

A-GHS

Alexander-Crawford Historical Society

March/April 1982

Membership: 213 adults

Number 22



* Crawford Church (1979)

Coburn Wallace, 1st selectman
Board of Selectmen
Crawford, Maine 04694 Feb. 1, 1982

Dear Coburn: We are writing to have the following article placed in the Crawford Town Meeting Warrant in March.

"That the Alexander-Crawford Historical Society be permitted to rent the town-owned vacant church on the Airline, for a nominal fee, to be used as its summer headquarters until a suitable permanent headquarters can be found."

Our 1982 program may include: Junior Member activities for all community children; Junior Library, free craft instruction & community evening programs; our 2nd annual HOMECOMING, board and genealogy sessions, and a Ways & Means Project to underwrite cost of electricity, insurance and minor repairs.

Sincerely, Jane Dudley, President

C A L E N D E R

Tues. March 16: Monthly board meeting 10 a.m. followed by program, genealogy session, and sandwich lunch at the Dudleys', Pocomoonshine Lake.

Monday, March 22: Crawford Town Meeting 7 p.m. at the Town Hall on the Airline
Sat., April 3rd: School-in-the-Woods 1st spring session, 10:11:30 a.m. at the cabin, to continue through May 29 with the exception of April 17, when the director will be away.

Tues. April 20: Monthly board meeting 10 a.m., followed by program, genealogy session, and sandwich lunch at the Dudleys', Pocomoonshine Lake.

Tues. May 18: 2nd annual Community Spring Meeting & Cakewalk at the Alexander Grange Hall beginning 7 p.m.

Sat. August 21: 2nd Annual A-CHS HOMECOMING, time & place to be announced

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Activities At Home

TUESDAY, MARCH 16: Our vice president Harold Fenlason, former state representative from our District, will present an informal talk of historical interest (subject to be announced), at our executive committee's monthly coffee meeting which begins at 10 a.m. at the Dudley home on Pocumoonshine Lake. During the session we will finalize plans for our 2nd annual Community Meeting & Cakewalk, to be held on May 18, 7 p.m., at the Alexander Grange Hall. Members and potential members are invited to these monthly confabs. Take a sandwich for lunch, and enjoy the 'genealogy' talk which follows the program.

TUESDAY, APRIL 20: 'The History of St. Croix Island' will be the topic of the talk Frank Fenderson, of Smuggler's Cove, Calais, will present when he and Ruby join us at 10 a.m. for coffee at the cabin. Frank led the effort for the Oct. 2, 1981 'Commemoration of Historical St. Croix Island': and his home, on the banks of the St. Croix River, overlooks this region's first settlement in 1604. (This program was planned for our Christmas Coffee, but the weather did not cooperate). Marie Dudley will be hostess for the day; bring-your-own-sandwich-lunch will follow the program.

JUNIOR SCRAPBOOK: Our young co-editors of the Junior Page, Lisa Clark, Joey Wallace and Wendy Wheaton, are all native-born and descendants of early settlers of this area: Wendy is a descendant of Moses Bonney, 1st settler on Pocumoonshine Lake; Joey, a descendant of Edward Seavey (1783-1842); and Lisa, of Jacob Davis (1833-1910). The Davis Homestead in Crawford now belongs to Ethel Wallace, Joey's grandmother.

SCHOOL-OF-THE-WOODS: So much interest has been shown by our young juniors (ages 5-9 yrs.) who attend the Saturday morning nature study program, that your director has asked for help. Our co-editor trio has volunteered to be 'counselors', and will be attending Saturday morning training sessions this month in preparation for the spring session which will run from April 3 to May 29 (excluding April 17). Ethel Wallace has also consented to assist the director, to the delight of everyone!

AN INVITATION: One bitterly cold windy day in January we received a hastily written note in our rural mailbox from Key West, Fla. It was from Janis Schlensz one of our artist members, who maintains a summer home and studio at Roque Bluffs, Me. "What would you think of a 'July Art Workshop' one day a week, and perhaps later in the summer, also?" she wrote. "Bring a sandwich; draw-paint, pen & ink, or whatever anyone wants to learn? Think about it. Anyone interested?" she concluded. Well, right off I knew one. Me! And perhaps three others: Ruth, Ruby, Ellen - and a 4th, Barbara? Contact your editor if interested.

