

\*\*\*\*\*

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

**NEWSLETTER  
NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2001  
VOL. 2, NO. 6**

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

\*\*\*\*\*

## SCHOOLS

In the winter of 1803, Ebenezer Chamberlain taught classes of arithmetic in Josiah Barker's house. This was for married couples, as well as single people. In August 1804, the first school was taught in town, by Anna Stevens. This school was nothing more than a crude lean-to built beside Josiah Barker's barn, probably to prevent it from being blown over by the wind. After a time, the school classes were moved to the sleeping room of Mr. Toziers' house, and also the sleeping room of Josiah Barker's house. This was all located on the Tibbetts Road, at the intersection of the Brown Road. Until 1813 classes were taught in the homes or barns of town residents.

Well, it's that time of year again... Put the lawnmower away, and grab your lawn rake! Overall, we've had a pleasant fall. Hope the winter will be mild as well.

As you must know, Exeter Harvest Day was cancelled this year. We were going to have a table set up there, but instead, we had a fall Trash & Treasure Sale and Bake Sale at the Exeter Masonic Hall, on October 13th. It was a great success. We also sold our new sets of notecards, with matching envelopes. There are four notecards in each set, depicting old black & white photos of Exeter. They sell for \$3.00 per set. If you would like to buy a set, you may contact the historical society.

It is time for many of you to renew your membership in the historical society. If so, a card has been sent with your newsletter. Hopefully, you will renew and continue to enjoy the newsletter.

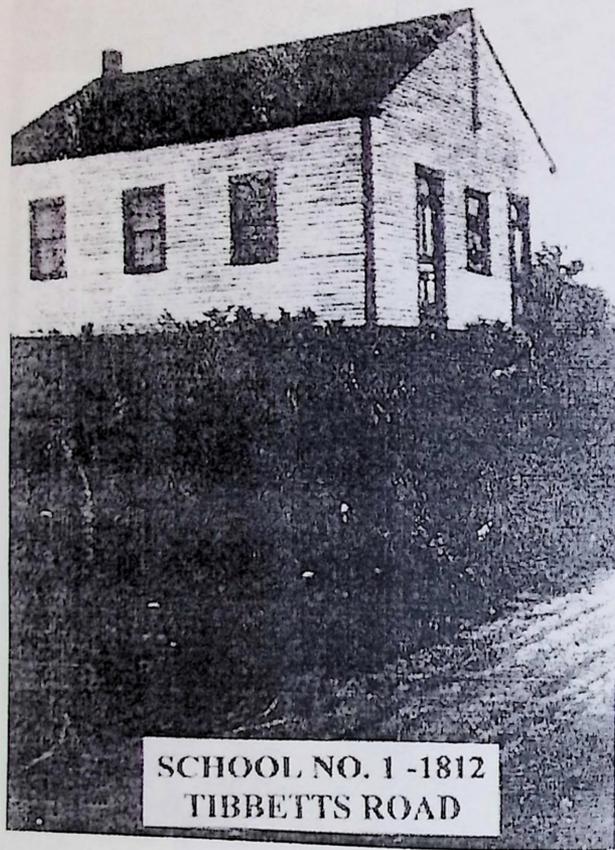
Blaisdelltown Plantation was incorporated as the Town of Exeter on February 16th, 1811. One of the priorities of the new town was the education of their children. At the second town meeting, May 28, 1811, Article 10 was passed to raise \$80 for schooling, and Article 19 was passed to raise \$200 to build schoolhouses. At a meeting on December 26, 1811, it was voted that the town shall build a schoolhouse for each district in town, once that district contained twenty children between the ages of four and twenty-one. A committee was formed to mark

the outlines for as many school districts as they think proper to make, which was accepted. It comprised of three districts: Southeast, No.1, Hills Corner(Tibbets Road); Northeast, No.2, Osgood Settlement (Peabody Road); Northwest, No.3, Exeter Corner. On January 17, 1812, it was voted to have only two districts, and not to build at Exeter Corners. The buildings were to be 26 x 20 feet, with 9-foot posts, and a hipped roof, and were to be ready for occupancy by June 20, 1812. These two houses were built but were not occupied until 1813. On December 19, 1812, the town voted to have four districts. No.3 was built at Exeter Corners in 1815, and No.4 was built at South Exeter, on the Stetson Road, in 1820. Other districts that were formed and schoolhouses built were: No.5, East Exeter, 1820; No.6, Exeter Mills Road, 1823; No.7, Corinna Road, 1824; No.8, near Eaton & Avenue Roads, 1827; No.9, Chamberlain Road, 1829; No.10, Cider Hill Road, 1831; No.11, Greenbush Road, 1835; No.12, Unknown; No.13, Brown & Call Roads, 1839; No.14, Old Avenue or Ridge Road, 1841; No.15, Exeter Corners, 1841. Prior to 1811 funding for schooling came from missionary money and payments from private families. The first public school was taught in the summer of 1811 in District No.1 by Susan Prescott, in the west room of Joseph Pease's log house, later the James Brown place.

