

SNOW, FREEZING WINDS, A BLIZZARD FOLLOWED BY EARTHQUAKES kept members home on the dates of our December and January meetings. But we haven't given up. As I tell everyone, Jack and I will be here; the coffee will be perked, muffins in the oven, chowder simmering on the back of the stove. Come if you can get through, but c:1 first to see if you can drive into our yard!

This month's meeting starting at 10 a.m. on Tues. Feb. 16th will be of great interest to local genealogists. We had a telephone call from Harold and Ellen Fenlason. Bless their hearts! They have been spending the winter going back and forth to Augusta, copying the Alexander records which were destroyed by fire six years ago! Ellen is making sure our society has a copy of all their research. Isn't that just great!

Our town clerk, Tina Smith, was telling me these records involve the birth, marriage intentions and census from about 1896 which are made available on micro film to researchers at the Maine State Archives; and that 'registered' marriage, death and birth information, from 1900 to the present, can be obtained from the Maine State Registra, Vital Statistics Dept. of Human Services, State House, Augusta, Me. 04333. Whenever you require a birth certificate prior to 1975, please contact Tina. The cost is \$2.00 regardless of whether you send direct, or receive the certified copy from her. If Tina sends for your birth certificate she will receive a free copy for our town files, and make out a 'registered' copy from it for you. (Her telephone number is 202-454-3420).

PERFECT VALENTINE GIFT: An artistic, original valentine, created by our A-CHS artist in residence, will accompany each 1982 gift membership you would like to give this month to a special family member or friend. One dollar and stamps for 10 months will cover the membership and the mailings of the 1982 monthly newsletters.

OUR FEBRUARY SWEETHEART OF THE MONTH AWARD goes to five of our Junior Charter Members who established their own personal 'Foster Grandchild' visitations on Saturday afternoons at the Barnard Nursing Home in Calais. Immediately after watching a program over TV they launched such a project. Our concerned young juniors are: Wendy, Leigh and Robin Wheaton; Patricia Clark and Linda Seavey. ALSO "the younger pupils" in Miss Shelley's class at the Alexander Public School, all made Christmas cards for the nursing home residents which were distributed by our 'sweethearts' during their holiday visits.

The Alexander Public School (an affiliate member of our society) is encouraging townspeople to participate in their once-a-month assemblies. Two of our members were invited to participate by the school committee recently: Millie Winckler entranced the students with recall of her young school days in Calais prior to the early 1920s; and Jack Dudley (quickly dubbed "Pocomoonshine Physicist" by a teacher) demonstrated how to make a propelled 'Pocomoonshine Wimpy' of white pine, and a wooden 'sky hook' which defied gravity.

FAMILY REUNIONS: We would like to list the 1982 dates of the various family reunions in our newsletter this year (Dwelley, Frost, Seaveys, Wallace, etc.) including those out of the area, and even out of state. Planners please contact the editor when your plans are finalized.

WE ARE MOST GRATEFUL for the Mae Jeffrey Ingalls Memorial Donations to our Building Fund from: Winifred, Steve, Bob, Jim & Leslie Shea of Bedford, Mass.; Margaret Jeffery Hayes of Princeton, and Doris N. Jeffery. (We presently have \$343.39 in our building fund.) We also thank Hazel Dwelley of Alexander, and Mildred Mae Shain Gay of Virginia, for their thoughtful donations to our general fund.

REPORT FROM THE BUILDING COMMITTEE, by John M. Dudley, chairman.

The first prospect was the old schoolhouse at Strout's Corner in Alexander. This building, and the land it is located on, was offered to the society free of charge by Dr. Jack Murtaugh.

About six members of the society went to the property to examine it. The building had undergone numerous changes since it was used as a school house. The foundation had deteriorated up to four feet above ground level, including floor timbers, sills, etc. It was determined that the cost of raising and rebuilding just this part would be in excess of \$5,000.

This was in the infancy of the A-CHS. We had no funds and did not know what the future of the society might be. We appreciated the offer but were in no position to accept it.

The second prospect was the 'Gospel Assembly' building located on the old Will Strout property at Strout's corner, then owned by Ed and Kaye McNulty. This building, though not too old, was offered to us at a very reasonable price. It was in good condition.

However, the land was not for sale. This meant we would have to move it. Before we could move the building we had to own a lot of land on which to place it. We did not have the funds to purchase it, the funds to pay for moving, or to buy the land. Therefore, nothing was done.

Our society is less than two years old, and our membership has reached over 200. However, we cannot commit ourselves to a headquarters until we are financial solvent, and in a position to maintain such a building. When that time arrives we will become incorporated under the laws of The State of Maine.

We will continue to look for a suitable building and land within our financial means. When such time arrives, we will act.

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NATIVE BIRTHDAY BOX: This month's handpainted, congratulatory cards will be mailed to two Alexander natives - one living close by, the other far from 'home': Nellie McPheters (b. Feb. 28, 1905) of Woodland, Me. 04694; and Leonard McDonough (Feb. 8, 1900) 4805 Woodward, Dearborn, Mich. 48126.

AND HOW ABOUT a shower of birthday cards this month for our charter member Tommy Long (b. Feb. 2, 1895). Tommy, who is reported homesick for his Alexander home, has been living at Barnard Nursing Home since last summer. The address is Palmer St. Extension, Calais, Me. 04619.

