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

**NEWSLETTER
MAY-JUNE 2001
VOL. 2, NO. 3**

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

We held meetings on March 12th and April 9th.

At the April 9th meeting our officers for 2001 were elected. They are: Stewart Bean, President; Freda Sanborn, Vice-President; and Deanna Wetzler, Secretary/Treasurer.

Our meetings are held the second Monday of each month at 6 P.M. at the Exeter Town Office. The schedule for the rest of the year will be May 14th, June 11th, July 9th, Aug.13th, Sep.10th, Oct.8th, Nov.12th, and Dec.10th.

We set up and ran a table at the Exeter Town Meeting at the school on March 26th, and our first Historical Society Report was printed in this year's Annual Town Report.

Demolition of the Peabody-Fogler Farmhouse, on the Fogler Road, was completed in April of this year. We will have a history of this farm in the next newsletter.

HILL FAMILY HISTORY

Colonel Francis Hill came to Exeter in 1813, bought a tract of land, and built a log cabin. In 1814 he cleared the land and planted his crops. In 1815 he married Elizabeth Wasson of Castine and brought her on horseback to their new home. This was very close to where Mabel Hawes lives now, next to the Center Cemetery. He purchased 90 acres on what later became the Rockwell-Dorman farm, and built their first frame house in 1820 at the intersection of Stetson & Corinna Roads. He later built a very large set of buildings, including a 2-1/2 story colonial. This set of buildings burned in a \$100,000 fire in 1969. Col. Hill was a Democrat. He served 1st selectman for 15 years, and was Deputy Sheriff for many years. He was active in real estate buying up farms and then reselling them at a profit. He was the Director of Merchants National Bank from its organization until his death. When he died, in 1881, he left \$100 in Spanish coins, his 300 acre farm, and over \$100,000 in liquid assets. Col. & Mrs. Hill had seven children.

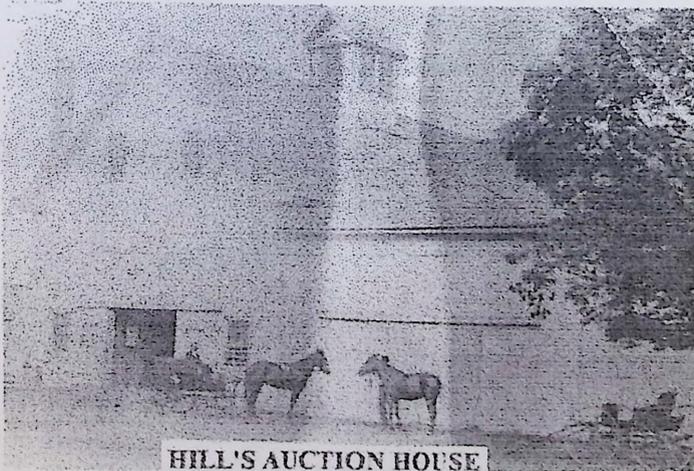
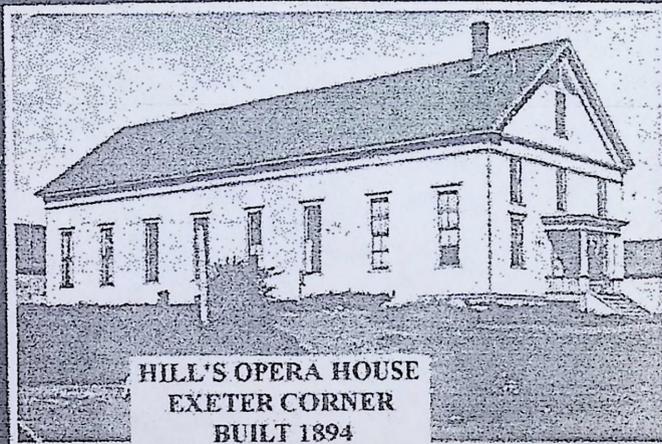
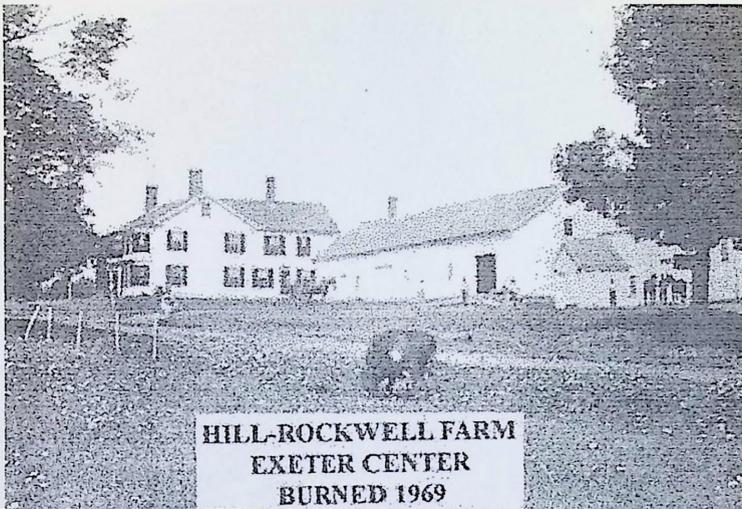
Francis W. Hill was born in 1819 in the log cabin his father built. He farmed until 1844 when he purchased the store at Exeter Corner, from John Prescott. He ran

this store for 12 years, then went into real estate and, in 1882, was the largest real estate holder in Penobscot County. He held the town offices of selectman, treasurer, and town clerk, for more than 30 years. He was elected High Sheriff of Penobscot County in 1855, served as State Representative for Exeter-Garland, and was elected State Senator. He was Vice-President of the St. Louis Convention in 1876, and a member of the State Democratic Committee for 8 years. He was President of the Somerset R.R.Co., Director of the Somerset & Northern Aroostook Railways, and Director of the Maine Central R.R.Co., and he was it's largest shareholder. At the time of his death, June 15,1890, he had been nominated to run for Governor of Maine for the Democratic Party. Upon his death, in 1890, Mr. Hill left an estate in Exeter valued at over \$500,000. He married Sarah True & had four children.

George S. Hill, was a farmer, teacher, minister, and merchant. He ran the same store at Exeter Corner that his brother, F.W.Hill, ran for many years. He served as State Representative for Exeter-Garland in 1878 and 1880, and served in many town offices. He became interested in the organization of the Episcopal Church, and was instrumental in it's construction, at the corner of Cider Hill Road & Church Street at Exeter Corner. This is now the home of

James & Julie Leavitt. He served as Rector of this church and the one in Dexter, until the time of his death, August 28,1886, in an accident. He married Ella Raynes and had one daughter.

Francis W. Hill, Jr. became the manager of his father's estate, until he sold it to John Rockwell in 1920, and moved to Bangor. He was Director of Maine Central R.R.Co., Dexter & Newport R.R.Co., Somerset R.R.Co., & Piscataquis R.R.Co. At Exeter Corner, he owned Hill's Store, Hotel Hill, established Hill's Creamery in 1892, and Hill's Opera House in 1894. He also organized Hill's Band, a popular band for many years. The hotel, along with two other structures, were destroyed by fire on July 3,1899. He built a new hotel within weeks, containing 30 sleeping rooms. To accomodate the many people on his payroll, he built several cottages, and bought and renovated several other homes in town. He was President & General Manager of the Exeter Fair for 50 years. He was President of the Maine Association of Agricultural Fairs, and Director of the Eastern Maine State Fair. He was also the owner of the F.W.Hill block on Central Street in Bangor. He served as State Representative in 1901, 1909, & 1911, and was elected State Senator.





HILL'S BAND
EXETER CORNER
1887