

# 'Year of the One-room Schoolhouse'

TUESDAY, JAN 19th. Our 'Year of the One-Room Schoolhouse' begins this date at 10 a.m. at the Dudley's cabin. During our brief business coffee session we will make plans for our 2nd ANNUAL HOMECOMING to be held next summer when A-C community teachers, past and present, will be our honored guests.

Our treasurer, Millie Winckler (who taught at 'Four Corners' when she was 16 years old) has been asked to lead this month's discussion on those earlier school days. It is hoped the weather will permit Zela Cousins (who taught 31 years in our community) and Zella Archer (who taught nine years in Crawford) to attend this meeting. Members are invited to each bring a sandwich for their lunch. The hostess plans to serve a fish chowder.

ACCORDING TO an 1870 newspaper clipping in our file: "the first schools in Alexander were taught in 1822, one in a log house built for the purpose near Mr. Scribner's, a Mr. Brastoe being teacher; the other in a log house on Burnt Barn Hill, so called, taught by a Mr. Prince."

ONE HUNDRED & ONE YEARS AGO: "There are two winter schools in operation in town this winter in District #1, by Harry Townsend of Fort Fairfield, and in District #2 by George B. Berry, P.M. of the town. Both schools progressing satisfactorily.

"S.D. Frost raised 500 bushels of potatoes. John J. Perkins, 65 bushels of wheat. Simeon Bailey killed a last spring pig, 355 lbs., Jefferson Spearin, a hog about 600 lbs. Quite a number of hogs killed in town, from 200-500 lbs.

Stephen Spaulding plucked an ear of corn of common variety whose rows were well filled with corn, and the interstices between the rows were filled with well developed kernels of wheat. This might be called growing two crops in the same ground at the same time. There was a patch of wheat growing a short distance from the corn (a fusion season last year, editor).

"B.W. Tyler has a hen that laid several eggs the past season, each containing three separate yolks; also a hen hatched a chicken having four legs, four wings, two necks and one eye, all developed.

"Elisha Perkins has a crew and team hauling logs in Lower Mud Lake, and James Frost is hauling from Break Neck Hill into Love Lake."

....Machias Union, Jan. 24, 1881

ALEXANDER SCHOOLS (1982): Today there are two schools in session in town. The Alexander Public School which serves approximately 55 local children, kindergarden through eighth grade. It is a two-room framed building situated at the corner of Arm and Cooper roads, opposite the site of the old Town Pound now grown to trees. The teaching staff includes Ron LaRochelle, principal, Diane Shelly and Wanda Casey, a special education teacher.

The Downeast Christian School, which also accepts enrollments from outside the community, is a much newer and larger institution. Presently there are 72 students attending kindergarden through senior high school. The 10 teachers on the staff include the administrator, Paster Richard Fowler.

Both schools are 'affiliates' of our Alexander-Crawford Historical Society.

CORRECTION: We have learned that Raymond Clifton Flood, whose address was sought in last month's newsletter - died on Aug. 1, 1971. The editor regrets any embarresment this error may have caused the family.

-----  
Your A-CHS is now collecting dues for 1982. A blue dot beside your month on the 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.  
-----

## JEFFERY FAMILY LOSES A BELOVED MEMBER - ESTABLISHES MEMORIAL FUND

Bedford, Mass. Dec. 16, 1981

Dear Jane: I regret to inform you that your charter member, Mae Jeffery Ingalls, passed away on Dec. 7, 1981. She was born in Crawford on Oct. 24, 1885, the daughter of James P. Jeffery and Orra Bailey Jeffery.

I am happy to be able to tell you that she died at home (with her family and doctor at her side) as peacefully and as beautifully as she lived.

Some of her friends who know how much pride and pleasure she received from your society are making this contribution in her memory.

They are: Alta M. Beal, Jonesport; Kenneth & Caroline Larson, Bedford; Ben & Eileen Larson, Bedford; Mona & Ed Brothers & their son Roy, Berwick, Me., and Bob & Barbara Rock, Bedford.

In sincere appreciation and wishing you continued success and happiness. ---Winifred R. Shea

Bedford, Mass. Dec. 28, 1981

Alexander-Crawford Historical Soc.:

The enclosed check is from two of Mae Jeffery Ingalls nieces to be added to her Memorial Fund. I'm sure you'll find good use for it.

They are: D. Vivian Emery, Fairfield, Me., and Grace Jeffrey, No. Anson, Me.

Our best wishes,  
---Winifred R. Shea

\* \* \*

### CRAWFORD CHURCH

Your executive committee will be preparing a request for the Crawford Town Meeting Warrant for permission to rent the little white church on the Airline for our summer headquarters (for a nominal fee).

Our 1982 program could include: Junior member activities, a lending library for community children; free craft instructions & community evening programs; our 2nd annual HOMECOMING, our board meetings & genealogy sessions, and a Ways & Means Project to underwrite the cost of electricity, insurance, monthly newsletters & other expenses.

\* \* \*

\*\*\*\*\*

On behalf of the Alexander-Crawford Historical Society, I gratefully acknowledge the generous memorial donations to our Building Fund in memory of our charter member, Mae Jeffery Ingalls, 96, who died on December 7, 1981 at her home in Bedford, Mass.

Sincerely,  
Jane Dudley, presi.

\*\*\*\*\*

### JUDGE PETERS PUDDING

2 env. plain gelatin  
1 cup boiling water  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  cup fresh orange juice  
1 cup sugar  
2 oranges, cut up  
2 bananas, sliced  
6 figs, cut small  
9 dates, cut small  
10 walnuts, coarsely chopped  
juice of 2 lemons

Soak gelatin in  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup cold water. Add 1 cup boiling water, the orange juice, and sugar. Stir to dissolve. Chill until syrupy. Add fruit, pour in mold and let set in cold place. May top with whipped cream, custard or serve plain.

note: John A. Peters was appointed Chief Justice of Maine Supreme Court in 1883. According to our society's genealogist, Ellen Fenlason, of Danforth, this 'pudding' was his favorite dessert.

