

A-C-H-S

Alexander-Crawford Historical Society

July-August 1982

Membership: 296

Number 25

The Airline

Howling wolves, 10-foot snowdrifts, wagon ruts and gangs of masked thieves plagued early travelers on the airline road from Bangor to Calais.

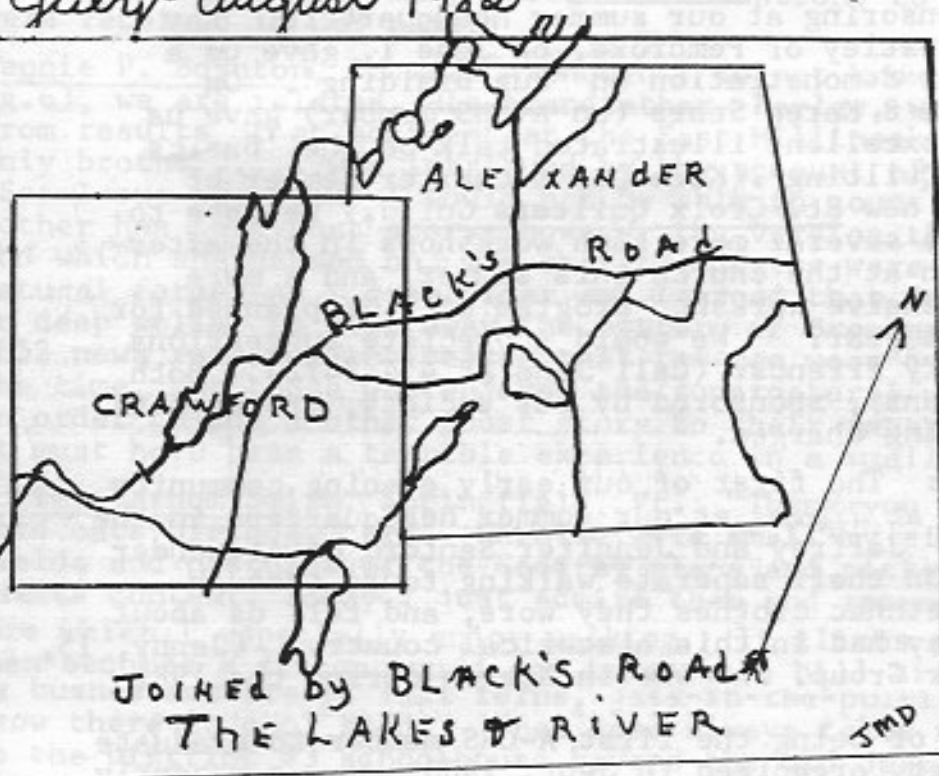
The 98 miles through primeval forest in Hancock and Washington Counties began as a series of interlocking Indian trails about three centuries ago.

Hunters, trappers and loggers started using them in the late 1700s and early 1800s.

Then, in 1830, Col John Black of Ellsworth hired teams of men to cut back the brush and turn it into a wagon road. He was acting as agent for the Bingham family of Philadelphia, owners of huge tracks of timberland in the area. The Bingham wanted to encourage settlement.

In 1856, Calais Livery stable owner George Spratt convinced the postal service to give

