

'Christmas in the Maine Woods'

THE ISLAND'S STORY: Our 2nd ANNUAL CHRISTMAS COFFEE will be held on Tuesday December 15, beginning at 10 a.m. at the Dudley's cabin in the Pocomoonshine Woods. Member Frank Fenderson of Calais, who led the effort for the Oct. 2, 1981 'Commemoration of Historical St. Croix Island', will be present with his wife Ruby, to tell us "The Island's Story." This is also the title of a poem, written by a Miss Ida Vose Woodbury back in 1904 which was read at the "DeMonts Dedication on St. Croix Island" in June of that year. A copy of the original verse was sent to our society last March by Edward N. Boyd, also a Calais member. It is hoped that Mr. Boyd can be present to read this for us on tape.

HEY OUT THERE! We need the following information for our "Seventy Five Years & Older Native Birthday File" (so the following A-C natives can also receive a yearly hand-painted card on their important day!) Does anyone know the birthdate of Cora May Flood Kinney of Calais? She was born in Alexander to Lincoln Byron Flood & Lizzie Perkins Flood. We also need the address of her brother Raymond Clifton Flood, b. Nov. 18, 1901, 7th child in the family; and the birthdate of Vinal Perkins, born in Alexander, now living in Oroville, Calif.; and the address of Neil McArthur, b. Sept. 11, 1903 in Alexander. Please send information to A-CHS, RR #1, Box 1616, Alexander, Me. 04694.

LAST CALL FOR JUNIOR CHARTER MEMBERSHIPS! Junior Charter Memberships close December 31st at midnight! (But don't wait until the last minute to contact Jane Dudley!) Those who meet this deadline will have their names listed on a special Junior Charter Membership Plaque'. We have GREAT plans for our Juniors! They'll have a lovely time!

NINETY YEARS OLD? You are automatically a member of this society if you were born in Alexander or Crawford, whether you live here now or elsewhere. This entitles you to a special membership card and free mailing of the monthly newsletter. Please send us your name, address, date and place of birth, and your parents' names.

RESEARCH LIBRARY: With great appreciation we thank the following members for their fine contributions to our growing library: John Brown of Machiasport for "PRIDE" (produced 1978 by 'Project Indian Pride' under the direction of Joseph A. Nicholas of Perry, Me.); Harold Fenlason of Danforth for "The Length and Breadth of Maine" by Stanley Bearce Attwood (1977); and Marian Spinney of Calais for the "History of the Maine Woods" by Philip T. Coolidge (1963). These all may be borrowed by local members, including a shelf copy of the "History of Early Baileyville Maine and its Pioneers" (1972) written by charter member Dr. Albert W. Bailey of Lenox, Mass, & Longboat Key, Fla.

THE LONG SEARCH: We welcome Ruth I. Driscoll, Box 222, Pleasant Hill Rd., Freeport, Me. 04032, as a new member. She writes that her mother, Mable Watson Lowe, came from our area and would like to trace her ancestry. Eunice Thaxter, Addison, Me. 04606, reports her ancestors in our area were Johnson Burbank & his wife (Eunice's great, great, great grandfather) & their son Thomas Burbank & his wife. She believes Johnson came to Cooper area from Trenton, Me., and to Trenton from Beverly, Mass. Addresses have been provided for those with information about these two families.

ADULT MEMBERS: A blue dot beside your month, on your mailing address, indicates your membership fee (\$1.00 annually) is due. A red dot here signifies that stamps would be appreciated for your monthly newsletter mailings.

The Lydick Set Off

Prepared by John M. Dudley

Prior to April 2, 1859 the town line between Alexander and Crawford was straight, and ran North and South. After that date this line had a jag in it, being "The Lydick Set Off". The 1861 map does not show this Set Off, but the 1881 map includes it.

One Godfrey Lydick in 1858 occupied a farm in Alexander on the Arm Road. His farm was bounded on the West by the Town of Crawford. Lydick apparently preferred to live in Crawford. His method to accomplish this was not to move to Crawford, but to have his farm set off from Alexander and annexed to Crawford.

