
EXETER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. BOX 141

EXETER, ME 04435-0141

NEWSLETTER

JULY-AUGUST 2001

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MEMBERSHIP FEES:

SINGLE - \$8 / FAMILY - \$12

DUE OCT.1ST ANNUALLY

TEL. 285-7903 OR 379-2449

We held our regular meeting on May 14th, and conducted our June 11th meeting on June 9th during our Trash & Treasure/Bake Sale at the Masonic Hall.

We held a Trash & Treasures Sale and a Bake Sale on June 9th at the Masonic Hall. The sale ran from 10AM to 3PM, and was very successful. We are going to have another one during Exeter Harvest Day in the fall.

We had a float in the Corinth Old Home Days Parade on June 23rd. We are pleased to announce we won Second Place in the non-profit category, which consisted of a ribbon and \$40.00. All of those in the parade also received a participant ribbon. We would like to thank all those who made this float possible: Mabel Hawes, Deanna Wetzler, Cindi Hicks, Freda Sanborn, Tom Bean, & Stewart Bean.

New members: **Mabel Hawes of Exeter.**

DOLE-PEABODY FARM

In the last newsletter we told you that the Fogler farmhouse was demolished this spring, so we will give a history of this old farm.

This farm was originally located on Lot 6, Range 5, and consisted of 80 acres. It was first purchased by Joshua Palmer and then purchased and occupied by Joseph Bradbury, who built a hat shop here in 1814, and was the first hatter in Exeter. Before the first church was built, baptisms were conducted down behind this farm on the Kenduskeag Stream, now French Stream, at a place called "The Bradbury Rips". Daniel Dole bought the farm in 1816 and the hat business was moved to Kings Mills, now Exeter Mills. Dole served in the War of 1812, was very active in the local militia, and achieved the position of Captain. In 1825, Capt. Dole moved his family here. Dole was the first painter, paperhanger, and glazier in town. To Capt. Daniel Dole & his wife, Mary Ann, were born five children: Daniel Jr., Amelia, Ilsley, Maria, and Martha. Martha married Horace Buswell of Exeter, and Daniel Jr. married Phoebe Cloudman. Capt. Daniel Dole died in 1882 at the age of 95, and was then the oldest citizen in Exeter. His wife had died in 1859. They are buried in the Exeter

Center Cemetary.

To Daniel Dole Jr. and his wife, Phoebe, were born five children: Ella, George, Sarah, Seth, and Norah. Seth and George died young.

During the ownership of this farm by Daniel Dole Jr., the farm and farm buildings were greatly improved, and the large barn was built.

Daniel Dole Jr. died in 1887, and his wife died in 1904, and are both buried in Exeter Center Cemetary. On December 9, 1886 the Executor of the Dole Estate sold this farm to Willis Peabody. The deed called for 120 acres. He followed an advanced system of diversified farming, and his farm was one of the best in town. In 1937 he reported the following: 2 horses, 10 cows, 4 heifers, 20 sheep, 1 hog, 2 acres in corn, potatoes for home use, 3 acres of beans, 3 acres of grain, and 40 acres of hay.

Willis Peabody married Isadora Whitney and to them were born seven children: Maurice, Marion, Mabel, Myron, Marjorie, Merl, and Malcolm, who died young. Maurice married and lived for many years on the old Osgood Farm, now the farm of Robert Day, near the intersection of the Atkins and Peabody Roads, off the Downing Road. Mabel married Raymond Fogler, and the Fogler family still runs the farm today. They have expanded the farm considerably and it is one of the best and largest

dairy farms in central Maine, running under the name Stonyvale Farms, Inc. The main farm is located on the Fogler Road, but they have additional properties located throughout the town, including the recent purchase of the Downing Farm.

Raymond Fogler was a very active gentleman, appearing in newspapers and on television numerous times. He was the President of the W. T. Grant Co., a department store chain, President of Montgomery Ward, and the Assistant Secretary of the Navy, under President Eisenhower. He was also active in town affairs and at the University of Maine in Orono, where he graduated from in 1915. The library at the University, the largest in Maine, is named the Raymond H. Fogler Library. He was the holder of the Boston Post Gold Headed Cane for being the oldest citizen of Exeter, and died at the age of 103 in 1996.

Upon his retirement, the farm continued to run under the ownership of his son John, and now is run by his grandsons.

A large and commodious barn was built near the site of the old farmhouse, and expansion of this facility is in the planning. A new milking parlor will also be constructed. They currently own about 1,000 head of cattle, and are milking approximately 500.



DOLE-PEABODY FARM
EST. 1816