

WE'RE HAVING A BIRTHDAY PARTY: Your Society will be celebrating the close of it's first year on Tuesday, Sept. 15, at the Pocoomoonshine Lake home of the president. Anyone wishing to send birthday greetings and good wishes, to be included in our very special 'FIRST YEAR BOOK' for posterity) should address same to our corresponding secretary, Mary Williams, Waite, Me. 04492.

A Special Recognition Coffee, at 10 a.m., during which our Society's 1st annual service awards will be presented, will begin the festive occasion. 'Our Ancestral Homes' will be the theme of the morning taping session as members describe their childhood memories. Election of 1981-82 will precede the birthday 'potluck' luncheon at noon, which will feature two Pocoomoonshine Chocolate Cakes baked by the hostess.

Slate of officers being considered includes: president, Jane Dudley, Alexander; vice president, Harold A. Fenlason, Danforth; recording secretary, Kay Church, Crawford; treasurer, Millie Winckler of Pleasant Lake & Calais; and corresponding secretary, Mary Williams. Directors are: John and Marie Dudley, Alexander & Rumford Center; Pliney Frost, Alexander; Audrey Ketner, Alexander & Newark, Del.; Timothy and Elinor Sanford, Alexander.

MEMBERSHIP: We now have 185 members living in 16 states and 40 Maine communities, the largest concentration being in Alexander (53). Our membership includes 179 adults, 12 juniors, plus 3 Affiliate memberships, (AFFILIATE, meaning supportive group membership): A-C Extension, Alexander Public School and the Downeast Christian School.

Membership for adult, junior and affiliate is \$1.00 yearly. Stamps are also required for the monthly newsletters should adult members wish them mailed to their addresses. (Jane Dudley, RR #1, Box 1616, Alexander, Me. 04694 is presently serving as membership chairman, and newsletter editor).

SCHOOL OF THE WOODS: Our Junior members will be using the old Indian names for animals and birds that have long shared our A-C environment, when they attend the School-of-the-Woods fall series which begins on Saturday, Sept. 12, at 9:30 a.m. at the Dudley's log cabin. The weekly fall sessions have been planned for children, 7 to 11 years old, but others showing strong interest will be welcome. Each Junior participant will receive a charter membership card, the Society's monthly newsletter which this month is adding a special Junior Page; a free nature guide book, and a tree identification book. Parents should contact Mrs. Dudley (454-8472) for further particulars and membership registration.

OUR TRAVELING BASKET (which will be helping to underwrite the monthly printing cost of our Junior Page) needs bright scraps of calico, remnants of eyelet, lace and ribbon for small handsewn articles and cards - and to share with our Ways & Means co-chairmen, Ellie Sanford & Audrey Ketner who are planning our Summer 1982 projects. (Please mail these directly to your president).

RESEARCHING OUR SCHOOLS: Our Millie Winckler, who at 16 taught at the Four Corners Schoolhouse (over fifty years ago) is compiling a list of school locations, and the teachers who taught there. Please send any information you may have (names & dates) to her at 19 Swan St., Calais, Me. 04619.

OUR SINCERE THANKS to the following members who so generously gave this past summer to help with the printing costs of this monthly newsletter: John Brown, Gladys Bridges, Evelyn Carroll, Grace Ober and Margaret Varnum. And to our ways & means co-chairmen who baked delicious blueberry pies and jams which they sold last month for our building fund.

Editor's note: We are a backwoods Maine community, celebrating our own existence. And from our research have surfaced some interesting facts. The following are from the files of Pliney Frost, our Alexander historian; and member Grace Ober of Woodland, granddaughter of Ansel Waterman Fisher.

ALEXANDER FACTS....

According to Annaniah Bohanon (born 1785), who took up farming in Alexander in 1811, the first trees felled and the first clearing made in Township No. 16 (now Alexander) was in the summer of 1810 by William Connie and Solomon Perkins.

The first white woman to come into the Plantation was Mrs. Samuel Cottle in 1813; that same year four families came from Machias and settled on Break Neck Hill.

The first schools were taught in 1822, both log houses. One teacher was Mr. Brastoe. The school on Burnt Barn Hill was taught by a Mr. Prince.