MEMBERSHIP: The month printed on your mailing address indicates when your \$1.00 annual dues are in order. If they are overdue, a little blue mark will be placed there. A check will appear here if stamps are needed (4 of them) to complete your 1982 mailings. (Our red 'Community Box' is now functioning at the Alexander Grange Hall, contact your editor if you wish your letters left there.) Our dues do not cover the cost of printing this newsletter. (We need 400 members to break even). If it were not for the generosity of some of our members, who pay more than their share, we could not pay the printer. **THANK YOU:** Members contributing to our General Fund during the past month are: Evelyn Carroll, Harold & Ellen Fenlason, Hazel Frost, Clinton Flood, Sandy Ives, Richard Olson, Geneva Sadler, Pike & Maxine Seavey, Lillian Thompson, Linda Wallace, Lloyd and Ellen Wells. Thank you also, Verna Merrill and Janis Sullivan, for your continuing support of our Birthday Box and Traveling Basket.

Letters from our Members

Ellen Wells, Portland, Me.: As much as I would miss receiving my newsletter every month, I think the every-other-month newsletter is an idea whose time has come. Even in Portland one gets cabin fever in February because the streets are a mess and impossible to walk in. The sidewalks disappeared long ago. The news from Pocomoonshine touches my homesick bone and makes it ache - but it's an ache which can be smoothed by leaning back, closing the eyes and conjuring up a little brown cabin in the woods with a moosesled hanging by the door and an enormous wreath hanging in the window, chowder simmering on the stove and muffins perfuming the air. P.S. I think I like the Junior Member Scrapbook the best. May I be a Foster Junior Member?

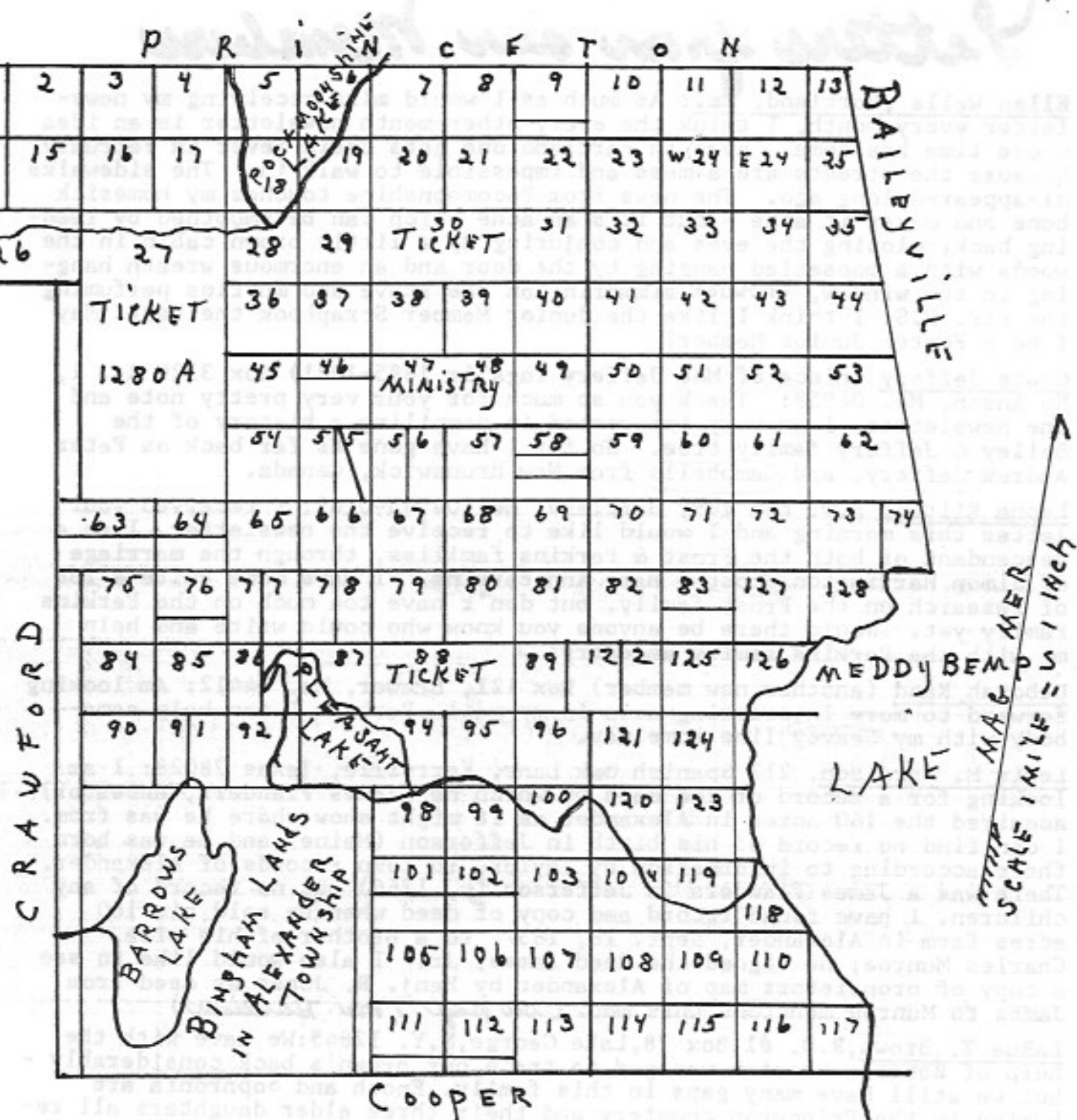
Grace Jeffery (niece of Mae Jeffery Ingalls 1885-1981) Box 3320 Rt. 1, No Anson, Me. 04958: Thank you so much for your very pretty note and the newsletter. I am very interested in compiling a history of the Bailey & Jeffery family tree. So far I have gone as far back as Peter Andrew Jeffery, and Campbells from New Brunswick, Canada.

