

THE PIONEER II

EXETER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. BOX 141

EXETER, ME 04435-0141

NEWSLETTER

JULY - AUGUST 2003

VOL. 4, NO. 4

MEMBERSHIP FEES:

SINGLE - \$8 / FAMILY - \$12

DUE ANNUALLY

TEL. 285-7903 OR 379-2449

You may have noticed the new heading at the top of this newsletter, "The Pioneer II". Benjamin Tozier started the first and only newspaper in town in 1843 at Exeter Mills. It was named "The Pioneer". Due to lack of interest, the paper did not survive very long. We have now revived the old name with a slight addition, "II".

We held our annual spring rummage and bake sale on June 7th at the Masonic Hall. It was a great success. At the sale we also sold our new placemats, depicting ten old farms in town, for \$3.50 each. They are laminated and washable. We also sold our old placemats, notecards, postcards, and our 2003 calendars, which are now discounted at \$3.00 each.

Our 2004 calendars are at the print shop now, and we are holding off our cookbooks until next spring.

We finally got new railings and handles, and an additional step at the

Masonic Hall. The work was done by Mark Peirce. Mark did a great job, and we send a big thank-you out to him.

We attended a ceremony at the Cornerstone Baptist Church at Exeter Center on June 10th. Skye Dillon was awarded his Eagle Scout Award, the highest recognition given by the Boy Scouts of America. Skye earned his award by designing the new "Welcome to Exeter" signs, and getting the signs made. They were placed in four different locations in Exeter, with the help of Jeff Eastman, and Skye's Boy Scout Troop. Skye is a member of the National Honor Society, the DRHS Band, Governor's All-State Marching Band, the Tennis and Golf Clubs, and JV Basketball. He is a delegate to Boy's State, served as class president for grades 9 & 10, and serves as a Trustee with the Pine Tree State 4-H Foundation. A big congratulations, Skye!

New members: Mrs. Donald Hobbs of Bar Harbor; and Vernelia Johndro of Exeter.

It is with regret that we report that structure fires destroyed two buildings in town recently. The first was a potato house on the Brian Campbell farm, just east of Exeter Corners. It occurred May 8th and the entire structure was leveled despite efforts by six area fire departments. The second occurred May 31 on the Call Road.

The Southard - Buswell - Timberlake - Prescott farmhouse was destroyed. It was the last old farmhouse in on the road, and about 150 years old. Three fire departments responded.



CAMPBELL FIRE ON ROUTE 43



HOUSE FIRE ON THE CALL ROAD

Congratulations goes out to Laila Sholtz-Ames of Exeter. She won first place in the United States Institute of Peace annual contest for the State of Maine. Her essay was entitled "Africa's Forgotten Wars: Ethiopia, Eritrea and Angola". She received a \$1,000 college scholarship and a week long trip to Washington, D.C.



SKYE DILLON WITH HIS PARENTS, PAUL & GENIE

For the third year, we entered a float in the Corinth Old Home Days parade. The parade theme was Storybook Road, and our float was "Little Red Riding Hood". We took third place in the competition. We also sponsored the Pie Eating Contest at the festival. First Place winners were: Round #1: Daniel Baker of Cumberland, ME; Round #2: Abbey Lopez of Corinth; Round #3: Jonathan Shaw of Hudson.



OUR WINNING FLOAT

It is with much sadness to report that Exeter's oldest citizen, Violet Small, passed away in Dexter on July 5th, at the age of 104. She was the current holder of the Boston Post Gold Headed Cane. She was born in 1899 in England, married Herman Small in 1919, and then came to Exeter in 1928. Her husband predeceased her in 1991.

We also would like to report that Maj. Jay Aubin died on March 21 during Operation Iraqi Freedom, one of the first casualties of the war. His parents are Phillip & Nancy Chamberlain of Winslow. Phillip is originally from Exeter, and he and his wife are members of our society.

Both of these families have our deepest sympathy.

EAST EXETER VILLAGE

This village is located at the intersection on Valley Avenue Road.

The first merchant here was Samuel Currier, who came here in 1819 and opened his store where the Abbee House was later built. The Abbee House burned in 1984, and Mac Peirce's house now sits on that location. Currier was followed by John Huckins in 1824, and Reuben Prescott in 1827. He was followed by Joseph Kendricks, Henry Hill, David Barker, Warren Abbee, John Cutler, Butters & Shaw, and L. D. Butters was in operation here from 1859 to 1881. John Adams opened his store & pharmacy in 1880, and was followed

by Mr. Twombly. In 1891 L. H. Smith opened a store & ran it until 1909, when the oldest son, Carl, took over. This store burned in 1917, along with all the mills on the west side of the village. A new store was built in 1922 & this is now Peirce's trucking garage. This was last run by another son, Clyde. The first mills were built by Levi Stevens in 1813, & burned along with Smith's store in 1917. A cloth dressing/carding mill was built in 1821, & burned in 1825. John Cutler purchased the property & built new mills. They were later run by Cutlers' son, John, & then by Flavel Butters, followed by his sons, & later, the Leathers. These all burned in 1917. The first library opened in 1826 in the store of John Huckins. The first blacksmith was Zenus Dexter, in 1817, & another was Joseph Shaw. Fred & Frank Sweet had a paint shop here for many years, & a post office was opened here in 1854. The school was built in 1820 north of the Leathers farm. In 1843 a Congregational Church was built & later became the "new" school. The cheese factory produced 52,000 pounds per year, but was dismantled in 1878 & rebuilt at the fairgrounds as a hotel/cafe. The Iron Works operated for many years, & Leavitts ran a shop for odd jobs, as well as horseshoeing & wagon wheels.

MAP OF 1875

