

\*\*\*\*\*

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

**NEWSLETTER  
MAY - JUNE 2003  
VOL. 4, NO. 3**

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

\*\*\*\*\*

Hope you are all doing well this spring, such as it is. It just doesn't seem to want to warm up and stay. I suppose it will get here, eventually.

We have been selling all of our products this past winter. Calendars for 2003, and placemats are available at Exeter Variety, and at the Town Office. You may also order through the society.

We are currently working on new placemats, our 2004 calendar, and cookbooks. Our new placemat will have pictures of ten old farms in Exeter, and our calendar will feature thirteen miscellaneous photos of the town. Our cookbook will feature all recipes submitted by local residents.

The Mid-Maine Association of Historical Societies met at the Dover-Foxcroft Historical Society on March 30. Election of officers were conducted at this meeting. The new President is Stewart Bean, of the Exeter Historical Society, Vice-President

is John Battick, and Secretary/  
Treasurer is Mary Annis, both of the Dover-Foxcroft Historical Society. We are all saddened by the death of Jim Bryant of the Brownville Historical Society, past President of the Association. The next meeting will be held on September 7th at the Brownville Historical Society.

Our annual spring rummage and bake sale will take place on Saturday, June 7th, at the Masonic Hall at Exeter Corners village. The sale will run from 10 AM until 3 PM.

We will again this year be entering a float for competition in the Corinth Old Home Days parade. This year the parade takes place on Saturday, June 21st. It begins at 9:30 AM and will proceed down Main Street, from the Middle School. This years parade theme is "Storybook Road". In 2001 we took 2nd place, and last year we took 1st place. We will be hoping for 1st place again this year. Our Historical Society will also be sponsoring the Pie Eating Contest at the carnival in the town park, at 2:30 PM.

We now have a membership of 32 single individuals or families. Our newest members are Clyde & Sandra Smith of Exeter; Joseph Owen of Augusta; and Phillip & Nancy Chamberlain of Winslow.

## EXETER MILLS

Exeter Mills village is located at the intersections of the Exeter Mills, Eaton, and Between the Mills Roads. During the 1800's it was known as King's Mills. This village built up quickly in the 1800's and was quite a thriving community. The Kenduskeag Stream runs through this village and several businesses were opened along the stream. The stream has since had the name changed to French Stream.

The first merchant here was Zebediah Holt. He was followed by Benjamin Plummer, Philbrick B. Tay, William Hunnewell, David N. Buffum, Thomas J. Hill, George W. Libbey, Edward and John Snow, Benjamin B. Brown, Mark Parker, Nathaniel and Charles Brown, Thomas Mansfield, John Whitney, J. T. Morton, Edmund T. Canney, Benjamin R. Laird, Horace Messenger, C.A. Faucette, Wahsburn & Chase, and Arthur Chase.

There was a water power in full operation here. Located here was a sawmill, grist mill, machine shop, two blacksmith shops, and Samuel King had a carriage factory. This was later owned by Wadleigh & Woodbury. Hazen Eastman settled here in 1820. He had a tannery for many years and a rake factory was located next to his home. This tannery was later owned by S. J. Tay. Samuel K. White was the first chair-maker in town, and he died here in 1849 of cholera. William C. & Leonard P. Smith made tinware and started their business here in 1835.

There was also a hat factory, and Carleton Bathcelder made earthen pottery. Mr. Nevins had a boot and shoe shop near the stream, and Benjamin F. Tozier was the first printer in town. He established the only newspaper in town, in 1843, The Pioneer, but it didn't last long due to lack of interest. There was also a millinery shop, and later a candy store.

The post office here was the third established in town and opened on December 6, 1844. David Buffum was the first postmaster. The post offices were located in the principal store in each village. This office was located in the store at the intersection of Mills and Eaton Roads, in the home later occupied by the Folsom and the Michaud families. This place burned in the 1990's.

The Exeter Mills Ladies Literary Society was formed on December 20, 1873, and eventually established a small library of 600 volumes. They were also instrumental in the construction of the Exeter Mills Hall in 1876, which became their headquarters. Exeter Grange No. 86, P of H, was established at this village on January 9, 1875, and they used the Exeter Mills Hall for their meetings, as did the Universalist Parish, as they had no church in town. The Good Templars also used this hall for meetings. This hall served the whole community and suppers and dancing to the music of an

orchestra were a common occurrence. This hall was demolished in the fall of 2000.

The last store in this village was run by Arthur Chase. It was previously Washburn & Chase, who had moved here from Exeter Corner in 1917, when they sold that store to Carl Smith. This store is now gone but was located on the corner of the Mills and Eaton Roads, between the Glidden and Field homes. Washburn & Chase sold their own brand of canned coffee back when they were running both stores, at the Mills and at Exeter Corner.

Dr. Samuel W. L. Chase built a 2-1/2 story two section house in the village in 1870, one section for his family to live, and the other for patients

rooms. In conjunction with this was natural mineral springs which were said to be among the best in New England. This is now the Glidden house, but the smaller section has been torn down. The Exeter Mills School, No. 6, was built in 1823 on the Exeter Mills Road. It was located where Lyall Downing built his potato house, near Route 43. The Exeter Mills Cemetary is located at the bottom of Eaton Hill on the Eaton Road, and here you can find the graves of many of the area residents, including the Eastman family, who were among the first settlers here.

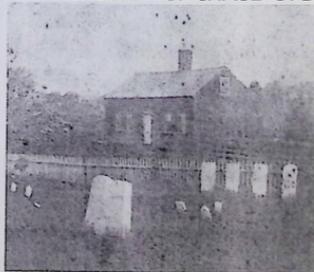
Exeter Mills Me.



EXETER HOSPITAL (LEFT) &  
WASHBURN & CHASE STORE



TOP PHOTO-EXETER MILLS  
BOTTOM PHOTO-EXETER MILLS HALL



WOODBURY-WING-ALLEN-KEISOR-  
EASTMAN HOUSE CA.1815

