Tozier, wife of the first settler, is buried on the Tibbetts Road, directly across from where the Brown Road intersects it.

DEATH OF CAPTAIN S. B. DAVIS

Bangor Daily Whig & Courier

Monday April 7, 1873

Captain Stephen B. Davis, formerly of Exeter, Maine, son of Richard Davis, Esq., died at Shiloh, Merango County, Alabama on February 26, aged 52 years. Captain Davis, formerly connected with Bonded Warehouse Business in New York, during the war, was Ensign on the U.S.S. Eutaw. Since then he has resided in Shiloh and being a thorough Union man, his life has been continually sought by the Ku Klux Klan. Their last attack upon him was in the spring of '72 when he was dragged from his house, beaten until he was supposed to be dead and then carried in the woods and left. He was discovered and brought back by some negroes in his employ, but never wholly

recovered from his injuries, which eventually caused his death.

CHILD'S BURNS PROVE FATAL AT EXETER

Bangor Daily Commercial

Oct. 18, 1923

Wednesday afternoon, Oct. 16, while her parents were working in their potato field near the house, little Arlene Frances Ellis, only daughter of Gerald & Marguerite Ellis, was so severely burned that her death occurred in a few hours. The child was in the field with her parents only a short time before she came running from the house with her clothing on fire and in answer to questions later she said she had found some matches in the house. She was three years old last February and a very sweet, attractive little child. There is some question as to the real cause of the fire, as the matches were on a high shelf and they were not thought to be anywhere she could reach them. The flames were extinguished by her father and a physician was summoned from East Corinth. It is thought that the little sufferer inhaled flames, as she kept asking for water and did not complain of the surface burns. Her release came before morning. It has been many years since there has been a death in Exeter that has awakened such universal feelings of sorrow and regret as has this tragedy.