Leona Kilton, P.O. Box 169, Hartland, Me. 04943-0169: I received your letter this morning and I would like to receive the newsletter. I am a descendant of both the Frost & Perkins families, through the marriage of Simon Harrington Frost & Mary Ann Perkins. I have done quite a lot of research on the Frost family, but don't have too much on the Perkins family yet. Would there be anyone you know who could write and help me with the Perkins family ancestry?

Deborah Rand (another new member) Box 121, Brewer, Me. 04412: Am looking forward to more interesting news in my mail. Perhaps I can help somebody with my Seavey line some day.

Lewis M. Hardison, 212 Spanish Oak Lane, Kerrville, Texas 78028: I am looking for a record of the deed by which he (James Flanders, ancestor) acquired the 160 acres in Alexander as it might show where he was from. I can find no record of his birth in Jefferson (Maine), and he was born there according to information by Taylor, in town records of Alexander. There was a James Flanders in Jefferson (b. 1766) but no record of any children. I have found record and copy of deed when he sold his 160 acres farm in Alexander, Sept. 18, 1837, to a brother of his wife, Charles Munroe; he signed the deed James, Jr. I also would like to see a copy of proprietors map of Alexander by Benj. R. Jones as deed from James to Munroe mentions this map. (See page 7, Mr. Hardison)

LaRue T. Brown, R.D. #1, Box 78, Lake George, N.Y. 12845: We have with the help of Roberta Wheaton managed to trace our Brown's back considerably - but we still have many gaps in this family. Enoch and Sophronia are buried in the Princeton cemetery and their three elder daughters all remained in that area - marrying men named Yates. Amos (next in line) was my husband's grandfather. Amos, Wash and Frank moved to Wisc. Wash and Frank stayed there, perhaps, 20 years and then moved to Washington or Oregon. Just by chance in searching some Wisc. marriage records I found also Turner and Eugene - also in Wisc. - bearing out the mention in the newsletter (ACHS JAM.) that many men from the Washington County area went to Wisc. and Minn. to work in the woods. I am seeking documentation of some children of Enoch and Sophronia Farrer Brown. Need birthdates or place of birth of Susan Deborah (b. 7 Jan. 1844 md. Osgood Yates), Phebie A. (b. abt 1850 md. Michael Willett), Turner, Washington, Leonard Frank, Eugene - all males moved to Wisc. Also, need documentation of parents of Sophronia Farrer - said to be Abner Farrer and Susan Sherman of St. David's, Charlotte, New Brunswick, Canada.