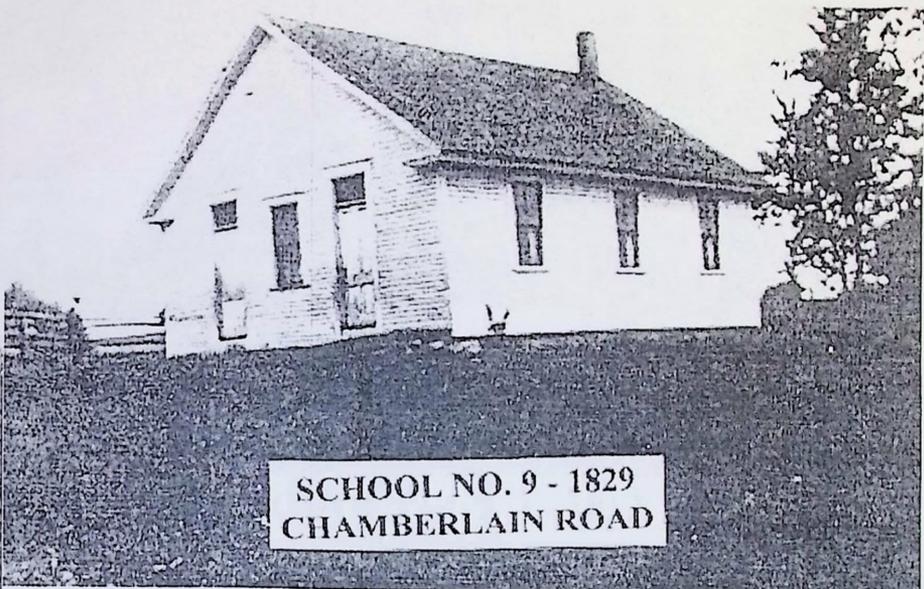
The second public school was taught in the summer of 1812 in District No.1 by Elizabeth Budge, in a room of Nathan Prescott's log house. In the summer of 1812, the first public school was taught in District No.2 by Mary Hill, the daughter of Nathaniel Hill, who built his farm on the Downing Road, formerly owned by Ralph & Rita Bean, and now owned by Wayne & Sue Day.

All of the remaining schools were closed in the 1950's following the construction of the present Exeter School, in 1955. School No.1 was moved to East Exeter and is now a garage at the home of Lyle Peirce. School No. 4 has been converted into a private home. School No.7 was moved west on the Corinna Road and is now a garage at the former home of Ben Leavitt.

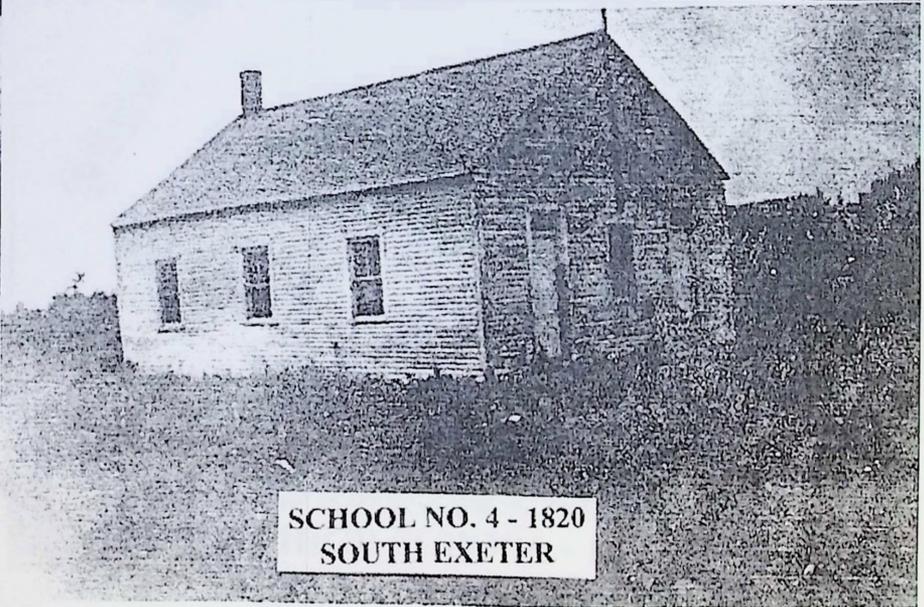
The first High School was taught in the fall of 1837 by Dr. Albert Wheelock. A petition was granted by the State of Maine on March 15, 1838 incorporating the Exeter High School Corporation, and \$600 was appropriated to support the school. The present building at Exeter Corners was built in 1855, and is now converted to a private home. The school peaked in the 1880's with an enrollment of 271. Later, grammar school was taught on the first floor, and high school on the second. The last high school class taught here was in 1942.