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C A L E N D A R

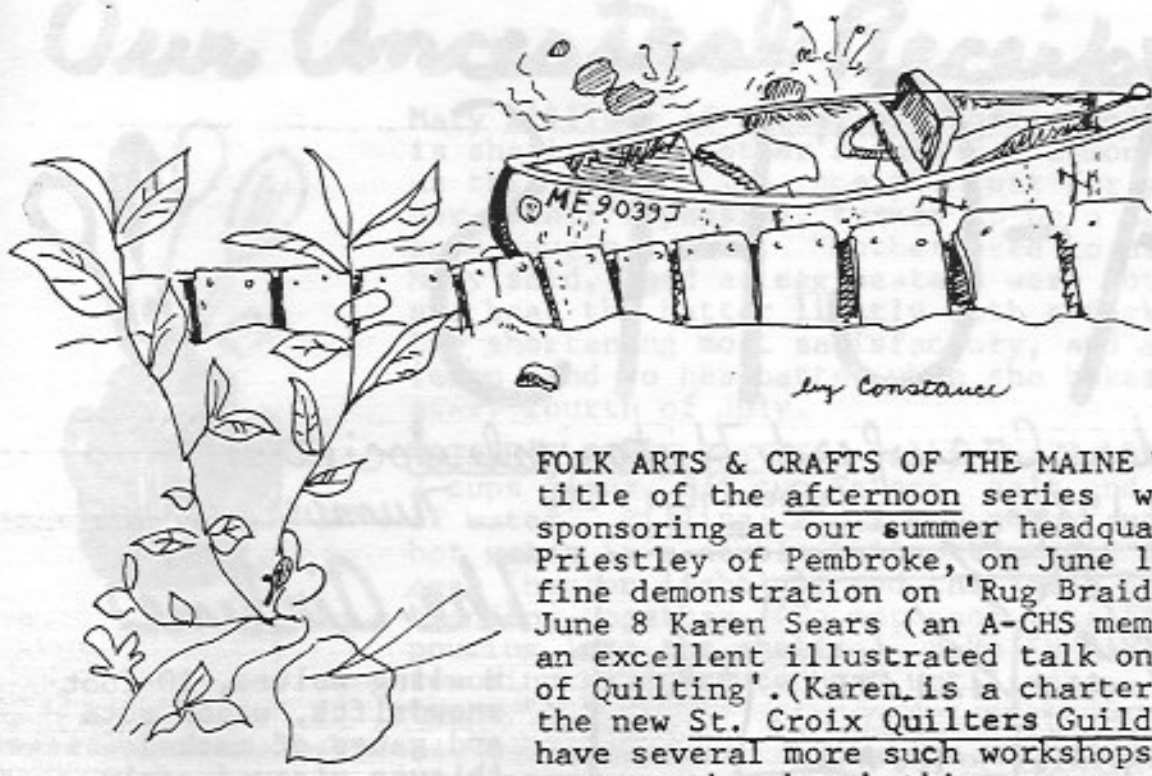
Tuesday, July 6: 'Greek Odyssey' slide presentation by Jeffrey & Jennifer Sanford, 7 to 8 p.m. at the Crawford Church on the Airline. Public invited. No admission fee.

Wednesday, July 14: Members/ 2nd annual Family Picnic & Swim Party at the Dudleys' cabin on Pocomoonshine Lake. Informal genealogy discussions begin at 3 p.m. Potluck supper at 5 p.m.

Sunday, July 18: We are holding a outdoor public FISH FRY, starting at 2 p.m. on the hill to the right of the Crawford Church. Our master chef will be Ken Smith of Memory Cove, Gardners Lake.

Saturday, August 21: Our 2nd annual HOMECOMING beginning at 3 p.m. at the Dudleys'. Potluck supper at 5 p.m.

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Here
at
Home

FOLK ARTS & CRAFTS OF THE MAINE WOODS is the title of the afternoon series we are currently sponsoring at our summer headquarters. Kay Priestley of Pembroke, on June 1, gave us a fine demonstration on 'Rug Braiding'. On June 8 Karen Sears (an A-CHS member) gave us an excellent illustrated talk on the 'Basics of Quilting'. (Karen is a charter member of the new St. Croix Quilters Guild.) We hope to have several more such workshops in the afternoon at the church this summer, and a more intensive workshop program will be planned for next year. We would appreciate suggestions

from our membership and community friends. (Call Jane at 454-8472). Both the afternoon and evening sessions, sponsored by our society, are open to the public. No admission is being charged.

GREEK ODYSSEY, TUESDAY, JULY 6: The first of our early evening community programs this summer will start at 7 p.m. at our summer headquarters in the Crawford Church on the Airline. Jeffrey and Jennifer Sanford of Alexander will show the slides each took on their separate walking tours through Greece, display their handsome ethnec clothes they wore, and tell us about the many exciting adventures they had in this historical country. (Jenny, 15, is a senior member of our Junior Group. She was in Greece during the 1981 earthquakes.)

