

ALEXANDER - CRAWFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

APRIL 1981

REPORT NO. 12

AN EXCITING TUESDAY, MAY 19 COMMUNITY MEETING SET; A 'Chocolate Cake Walk, Community slides, edible doorprize, and a visit from colorful folklorist Sandy Ives (from Univ. Me at Orono) should bring our area residents out in numbers. Sandy (who you may have heard over Public Broadcasting) has been researching our community's turn-of-the-century history for a biography which includes George Magoon and a number of other hunters. It should be quite a story! We will meet promptly at 7 p.m. at the Alexander Grange Hall.

ICE CREAM SOCIAL & ART EXHIBIT; Artist members will be meeting next month to paint our flora and local scenes for the Art Exhibit to be held at our Old-Fashioned Ice Cream Social on Saturday August 8. It is hoped that this 1st annual community 'home coming' event can be held at the Crawford Church. Call Jane if you wish to join these 'painters'.

CLOSURE OF PUBLIC RECORDS; Our genealogist, Ellen Fenlason, has alerted us to Sec. 219 of LD 64 which proposes to transfer the State of Maine Archives records (including those of our community) to another area which will not be as accessible to the public. Sen. James McBreairty & Rep. Georgette Berube, are the ones to write. They are chairmen of the Audit & Program Review Committee, Rm. 433, Station 5, State House, Augusta, Me. 04333.

EASTER BASKET; We have started a 'traveling basket' to be taken to all our gatherings. Members are invited to contribute small handmade, or hand sewn gifts (reminiscent of earlier days) for this project which will help with our newsletter monthly printing costs. Our basket currently holds 30 original watercolor cards of the earliest plants to bloom in our A-C Spring woods. They are signed by the artist, and many are suitable for small frames. Each has matching notepaper, hand-folded envelope and sticker. There are also several gift tag pkgs. Contact your editor if interested. (Cards are 50 each; mini gift tags, \$1.00).

RESEARCH LIBRARY; Three new books (with equally long titles) have been donated to our growing library; Topsfield Maine, Early Bailey Families, An Addenda to History of Early Baileyville by its author Dr. Albert W. Bailey The Charms of Your Children; Memories of a Maine School Teacher by Mildred Scott-Washburn; and Edward (Sandy) Ives The Tape-Recorded Interview; a Manual for Field Workers in Folklore and Oral History. Fine editions for our library shelf!

GIFTS; Stamps and cash gifts are being warmly acknowledged from members; Marjorie & Elwood Brown, Doris Dwelley Edgerly, Leonard McDonough, Bessie Dwelley Wheaton, Alice Varnum Williams, Mary Williams and Beulah Frost Williams. We also appreciate the 100 copies of our Jan. 1981 newsletter reprinted by our curator, John Herbert Dudley.

UPDATE; Due to circumstances beyond control our monthly open board meeting & Arts Workshop will not be held in April, but we will try to work in another taping this month as our March session was snowed out. Also we have no report to give on the Alexander Pound, as the new owner of the land, due to working pressure, has not been over to check it out before making his decision. And FLASH...our vice president will be returning mid May Society membership is ^1.00 a year. Stamps are also required for the monthly newsletter.

President Jane Dudley (454-8472)

Vice pros. Audrey Ketner

Millie Winckler (454-3695)

Ruth Dwelley (454-2385)

Genealogists; Harold & Ellen

Fenlason (448-7781 Treasurer

Ways & Means; Ellie Sanford Act.Sec.

(454-2862)

Bidg. Chairman; Jack Dudley (454-8472)

THE MOUNTAIN

by Roberta Carle Wheaton

THERE'S NOWHERE TO BEGINS--NO SPECIAL PLACE TO END-- The mountain has always been there, always will remain in spite of scars and changes. People living in the area of West Princeton, Plantation 21, South Princeton and parts of Alexander relate almost unconsciously to Pocomoonshine Mountain.

Pokey Mountain, 600 feet - more or less - above sea level, has echoed an inviting call to each generation since the first settlers came in the early 1800's. Starting with the sloshy trips in Spring, again in Black Fly season while the wild trilliums and lady-slippers bloom, through sunburn trips, and hunting forays in the Fall we never tired of this special outing. The woods sang with laughter and calling. If the fire watch in the tower at the top dreaded the youthful invasions, he never expressed it. In the limited horizons of earlier days- nothing ever surpassed the repeated tramp through the woods and the climb to the top. There was always a feeling of victory mingled with a stirring of deep pride to look down on the family farms, homes and land we loved.

Animal life abounds around the mountain. I am remembering the partridge two boys killed with home-made darts--the blood-curdling screams in the night of the Canadian lynx - the secret cave porcupines claimed as a shelter. Once milk cows mingled with the wild animals feeding in the woods and young people learned their way around by locating the bells in late afternoon, then following after them as the cows led them home.

Many a load of firewood, telephone poles, pine for Quoddy lumber, crop of birch, and softwood for the Woodland paper mill has come from the mountain area. About 1911 the famous 20-ton Lombard Steam Log Hauler ran between there and Sprague meadows. All this Woodland area has been owned since early 1900 by Georgia-Pacific Corporation and its predecessors.

In early spring an Indian couple named Sepris made an annual trek to a rock maple stand to make a supply of sugar and maple syrup. The only regular inhabitant I could learn of was a lame man named Charles O. Pike, who led a hermit's life in a clearing at the mouth of Lewey Brook. The first watchman on the mountain was Merle (Dick) Hoar - later a game warden known as The Greyhound for his ability to travel through the woods. King of the Mountain to my generation was Omar Seamans, a fire watchman for the Maine Forest Service

Omar's son Bruce was once visiting his father after a four-inch rainfall. A pocket in the ledge on the top caught enough water for the boy to swim -perhaps the only person who can say he swam on the top of old Pokey I There were three hunters who later witnessed a startling escape performance by a bear in the same spot and under the same conditions.

The first tower at the top was made of wood in 1918 and was fifty-six feet high. In 1934 the wooden tower was replaced by a sixty-three foot steel tower Have you noticed the mountaintop recently? The steel tower was dismantled and may become the base for a windmill elsewhere.

The saddest tale the mountain knows is that of the two lost Edgerly children: Edward and Franklin. The Grange Hall bell rang out an emergency signal and many people gathered that May 27, 1929. 3-year-old Franklin was caught coming down off the mountain the first day but it was 21 more days before the body of Edward was discovered under a canoe on the banks of Allen Stream.

People living in the area around Pocomoonshine Mountain rarely express the sentimental and private claims they have staked in particular spots there. This good old mountain belongs, in a sense, to all those who have looked on it a lifetime, played there, worked hard t ere, prayed there.

EDITORS NOTE; This article first appeared in the July 1979 SCHOODIC Newsletter, and is excerpted by the author from a longer article.

Second page printing compliments of Margaret Jones