SCHOOL NO. 1 - 1812  
TIBBETTS ROAD

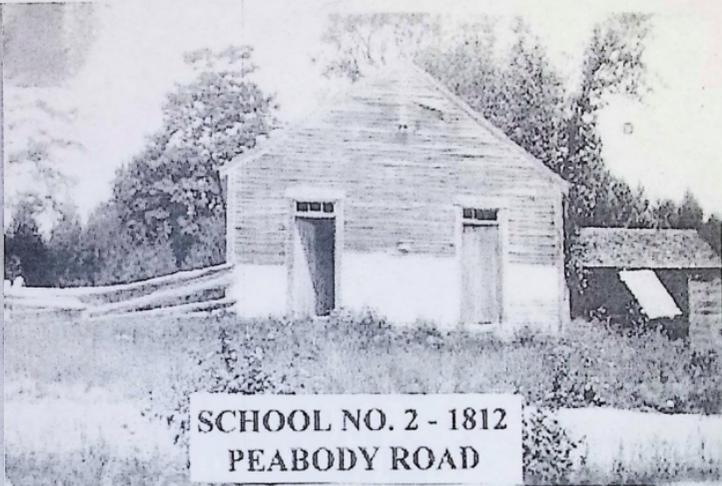
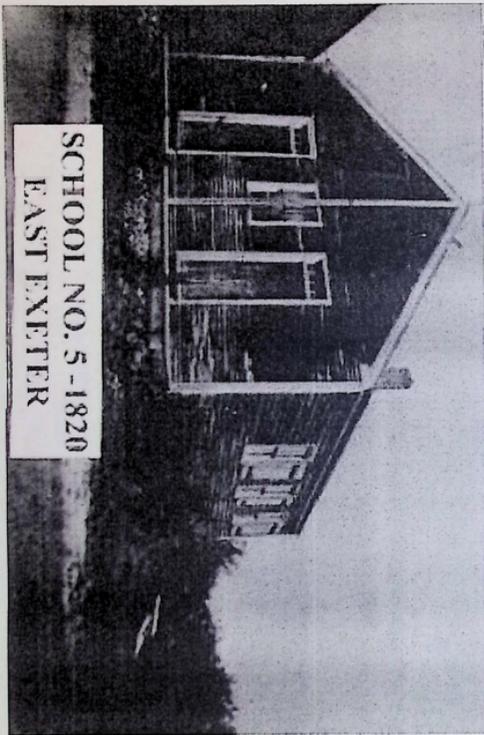


SCHOOL NO. 9 - 1829  
CHAMBERLAIN ROAD

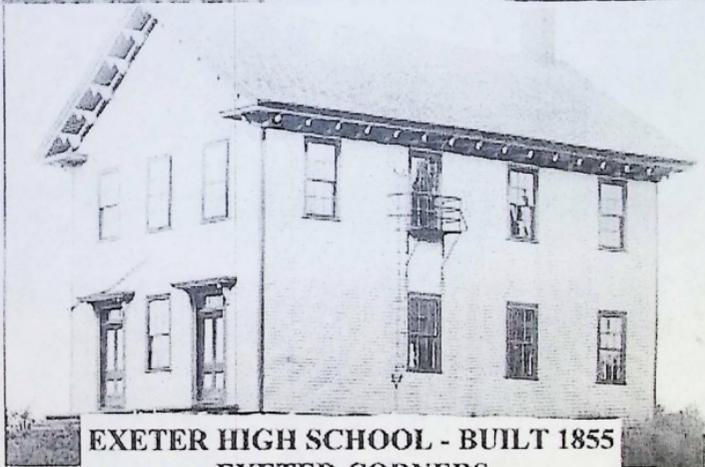


SCHOOL NO. 4 - 1820  
SOUTH EXETER

SCHOOL NO. 5 - 1820  
EAST EXETER



SCHOOL NO. 2 - 1812  
PEABODY ROAD



EXETER HIGH SCHOOL - BUILT 1855  
EXETER CORNERS