MAP OF ALEXANDER, MAINE

The above map has been copied from the George A. Colby & Co. 1881 Atlas of Washington County, page 31. It would appear, from the evidence available, that the original of this map was the Benjamin R. Jones plan of the town. Not only the geography of the town, but also including the lot numbers.

prepared by Jack Doolley

Our Early Settlers

We welcome your comments and
historical contributions...ed.

-5-

"Calais, known as Township No. 5 in the Putnam Survey, was settled by Machias people, the first of whom, Daniel Hill, came about 1776. Several more arrived during the next three or four years, and from then on there was a small but steady influx largely from Maine and Massachusetts. These people were farmers and lumbermen, some of whom, attracted by the liberal land policy and by commercial opportunities made possible by the British navigation act, soon crossed over to the New Brunswick side.

"Like many of the settlers in eastern Maine those at Calais were squatters. In 1785 a group of 21 petitioned the Massachusetts General Court for confirmation of their holdings, and later in the same year James Brook Phillips, for himself and 290 others, made application for the purchase of the township. However, it was the usual policy of Massachusetts to sell to wealthy promoters, who frequently bought as a speculation, and the unhappy petitioners were ignored.

"In the St. Croix Valley the township which later became Perry, along with those of Pembroke and Dennysville to the westward, went to General Benjamin Lincoln of Hingham, Mass., on March 6, 1786; Robbinston, just above Perry, and just below Calais on the St. Croix, went to Lieutenant Governor Edward H. Robbins of Milton, Mass., in the same year; Calais was acquired by Waterman Thomas, a Waldoboro, Me., merchant, in 1789. The future towns of Baring, Baileyville and Princeton, on the upper St. Croix, along with vast tracts immediately to the westward totaling 1,000,000 acres were purchased (1791) by William Bingham, the Philadelphia banker, for a few cents an acre.

"These townships were among the block of 50 between the Penobscot and the St. Croix which Massachusetts had attempted to sell in a great land lottery. 2,720 tickets each were issued; soldiers' notes and other state securities were receivable as payment. Each ticket drew at least 160 acres and the lucky ones a township. Four hundred thirty-seven tickets were sold; \$26,200 were realized; 165,280 acres were drawn.

"The average price came to about 52¢ per acre. In the eastern division only a small portion of the land was drawn. Bingham took the rest and later purchased most of the prize lots. The lottery townships and their settlers were exempted from taxes for 15 years, but the fact that so much land was tied up delayed the settlement of the region".

".....Thus by the close of the 18th century the region between the

head of the tide and the mouth of the St. Croix was taken up and occupied. Most of the new inhabitants, including the Loyalists, came from the older parts of New England. Greater numbers were drawn to the New Brunswick side. Massachusetts paid little attention

(from the University of Maine Studies
An International Community on the St. Croix by Harold A. Davis)

* * *

A footnote on page 65 follows: "Williamson, W. D. History of Maine:

Bingham also acquired 2,000,000 acres in the central part of Maine (The Kennebec Purchase). His payments to Massachusetts for both tracts amounted to about \$1,000,000. The cost of the Kennebec tract to Dec. 1796, came to \$501,420.00, or about 25¢ an acre.

"Bingham to General Henry Knox, December 22, 1796 (Knox Papers, Vol. XI, Mass. His. Soc.): Bingham and his partner General Knox had arranged with the Massachusetts authorities to make their payment over a period of years. They also agreed to settle 20 families in each township during the first four years and 20 more during the next eight years, but were unable to comply. As a result of the defeat of the Indians by General Wayne in 1794, the opening of new western areas, and the new federal land policy, Bingham and Knox found themselves overloaded with land. After some difficulty they managed to sell a half interest in their eastern or Penobscot tract to young Alexander Baring, son of Sir Francis of Baring Brothers, who was sent over to America to investigate the possibilities of investments in land. Baring paid about 33¢ per acre.