The first preacher's name was 'Fess'. A 'free will Baptist,' he came in 1816. First baptisms by immersion took place that year. The first marriage in town was between Thomas Bean and Mary Bailey. First child to be born in Alexander was Freeman P. Fealason. The first to die in the community (1814) was Mrs. Mary Young.

Stephenson's saw mill was built in 1816, and the grist mill in 1820. The town was incorporated in 1825. It is located about 17 miles westward of Calais on the Airline.

THE GREAT CONFLAGRATION.... by A.W. Fisher of Charlotte, Me. (circa 1867)

Tuesday the 22nd inst. a fire was discovered in a shed belonging to Enoch Fisher. Upon discovering the fire had made such progress that the west end of the shed was all in flames, and the fire increased so rapidly that the shed with most of its contents were consumed.

The whole loss, including the building, one pig, about 65 fish barrels, about seven barrels of barley, pine lumber, one bear skin, some lamb pelts, farmer's and carpenter's tools, dry wood, rags, and etc., is estimated at about two hundred and fifteen dollars. No insurance. The fire was discovered by Mr. Jas. Nodding, who immediately gave the alarm to his own household and that of Enoch Fisher.

The thoughtful conduct of Miss Emily Nodding deserves attention. For a few minutes after the alarm was given, she thought of the tin horn and running out with this, blew it with loud, short, distinct blasts. The sound of this horn, for the distance it was heard, was as effectual as a fire bell. The whole neighborhood was roused immediately.

Those who would be of any use, in stopping the progress of the fire, hastened at once to the scene of action, and many others spread the news as rapidly as possibly. Those at the fire acted the part of men and women. It was only by hard and long continual effort that the house was saved from the flames. The conduct of A.H. Phipps merits particular attention. He, with Ambrose L. Fisher (indecipherable...)

(Second page printing)

Compliments of Ellen VP Wells

SEPTEMBER 22, 1981 letter from Gertrude Strout Winter of Bucksport
directed to Jane Dudley of A-CHS

excerpt: The Wm. Colwell you mentioned was my great, great grandfather, father of Charity Colwell, mother of Adeliade Strout (Sol's wife) also a relation of John² Dudley - The boys, the descendants mentioned, left Princeton when very young and their parents hunted and didn't find them for years. I knew one was in Princeton but laid low. Never gave any thought to the Bonney connection - The girl who wrote to me appears to be a very fine person. Isn't it a shame for folks not to know their relatives? The Colwell genealogy and mentos were left to me before I was married - Robert McLellan and William Colwell were in lumbering operations together. I have Robert's Day Book started in Nova Scotia before they came t is way - These people are the same relation to Millie Higgins (Library), Reid Seamans and a million more. Guess when they were in Princeton people just didn't bother. I gave Dr. Bailey most of his Colwell information -

G E N E A L O G I S T S F O R U M

SEEKING ANCESTRAL DATA
ON GEROW (GIRAUD) FAMILY

...Jane G. Dudley
RR #1, Box 1616
Alexander, Maine 04694

Several years back I learned that I had three ancestors who were Loyalists and who left New York State during the American Revolution for Canada. They were children of my great, great, great, great grandfather, Daniel Gerow (Giraud) III (1725-1791) who was born in New Rochelle, N.Y. and died at Plattekill, N.Y.

Daniel married Elizabeth Coutant (1729-1816) and the couple had 12 children. He served in the American Revolution on the side of the Colonists. However, three of his children remained loyal to their king and went to live, reportedly, on the St. John River in Canada. They were: Catherine Gerow who married a John Yerxa, and James Gerow (b. 1754) who married Sarah Coombs; and their brother Daniel Gerow IV (1758-1835) who married Hannah Golding. It is thought they settled around Washademoock in Queen's County, N.B.

Catherine and James were buried in N.B., but Daniel and Hannah who went to live with a son in Hodgdon, Me. in their last years, are said to be buried in the cemetery there. Their two sons Isaac and Abraham were among the early settlers of that area when Hodgdon was still considered a part of Washington County, Me. (Which really delights this 'Gerow' who has at last found family roots in her beloved Washington County!)