A WARM WELCOME: We welcomed 11 new members in January, nine of these were gift memberships, including two infants: Elizabeth Kezia Olson born on Jan. 18th to charter members Richard and Emily Olson of South Windsor, Conn.; and native-born Matthew Anthony Day, born Jan. 24th to Tony and Geraldine Day of Crawford. (Matthew is the grandson of Leland & Norma Day, and great grandson of Rupert & Gertrude Day, all of whom are charter members of this society.)

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TIME FOR A CHANGE? Your society is considering making our newsletter bigger and better at half the cost to our subscribing members. How can we do this? By mailing the letter every other month, rather than 12 times a year. We would like to hear from our members about this.

Yes, I would like to have my newsletters mailed every other month saving me \$1.20 a year.

No, I like receiving my newsletter every month.

Signature _____

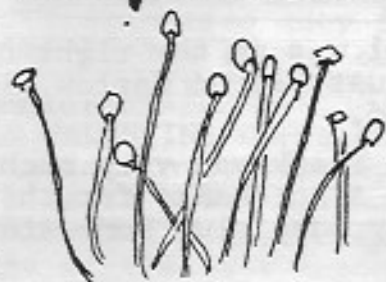
(If you have sent in your 1982 stamps, these will be pro-rated should we make this change).

Our Junior Charter members: JENNY BROOKMEYER, BONNIE CARLOW, ALECIA CLARK, BRIAN & SETH DAVIS, RUSSELL GOETTEL, ALEXIS & RACHEL HEART, ANGELA PERKINS, DAVID & JENNIFER SANFORD, ALECIA, JENNY & TIMMY SEARS, LINDA SEAVEY, OLIVER & SARAH SMITH, TIFFANY SMITH, DANNY & HANNA SULLIVAN, JOEY & TANYA, NATHAN HOLST, NATHAN JELISON, ARWYN & KORIEN KAMINSKY,

*** Junior Members Scrapbook ***

OLD MAN'S BEARD
LOLLIPOP LICHEN
BRITISH SOLDIER
are hiding in our Woods,
Pixie Cup, WOOD FERNS
are gone beneath the snow.

Call Mrs. Dudley if you
want to make some
Valentines, Saturday 6th
at the Cabin. (454-8472)
in the morning.

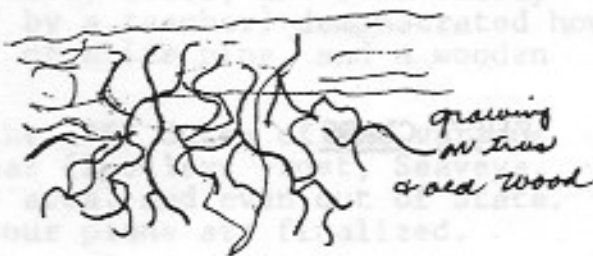


British Soldier
or 'Mallet Lichen'

See if you can find
these pioneer plants
in your School of the Woods
Nature books & paint them!



Wood fern



gnarling
in trees
& old wood

February's Junior Scrapbook
compliments of YANKEE



WALLACE, JILL, LEIGH, ROBIN & WENDY WHEATON, KIMMONA KUBINAK, ROBERT MCARTHUR, KEVIN & MARK MACDONALD, JOHN MITCHELL

LETTERS FROM OUR MEMBERS:

Mildred Mae Shain Gay, Nokesville, Va. Once every other month mailing is fine with me. My sister Blanche Palmer of Whitneyville enrolled my name. We grew up in Woodland (Baileyville) but I have enjoyed reading of the family names of youngsters I went to school with in Maine, but it's been 50 years since I left so I guess I'm a Virginian now. Your Historical Society sounds very interesting and very active. When I return to Maine for a vacation I'd like to attend one of your meetings. Best luck to you and enjoy your research.

Mrs. William Minnick, Hollis Center, Me. I enjoy your newsletter very much! This latest issue makes me think of the "one-room schoolhouse" which I attended in the 1920's - Fun! Hope all is well in Alexander.

John H. Dudley, Rumford Center, Me. According to information Orris Cousins has given me there have been nine schools in Alexander:

- 1) Four corners
- 2) Perkins Rd. (Lovering District)
- 3) Alexander Center (Townsend Hill), present fire station
- 4) 'Cedar' where the Larry Kecks now live
- 5) new school near the old town pound
- 6) Downeast Christian School
- 7) across from Zela Cousins on the Airline (Route 9)
- 8) Arm Road beyond Sear's corner on the right
- 9) Breakneck (Burnt Barn Hill?) This Breakneck school was on the right of road going from Sears Corner to Cooper - it was just beyond Carlow flat and just beyond intersection of Burnt Barn Hill Rd.

Beulah Frost Williams, Surrey, Me. (b. Jan. 1, 1904) Thank you very much for my birthday card, it was very thoughtful of you. Also thanks for the newsletters I enjoy them very much. I am enclosing my dues plus some stamps. Wish you all a healthy new year.

Jacqueline Larson, Youngstown, Ohio: Thank you so very much for the Christmas fern from Pocomoonshine Lake. What a lovely idea. It is going into my Maine file to keep. I love the human interest tales, don't you?

Ruth Page, Machiasport Historical Society (president): To you as president, to your officers and to your entire Alexander-Crawford group, a Happy and Prosperous New Year - with lots of new members and happy times.

Alexander-Crawford Historical Society
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FIRST CLASS