Alexander Baring married a daughter of Bingham and it was for him that the towns of Alexander and Baring were named."

Editor's note: There are many references listed beneath this information in Harold A. Davis's An International Community on the St. Croix (1604-1930) and are available from your newsletter editor on request. If enough

interest is shown we will list them in the newsletter. Should you wish further study, you might also obtain a copy of The Golden Voyage: The Life and Times of William Bingham 1752-1804 by Robert C. Alberts, published in 1969 by Houghton Mifflin Company.

History in the Making:

My First Experience in an Earthquake:

I've read and heard a lot about earthquakes, but my first experience with one was on Jan. 9, 1982, at 10 o'clock in the morning. I was in the kitchen when I heard a rumbling sound, thinking it was my son with the sand truck, I went to look out the front window. There was no truck there! Then I noticed the leaves on my cactus plant waving, I thought, how did the wind get in here? The wind chimes were also tinkling. Then I felt a slight

tremble, I said to myself, that must have been an earthquake.

The following Monday afternoon I was talking with Marje on the phone. When I heard a rumbling again, I said to her, "There's that stupid earthquake again!"

"No, that's my washing machine vibrating!"

I said, "Well, I don't think your machine is vibrating over here."

(written by Ethel Wallace on the request of the editor who didn't hear or feel a thing in her cabin in the woods.)

* * *

List of Settlers on the Bingham Lands in Alexander

(June 1, 1823 to June 1, 1830)

Nathaniel Bailey	Thomas Davis	Joseph Longley
Abraham Bailey	John H. Damon	Godfrey Lyddick
Moses E. Bailey	Seth G. Damon	George Lord
Widow Mary Bean	Nathaniel Fenlason	John Moholland
Enoch Brown	Samuel Fenlason	William Moholland
Samuel Brown	Joseph Frost	John Moore
William Bonney	Jeremiah Frost	Nathaniel P. Meserve
Solomon W. Blackley	Job Frost	James Perkins
Joel Butler	Robert (----)	William Patterson
Joshus Boynton	James Flanders	John Spencer
Adam Campbell	Ebenezer Ingalls	Soloman Strout
William Cole	Francis (Inyner)	James Taylor
Charles Cottle	Hiram Knight	Dexter H. Woodcock
Levi Connick	Porter Lyon	
Job Chase	Cornelius Lyon	
Isaac Crafts	Cornelius Lyon, Jr.	
Vivien Crafts	Samuel B. Lamb	
	* * *	

ON JANUARY 19, 1825 ALEXANDER, MAINE BECAME AN ORGANIZED TOWN:

CHAPTER CCLXXXVIII

(AN ACT to incorporate the town of Alexander)

SECT. 1. BE it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives, in Legislature assembled, That the Plantation number sixteen, in the eastern division, in the County of Washington, bounded north by number seventeen, east by number six and number seven, south by number fifteen, west by number twenty, with the inhabitants thereof, be, and they are hereby incorporated into a town by the name of Alexander. And the inhabitants of said town are hereby vested with all the powers, privileges and immunities, which the inhabitants of towns within this State do or may by law enjoy.

SECT. 2. Be it further enacted, That any Justice of the Peace, within said county, is hereby empowered to issue his warrant to some inhabitant of said town, directing him to notify the inhabitants thereof, to meet at such time and place as he shall appoint, to choose such officers as other towns are empowered to choose at their annual town meetings.

SECT. 3. Be it further enacted, That said town of Alexander shall be entitled to vote in the choice of a Representative to the Legislature of this State, in the same class, and in the same manner, as it was allowed and authorized to do, previous to the passing of this Act; and shall continue a part of the class aforesaid until otherwise provided by law. from: SPECIAL LAWS of the STATE OF MAINE. Passed by the Fifth Legislature at its session in January, 1825.

