

## THE PIONEER II

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EXETER HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
P.O. BOX 141  
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NEWSLETTER  
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MEMBERSHIP FEES:  
SINGLE - \$8 / FAMILY - \$12  
DUE ANNUALLY  
TEL. 285-7903 OR 379-2449

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We trust you all had a good Christmas and a Happy New Year. We hope you are all surviving this very cold weather we've had this winter season.

Well, it's been fairly quiet with the society this winter. We are finishing up the recipes for the new cookbook, which we hope will be available by the fall rummage sale. Our spring rummage sale will be on June 5th, from 10 AM - 3 PM, at the Masonic Temple. We have a lot of new items that we have collected since last fall.

As soon as spring gets here, we will be fixing and repainting the old mileage sign at Exeter Corners village.

We hope to help out the Masons by having a spring cleanup day around the Masonic building.

We are still trying to find all the holders of the Boston Post Gold Cane, since the tradition began in 1909. So

far we have a list of eighteen names, the oldest being Amos Curtis, who died in 1938 at the age of 92. We have no other names prior to this.

There are fifteen men connected with Exeter that fought in the Revolutionary War. We have located the gravesites for six of them in the Exeter Mills, Osgood, Tibbetts, and Crowell Cemeteries. Twelve men from Exeter served in the War of 1812. We have located the gravesites for eight of them in the Tibbetts, Chamberlain, Crowell, and Exeter Center Cemeteries.

The following are some of the tragic deaths that occurred either in Exeter or to Exeter residents:

Nathaniel Barker, crushed under horsedled on Valley Avenue Road, 1823; Samuel Holt, killed by Indians in California during the Gold Rush, 1850; John Buswell, stabbed in Corinth; Elbridge Butters, crushed by falling tree, 1854; Stephen Davis, beaten to death by KKK in Alabama, 1873; Charles Brown, killed on railroad, 1882; Horatio Kelley, murdered in Stetson, 1882; John Barker, drowned, 1890; Lewis Barker, trampled by runaway horse in Bangor, 1890; William Colbath, drowned or murdered, 1899; Arlene Ellis, nightgown caught fire on Atkins Road, 1923; Harry Gray, drowned, 1939; Stanley Chamberlain, truck accident, 1947; William Batchelder, shot on Holts Mills Road, 1948.

The following is from the store account record book of J. T Morton at Exeter Mills. Listed below is the item, purchaser, and price paid. This is only a partial list.

Account of sales at Auction, March 30, 1850:

1 box waifers, W.Doe, .02  
1 inkstand, H.Buswell, .01  
1 comb, S.J.Lougee, .07  
1 wallet, W.Lougee, .04  
1 box blacking, C.Carlton, .05  
1 book patent, S.W.Dodge, .16  
2 almanack, B.B.Brown, .06  
1 dust pan, B.B.Brown, .09  
1 axe helve, C.Buswell, .04  
3 spools, Mr.Cutter, .06  
1 box silk, C.Carlton, .15  
1 coat, Mr.Chandler, 7.00  
1 pair pants, L.Leighton, .65  
1 vest, Mr.Dodge, .27  
1 pair socks, Mr.Doel, .08  
1 coat, Mr.Davis, 2.00

Exeter, Oct. 4, 1848

To Colin Campbell:

1/4 lb. Green tea, .12  
6 lbs. pork, .54  
3-1/2 lbs. fish, .10  
6 lbs. mackerall, .36  
1 lb. box rasins, .13  
1 chicken, .21  
1 pint oil, .10  
3 lbs. cod fish, .12  
1 qt. vinegar, .05  
2 bushels apples, .69

Account of Garden Seeds, May 14, 1858:

1 bushel potatoes, .40  
1 paper cucumber, .05  
1 squash seeds, .05  
1 paper peas, .06  
1 sweet corn, .06  
1 blood beet, .05  
1 parsnip, .05  
1 onion, .05  
1 sage, .05  
1 pint peas, .12  
1 cabbage, .05

Worth visiting are Exeter's nine cemeteries. The oldest is the Bragg Cemetery on Tibbetts Road, dating from 1803. The second oldest is Osgood Cemetery on Peabody Road, which dates from 1805. The Vickery Cemetery on Downing Road contains the Skinner Family Tomb. The Tibbetts Cemetery contains the Peavey monument with it's brass sundial affixed to it's top. There is also the Exeter Mills and Chamberlain Cemeteries. The Episcopal Churchyard Cemetery only contains ministers from the church and their wives. The largest cemetery is the Exeter Center Cemetery, almost across from the Baptist Church, on the Stetson Road. There are many interesting stones here. Of special interest are the elaborate Hill Family monuments, and the monument of attorney/poet David Barker. The most interesting cemetery is the Crowell Hill Cemetery on Cider Hill Road. Located here are the monuments of Winthrop Chapman, first State Senator from Exeter, and

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Capt. Nathaniel Oak. Many stones have the elaborate carvings at the top of weeping willows, skulls, and lambs. At the bottom are some interesting epitaphs. One stone has the following epitaph:

"Stop my friend as you pass by /  
As you are now so once was I / As  
I am now so you must be / Prepare  
to die and follow me".

### **FACTORIES, MILLS, & SHOPS**

There have been many factories, mills, and shops in this town. Sawmills, grist mills, and shingle mills were abundant throughout the town over the years. Grist mills ground grain to flour. In addition to these mills the following businesses were also located in town: At Exeter Mills, were located a machine shop, two carriage factories, a rake factory, and a hat factory. Also, a tannery, tinshop, chair shop, boot & shoe shop, two blacksmith shops, and Exeter's only newspaper. In addition, Washburn & Chase put out their own brand of coffee here. At South Exeter was a blacksmith shop, a cooper shop, and a plough factory. At French's Mills was a boot & shoe shop, and a cooper shop. A cooper shop was where one made wooden casks, tubs, barrels, & baskets. At Stubbs Corner, aside from the mills, was a potash shop. A potash shop was usually found near a mill or a blacksmith shop. They took the ash and coals from the other businesses

and evaporated the lye from it in large iron pots. This made potassium which was sold to the farmers as a fertilizer. At Exeter Center stood a cooper shop, where the tennis & basketball courts are today. At East Exeter was a carding and cloth dressing mill, a cheese factory, which produced 52,000 pounds per year, the Exeter Iron Works, a blacksmith shop, and Leavitt's, which made wagon wheels, potato barrels, among other items, and they also did repairing. At Exeter Corner was a harness shop, a carriage shop, two mason shops, a boot & shoe shop, a creamery, which made butter & cream, two blacksmith shops, two dress shops, and a wagon and sled factory. Other businesses in town included, a hatter shop, a goldsmith shop, a silversmith shop, a casket factory, and the pea vinery, located on Route 43, just east of the Buswell - Jackson farm. The vinery took the peas and string beans off the plants before shipping them to the cannery in Corinna. The French Brothers cut & sold blocks of ice from French Stream.



EXETER BUSINESSES - MAP OF 1859