In 1858 he filed his Petition in the State Legislature. Following is the order that was issued:

"STATE OF MAINE: The Joint Standing Committee on Division of Towns to which was referred the Petition of Godfrey Lydick praying that he may be set off from the Town of Alexander and annexed to the Town of Crawford has had the same under consideration, and asks leave to report that the Petitioner cause an attested copy of this Petition with this order thereon, to be served on the town clerks of the Town of Alexander and Crawford eight days at least, before the 5th day of March next that all persons interested, may then appear and show cause, (if any they have) why the prayer of said Petition should not be granted." S/ W.J. Sargent Pr. Order

The above was "Read and accepted in the Senate on Feb. 18, 1858 and in the House of Representatives on Feb. 19, 1858. A Remonstrance against the Petition was signed by 49 residents of Alexander and duly filed. This Remonstrance reads as follows:

"The undersigned citizens of Alexander in the County of Washington would respectfully, yet firmly, remonstrate against the Petition of Godfrey Lydick to be set off from this town, to Crawford - being granted - Mr. Lydick, enjoys all the privilages now in relation to Schools that he would enjoy, if he should be set off to Crawford - he draws his proportion of the school money, annually, & expends the same in Crawford - and as Mr. Lydick does not own the land on which he lives it is doubtful if the Proprietors would consent to such a transfer - therefore for the above, and other reasons, we pray that Lydick's petition may not be granted - and as in duty bound your petitions will ever pray."

"CHAPTER 343 - An act to set off a part of the town of Alexander and annex the same to Crawford. Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in Legislature assembled, as follows: All that part of the town of Alexander constituting the farm now owned and occupied by Godfrey Lydick is hereby set off from Alexander and annexed to Crawford; but said land is subject to all arrears of taxes heretofore assessed upon it by the town of Alexander. Approved April 2, 1859."

In the Remonstrance by the citizens of Alexander we find a reference to "schools". The 1861 map shows a school in Crawford at the corner of the Arm Road and the Air Line. This same map shows schools in Alexander, one located at Strout's corner, and another one up on the Breakneck Road. It would appear that Mr. Lydick thought that the school in Crawford was more convenient for his children to attend.

The 1881 map shows J. Lydick on this lot. The present owner is thought to be our society's Crawford historian, Ethel Pearl Wallace.

2nd Page Printing Compliments of
Harold and Ellen Fenlason

There are now 27 Junior Charter Members

Merry Christmas

Eugene Field's LITTLE BOY BLUE

The little toy dog is covered with dust,
 But sturdy and staunch he stands;
 The little Toy soldier is red with rust,
 And his musket moulds in his hands.
 Time was when the little toy dog was new,
 And the soldier was passing fair;
 And that was the time when our Little Boy Blue
 Kissed them and put them there.

"Now don't you go till I come," he said,
 "And don't you make any noise!"
 So, toddling off to his trundle bed,
 He dreamt of the pretty toys:
 And, as he was dreaming, an angel song
 Awakened our Little Boy Blue---
 Oh! the years are many, the years are long,
 But the little toy friends are true!

Ay, faithful to Little Boy Blue they stand,
 Each in the same old place,
 Awaiting the touch of a little hand,
 The smile of a little face;
 And they wonder, as waiting the long years through
 In the dust of that little chair,
 What has become of our Little Boy Blue,
 Since he kissed them and put them there...



We will sing Christmas Carols and Gely will bring his piano to play for us - and Wendy her zither. Miss Mausie is making punch and sugar Cookies - you could bring Xmas Cookies too, if you would like to.

COME TO
 The 'School-
 of the Woods'
 Christmas party...
 10-11:30 AM. at the
 Cabin... bring a
 Christmas-tree
 ornament
 to exchange
 as a gift...
 (TRY TO MAKE ONE)

AMERICAN HOLLY