FROM OUR NATIVE BIRTHDAY FILE

Sixty-six handpainted & natural material greeting cards have been sent, since November 1980, to Alexander-Crawford natives reaching 75 years or more, by our resident artist.

This Spring we are celebrating the following:

March:

Rupert Day (b. Mar. 28, 1903)
Crawford, Maine 04694

April:

Inez Lahan Frost (b. Apr. 2, 1906)
Surrey, Maine 04684

Alberta Harriman Leighton
(b. Apr. 30, 1905)
Sunrise Apts., Calais, Maine 04619

Edna Flood Perkins (b. Apr. 6, 1894)
Woodland, Maine 04694

* * *

Jenny Brookmeyer, Lisa Clark, Tricia Clark, Bonnie Carlow, Brian Davis, Seth Davis, Matthew Sears, Linda Seavey, Oliver Smith, Sarah Smith, Tiffany Smith, Daniel Sullivan, Hanna Sullivan, Jeffrey Wallace, Joey Wallace, Tanya Wallace, Tracy Wallace, Jill Wheaton

(Guess how many now!!!)

Junior Members Scrapbook

Co-editors
Wendy Wheaton, Joey Wallace, Lisa Clark

School-in-the Woods

Indian Names! Meeko, red squirrel; Mokoques, the hare; Mooween, black bear; Muskwash, muskrat, Unkwunk, Porcupine;



Miss Mousie's House... (Milne's "Solitude")

I have a Mouse House where I go
When there's too many people,
I have a Mouse House where I go
Where no one can be;
I have a Mouse House where I go,
Where nobody ever says "No";
Where no one says anything--so
There is no one but me.

THIS LICHEN, WHICH
THE LONG-AGO
CARIBOU USED TO
FEED UPON, IS
STILL GROWING AT
MRS. KETNER'S LEDGE
LODGE ON POCOMOONSHINE
LAKE. (LOOK ON PAGE 99 IN YOUR HANDBOOK.)



Reindeer Lichen

JUNIORS, pick a name
for our youngest
School-of-the-Woods
Group. Call your
choice to one of
your three editors:

- Forest Friends
 - Chipmunks
 - Pine Needles
 - Little Mousies
 - Pollywogs
 - Wilderness Critters
 - Little Breezes
 - Birds-of-a-feather
 - or
 - Deer Mice (Jack's selection)
- Lisa 454-3906
 Joey 454-7766
 Wendy 454-3922

Joey Wallace, Lisa Clark and Wendy Wheaton would like to thank Jane Dudley for everything she does for us. She has shown us Junior charter members so much about our Maine woods, and our plant, and animal life. She has also taught us many words that Indians used to use. She has given us some handbooks about different plants so we can look up what we have seen on Our nature walks. We can also take them with us so we can identify plants which we don't know. We want you to know, Jane, that all of us, Jenny Sears, Hanna Sullivan, Robin and Leigh Wheaton and everyone else in our family, appreciates you very much and we all love you!

Thanks, Jane!

Wendy W.

This issue's Junior Page
compliments of the
MACHIAS SAVINGS BANK

Amanda Kubinak, Kevin Mac Donald, Mark Mac Donald, Robt. McArthur, Elizabeth Leigh Wheaton, Robin Wheaton, Wendy Wheaton

Olson, Angela Perkins, Michelle Mitchell, John Elston Mitchell, David Sanford, Jenny Sanford, Alecia Sears, Jenny Sears, Jimmy Sears

Day, Russell Crockett, Alexis Hertz, Rachel Hertz, Nathan Holst, Nathan Tellison, Raynold Kaminsky, Lorien Kaminsky, Amanda Kubiak, Kevin Mac Donald, Mark Mac Donald, Robt. McArthur, Elizabeth Leigh Wheaton, Robin Wheaton, Wendy Wheaton

JUNIOR CRAFT PROJECTS: Please save your wildlife stamps, attractive holiday & birthday cards, empty shoe boxes for our Junior craft projects. Also scraps of lace and fancy trims, pretty buttons and any bright cotton remnants you might have, for handsewn articles to fill our Traveling Basket which has been on the shelf all winter!