\* \* \*

DONATIONS: Our sincere thanks to the following members for their recent donations to our General Fund which supports our monthly newsletter: Victor & Stella Archer, Crawford; Vesta Varnum Duffy, Islington, Ma.; Larry Keck, Alexander; Arline Lowe, Crawford; Samuel Saunders, Calais; Eunice Thaxter, Addison; Catharine Walters, White House Station, N.J.; Alice Varnum Williams, Waite; Annie Frost Williams, Brooklin; and Gertrude Strout Winter, Bucksport.

(Without the fine support of our members we would be unable to have this monthly newsletter printed. In 1982 we should receive around \$249.00 from dues; printing cost for the four pages is \$ 372.00 for 12 issues. ---the ed.)



# Bible's first School Books

" In 1811 the Rev. Ephraim Abbot, a young missionary from the theological seminary at Andover, Mass., who had been assigned to eastern Maine and who was making his headquarters at Eastport, went up the St. Croix on the New Brunswick side, crossed over at Baring, and preached in a barn belonging to Squire Vance to about 50 of Baileyville whose combined population numbered about 18 families all of whom were without schools or books. Later Abbot preached and distributed Bibles to the few scattered families in nearby Charlotte and at 'Poke Moonshine' (on the South Princeton Rd.) within the limits of what is now the town of Princeton....In this frontier region most of the settlers worked for the lumber operators in the winter and spring to earn their provisions and farmed during the summer and autumn. They lived primitively in rude cabins and often found it difficult to meet their payments on their lots most of which contained about 160 acres."

## THEY WANTED TO WORK IN THE WOODS:

" A number of the strictly agricultural communities on the Maine side of the river (St. Croix) showed a falling off in population between 1850 and 1860. According to the Advertiser, Charlotte, Crawford, Cooper, Baileyville and Alexander were towns where farming took up four months, logging four months, and loafing around to commence or close a winter's labor the remainder of the year. (Calais Advertiser 9/20/1860)

" The towns were 'cursed' with sufficient timber to destroy thrifty farming yet had not enough to make prosperous lumbering. Young men grew up 'with axe and pick pole in hand, and after trying the sociability of working in large crews in the woods, or on the rivers driving logs, had no relish for picking up stones alone on a ten acre lot, and decamped to join their brothers in the pinneries of Wisconsin and Minnesota'.

"In these towns interests of settlers and timber owners conflicted, and the timber owners were crowding and buying out the settlers. Even Calais failed to make great gains in population because 'the hundreds of men of Oshkosh, Wis., the crowds about Port Hudson and Saginaw Bay, Mich., about Saint Anthony's Falls, Minn., the scattered settlements throughout all the pine lands from Potsdam to Puget's Sound, Washington territory, not to mention hundreds in California, have made a deep cut in our numbers.'

" Princeton's population, on the other hand, had more than doubled, most of the increase occurring in the last three years of the decade. The opening of the Lewy's Island Railroad was followed by the establishment of several sawmills including several gangs, a grist mill, and a tannery."

THESE ACCOUNTS of the early days of the St. Croix Area makes fascinating reading in the recently reprinted An International Community on the St. Croix (1604-1930), by Harold A. Davis. Any 'historian' interested in our neck-of-the-woods should examine this book. Helen Oliver, librarian, reports there are several copies available for borrowing at the Calais Free Library, and purchase inquiries could be made at the University of Maine Book Store, Orono, Me. 04473.

---

We would like to list our Junior Charter Members' names in the next issue and are looking for a company or individual to sponsor their very special 'Scrapbook' page....the editor

---

## SEEKING KNOWLEDGE OF HUGUENOT DESCENDANTS

Your editor was very interested to read in An International Community on the St. Croix that the Sieur de Monts, who established the region's first settlement on St. Croix Island in 1604, about three miles above the mouth of the river of the same name, "was a huguenot gentleman who had participated in the religious wars (in France) on the Protestant side."

This pleased me so much because my father's ancestors were also huguenots and were early settlers of New Rochelle, N.Y. in the 1600s when they came to this country.

For the past few years I have been attempting to trace the descendants of my 'Gerow' Loyalist ancestors who moved to New Brunswick around the American Revolution, and also were early settlers of Hodgdon, Me. when that town was still a part of Washington County.

\*\*\*\*\*  
HISTORICAL CONTRIBUTION: On June 15, 1975 a thirteen gun salute was fired at Machias, Me. to celebrate 200 years of Freedom. Recently, member Ken Smith of Gardner's Lake donated one of the empty blank cartridges to our society to be preserved in our future headquarters. Thank you, Ken.  
\*\*\*\*\*

Alexander-Crawford Historical Society  
Jane Gerow Dudley, newsletter editor  
R #1, Box 1616  
Alexander, Maine 04694

### FIRST CLASS

JOHN AND MARIE DUDLEY

AUGUST

Because of my interest I have recently been named the Maine representative of the Gerow Family Association, Huguenot Historical Society, New Paltz, N.Y. (which, incidentally, has just published Volume 1 of The Giraud-Gerow Family in America. (First 4 generations in America. Volume 2, now in progress will cover 5 through 8 generations. (Darn! I'm #9!)

Anyone with Gerow family ancestry interested in joining the Association, or obtaining a copy of this book from New Paltz, might write me for further particulars.

-----  
This half page is available for research inquiries. Contact the editor at the address below.  
-----