

THE PIONEER II

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

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

Well, we hope you all survived the first snowstorm of the season.

Our calendars and placemats are selling very well. The 2004 calendars are \$7.50 each, and the 2003 calendars are now \$3.00 each. The placemats sell for \$3.50 each. There are two different designs, public buildings/villages, and old farms. They are available at the Town Office and at Exeter Variety. They can also be ordered through the historical society with an additional shipping charge of \$2.00. We also still have postcards for .50 cents each, a complete set of four for \$2.00, and notecard sets, with envelopes, for \$2.00 per set. The shipping charge on these is \$1.00.

We had five metal grave markers made for unmarked graves in town. Two will go in the Bragg and two will go in the Osgood Cemeteries. The fifth will be placed beside the Tibbetts Road where the remains of the wife

of the first settler still remain today. We will place them next spring.

Congratulations goes to Penobscot County Sheriff Glenn Ross of Exeter. His picture appears on the front cover of Newsweek magazine for the second week in December issue, along with a story inside.

Tragedy struck an Exeter family on November 12th as their home was destroyed in a rapidly spreading fire on the Chamberlain Meetinghouse Road. The fire was believed to have started from either the stove or the chimney. Fire departments responded to the 9 A.M. call from Corinna, Corinth, Dexter, and Newport, but efforts could not save the uninsured home of Tim and Jane Richards. A benefit supper was held at the Exeter School on November 22nd, which netted nearly \$800.00. Another \$100.00 was donated by the historical society. Progress is already taking place on their new home.

The historical society also donated \$100.00 this holiday season to Manna Ministries, to help feed the needy families in central Maine.

A short trip well worth taking is to the new War Memorial Wall in Corinth. It includes a beautiful three sectioned black granite wall listing all the veterans of all military conflicts. The wall is surrounded by engraved stepping stones, in memory to some of the veterans. We know this is in Corinth, not Exeter, but so

many of these people are related or connected to Exeter families, you will be surprised on how many names you will recognize. It's located in front of the town office on the Exeter Road.

The annual Christmas Pageant was held at the Exeter School Auditorium on Tuesday, December 9th. It was a huge success as students performed to a packed house.

A silent auction was held at Exeter Headstart at the municipal complex at Exeter Center on December 13th from 9 A.M.-Noon to raise money for Christmas, and field trips for the children the program serves.

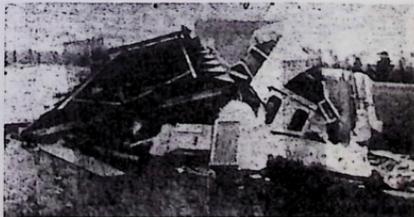
The Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony of the town tree was held on December 13th beside the Municipal Building at Exeter Center. The lighting was followed by caroling and refreshments at the Exeter Headstart facility.