Anyone interested in exchanging information about the Huguenot Gerow family which first came to North America around 1688, can contact me at the above address.

Aunt Helen Gerow's Sugar Cookies

2 cups sugar
1 cup butter
2 eggs
 $\frac{1}{2}$ cup milk
3 teaspoons baking powder

Flour enough to roll soft,
or drop with spoon on pan.
Salt and vanilla are not
mentioned in this old recipe
but we add them.

---from the files of the late Frances Gerow Lathrop,
former historian of the Gerow Family Association
of the Huguenot Historical Society, New Paltz, N.Y.

Note: When I tested the receipt I used 4 cups unbleached white flour and $1\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoons salt. Then creamed the butter until very soft and added the sugar gradually, creaming the while. Then you add the eggs, one at a time, beating well. Sift flour, baking powder and salt together and add alternately with milk to which 1 teaspoon of vanilla has been added. Mix well. Chill. Then roll $\frac{1}{2}$ " or less thick and cut with a three inch tumbler, or your favored cookie cutters. (Keep cookies uniform in thickness). Sprinkle with white sugar and bake in hot oven. (Be careful not to get too brown.) Cool on wire racks, or your home styled wooden ones such as my Jack made for me in his toolhouse.

P.S. How about sharing your old family recipes with other Alexander-Crawford Historical Society members? Mail to above address.

Printing cost of this first 'introductory genealogy page' has been paid by the above writer. Our newsletter has wide distribution in Maine and New Brunswick, Canada; newspapers, museums, libraries, historical societies, Maine Archives, colleges and membership...ye ed.

OUR FIRST JUNIOR MEMBERSHIP FEATURE

HAVE YOU HEARD AT NIGHT

"Who Cooks for you? Who Cooks for you?"



It's the Barred Owl, the most common large owl of New England which has nested here in Alexander and Crawford long before you were born. It hunts mostly at night when you hear its, "Who Cooks for You? Who Cooks for You All?" call, and retires to some dark retreat by day. The large eyes of the Barred Owl give its face a human expression; its round head lacks the ear tufts of the Great Horned Owl and it is a little smaller. We had Barred Owls nesting at the head of the cove. The female was larger than her mate, and began nesting in March or April. They lay two to four white eggs, preferably in a hollow tree, but sometimes in a deserted hawk, squirrel or crow nest.

See 1st page
for 'juniors'
'SCHOOL-OF-
THE-WOODS'

Jack Dudley, who likes to tell folks he was "hatched, not born" in the Washington County woods, knows much about birds and wildlife. He has introduced me to many of his forest friends. There's one incident he tells that really makes one wonder. He says it happened several times in the past when he was working in the woods, I'll repeat it the way he told me so you can decide for yourself.

"I was working in the woods and ran out of food - didn't have a gun. Along about dusk I heard this owl, very close. I sneaked through the bushes cautiously while he was whooping, and spotted him sitting on a dead stub-- on a branch six or eight feet out from the trunk. Of course I knew an owl's eyes are stationary; to watch an object they have to turn their head. So I sidled over close to him, not underneath, but to one side while he was looking down at me. His eyes stayed on me as I started to move--very, very slowly in a circle beneath him. He was the center of the circle and I the perimeter. His head just kept following me around like that, and when he got his head clear around the back as far as I thought he'd go, I kept slowly moving so he wouldn't reverse. He kept watching, kept twisting his head.

"I can't remember now how many times we went around and around and around before his neck snapped and he fell down. I picked him up, took care of him and had owl stew. Of course this was back a number of years ago before owls were on the protected list; I wouldn't want to kill an owl now," he said.

Color the Sumac Berries Red!

This small tree, now in vivid red fruit, was named Staghorn Sumac because its young branches are covered with hairs like a stag's (male deer) antlers when he is "in velvet". And its smaller branches, still retaining their green leaves, spring from the main ones, often suggesting the points of a deer's antlers. A cooling drink can be made from the fruit; however, here in our Alexander-Crawford woods, we find the fruit clusters seem to be 'a superb home for insects' so we have not bothered to make 'Sumac-ade'.