E D I T O R I A L

-Celebrating Our Own Existence - that's what we are doing here in this small Washington County community on the Airline; and that's what our newsletters are all about! With this issue we graduate from four to 10 pages, and we will be very interested to learn how you like the change.

THE next issue will be out by the first of May. In the interim your comments, letters, genealogy information, ancestral recipes and stories would be very much appreciated. Just mail them to your editor (deadline is April 20).

ALSO, and a very important ALSO it is, we want to report that the Crawford church, pictured this month, was given its 1st coat of white paint and red trim Sept. 24, 1980 & July 11, 1981! Chuckie Church was the one who roused the community for this project - some of our members participated. It LOOKS 100% BETTER!!!

AS I finish this newsletter, Jack carries in the mail. There is another generous donation for the Mae Ingalls Jeffery Memorial Fund, which goes into our Building Account for permanent future headquarters. This one is from Dawn and Matthew Hannel, of Quincy, Mass. We are indeed grateful.

AN APOLOGY to Margaret Jeffery Noyes of Woodland for inadvertently misspelling her name last issue when thanking her for the loving donation she made to the same fund. J&D

MEMORIAL DAY DONATIONS, in the name of our Ancestors, (for General & Bldg. Funds) will be listed in the MAY/JUNE Issue. Please remember to add the dates of the birth & death. Names must be received by April 20 to meet this newsletter deadline.

We need a Masthead for our new 10-page, bi-monthly newsletter. Suggestions are most welcome..ed.

OUR FEBRUARY BOARD MEETING

Members from Rumford Center, Danforth and East Machias came a long way to attend the late winter meeting on February 16.

Jack Dudley provided taxi service through the snowy woods to the cabin that morning. It was a beautiful sunny day making up for the December and January meetings which were 'snowed out'.

Ellen Fenlason, our genealogist, showed us the stack of records she and Harold have been copying from micro film at the Maine State Archives in Augusta.

"We have about 20 more families to go before we are finished," she advised. Ellen and Harold are planning to donate these records in book form to our society. She also mentioned making another copy to be given as a gift from A-CHS to the Town of Alexander. "A suggestion very well received. (Original copies were destroyed in a fire at the home of the former Town Clerk in 1976).

During the February session three new members were welcomed, bringing the total membership to 211 adults, and 42 juniors.

Zela Cousins took out gift memberships for her granddaughter, Jane Manza of Woodland; and her great granddaughter, Michelle Perkins, age 5, of Pleasant Lake. Ethel Wallace is sending a gift membership to Audrey Seavey Morford of Alhambra, Calif.

Other business included setting Saturday, August 21 for our 2nd Annual HOMECOMING.

Ethel Wallace brought her delicious baking powder biscuits, and Kathy Smith her luscious raisin brownies which complemented the fish chowder served at noon.

* * *

ALEXANDER-CRAWFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY - EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

(1981 - 1982)

Winter addresses:

President	Jane Dudley	Alexander	454-8472
Vice-President	Harold Fenlason	Danforth	448-7781
Treasurer	Millie Winckler	Calais	454-3695
Secretary	Kay Church	Crawford	
Corres. Secretary	Mary Williams	Waite	
Directors:	John & Marie Dudley	Rumford Center	
	Pliney Frost	Alexander	
	Donald & Audrey Ketner	Newark, Del.	
	Tim & Ellie Sanford	Alexander	
Building chairman	John M. Dudley	Alexander	
Newsletter & Membership	Jane Dudley		
Public Relations	Harold Fenlason		
Ways & Means	Ellie Sanford & Audrey Ketner		
Genealogist	Ellen Fenlason	Danforth	
Alexander Historian	Pliney Frost		
Crawford Historian	Ethel Wallace	Crawford	
Church & cemetery research	Ruth Dwelley	Alexander	
School research	Millie Winckler		
Curator	John H. Dudley		
Current events record	Orris & Marian Cousins	Alexander	

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

FIRST CLASS