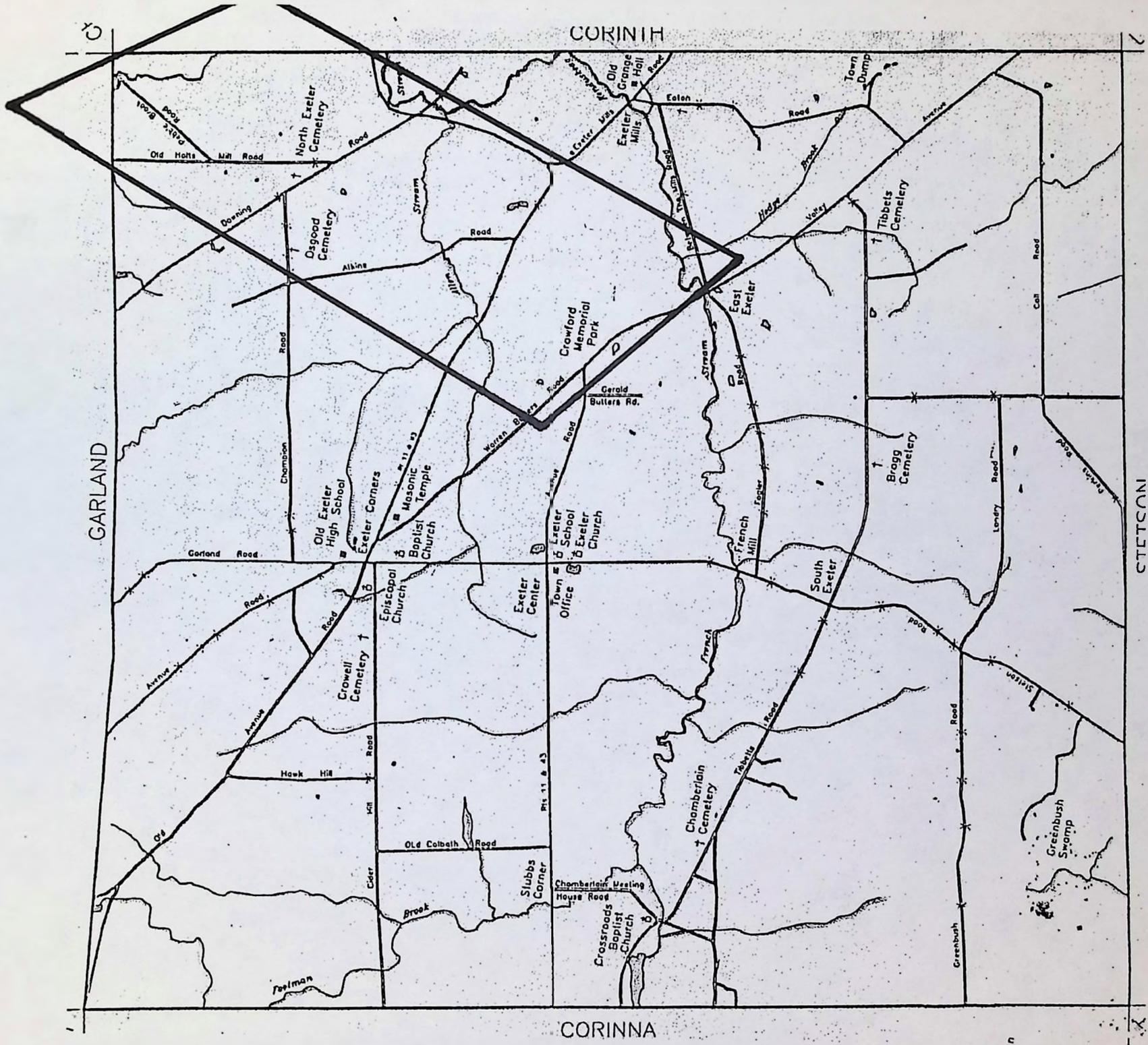
THE "TORNADO" OF '64

On July 22, 1964, a "tornado" left a path of destruction through the town of Exeter.

Wednesday, July 22nd, was hot and humid. Storm clouds started building up in the west about 4:00 in the afternoon. The clouds got darker, moving northeast in a "rolling, boiling" motion, according to eyewitnesses, who also said they remember the extreme quietness before the storm struck. The "tornado" struck down on the Avenue Road at

East Exeter about 4:30 P.M. and left a path of destruction about 3/4 of a mile wide and four miles long, and disappeared after reaching the Garland Road in Corinth, where the mobile home, pictured below, was destroyed. Witnesses at the Downing farm said they could hear a crackling noise in the sky as the black clouds approached, probably electricity in the air. The most damage was on Route 43, and the Downing, Crane, Atkins, Peabody, Holts Mills, and Exeter Mills Roads. The roof was blown off the East Exeter school. Dozens of large maples and elms were splintered and destroyed, as were utility poles, and hundreds of smaller trees were snapped off like twigs. 150 acres of crops were destroyed, chimneys were toppled, siding was torn from buildings, and one barn door was hurled into the front yard of a home. Golfball sized hail broke dozens of windows out of area homes. Roads were impassable. Electricity wasn't restored until the next day, and telephones were out for three days. The map on the next page shows the damage area.





CORINTH

GARLAND

STETSON

CORINNA