Jeffrey, 17, has the honor of being the first A-CHS member to graduate from High School since our society organized in Sept. 1980. He was recently appointed our official 'tape recorder' for A-CHS community program meetings. (He did a wonderful job the evening Reed Holmes spoke on his book "The Fore-runners" in May at the Grange Hall. We have the tape in our library for those who would like to hear about this fascinating episode.)

PAPER TALK: Arnold Brown, Don Phinney and Robert Wheaton are all pictured in PAPER TALKS (1982), an annual publication sponsored by the St. Croix Federal Credit Union of Woodland. Mr. Brown with the first graduating class of Woodland High School (1915); Don Phinney with the Calais High School Basketball Team (1926) and Robert Wheaton with the Champion Debating Team of Washington County in 1930 (Princeton High School).

THANK YOU VERY MUCH: Your Executive board members wish to thank the following members for their thoughtful donations, these past two months, which are supporting the printing of the newsletter, and helping us meet other necessary expenses: Gladys Ayer Bridges, Pearl Brown, Ruth Driscoll, John Pike Grady, Orris McKeown, Ellen McLaughlin, Jane Frenclick Oliver, Donald and Mina Phinney, Glenn and Hilda Sylvia, Gertrude Winter.



Letters from Our Members ³

Grace Jeffery, Rt. 1, Box 3320, North Anson, Me. 04958. (See Page 5)
"I am sending along an old photo which I found among others I was sorting out. The oldest Jeffery in the photo is Orville, my dad. He was born July 16, 1878. He must have been at least 14 when the photo was taken, which would date it in the late 1800s. The older man in the background was my grandfather James Peter Jeffery. I believe he was on the (Crawford) school board as well as an active worker in town affairs. My father was the youngest son; Mae, the youngest child, died last December at the age of 96 years." (Ed: Mae Jeffery Ingalls was our A-CHS oldest member; many thoughtful donations to our Building Fund were received in her name.)

Jennie P. Boynton, Brewer: "Although I do not know P.V. Noddin (Issue 26, Pg.6), we are related. His grandfather, Perley, who died quite young from results of an accident at the East Millinocket mill, was my mother's only brother....I was intrigued by the account of the Breakneck Tragedy, (See Issue 11, P. 2) I would not be able to count the number of times my mother has told that story; however the version that had come down to her, and which she passed on, was that the deaths were caused by a supernatural force. As I grew older and learned that deadly gasses will form in deep wells, it took away the mystery of Breakneck. According to the 1852 news release, the reason that the men were overcome was known at the time, but those who enjoyed the supernatural overlooked that knowledge in order to add another ghost story to their repertoire. In any event, it must have been a terrible experience in a small community."

Muriel Varnum Smith, Springfield, Vt.: "Thank you for the lovely little wild oats birthday card. When we were small my sister and I roamed the fields and pastures of the Godfrey place and picked wild flowers to our hearts content. Today I just admire them and remember. There is a road here which I especially enjoy walking. It climbs past the hospital, and then becomes a discontinued and impassable hill trail. It is bordered by bushes and trees. Tall ferns, jack-in-the-pulpit, and trillium grow there in cool shade. That road always takes me back to our walks to the District #3 schoolhouse beyond the old Sears place."

Charlene Norman, Jacksonville, NC: "Look forward to each newsletter, they are getting better and better, and feel you have a very successful historical society in your 'neck o' the woods', and I hope to one day visit there!"

Jane Frenlich Oliver, Short Hills, N.J. Your newsletter was most interesting. Please put us on your mailing list. Enclosed is a check to help your most worthy activity. It must be fascinating finding out about the different clans. My grandfather did this - so we have a good background for his side of the family. Stan's family came from England and we hope to go over soon to trace a few leads there. Everyone is getting rather ancient so we had better hurry."

Alta (Jeffery) Beal, Jonesport: I enjoyed the handpainted card and the note about the wild flowers which I remember so well. We found the first lady's slippers, and ate something we called "wild cucumbers". They were a white bulb-like root and tasted like a cucumber. I miss it all except the blackflies which we do not have. I am sending this little bit of my handiwork (a handknit infant's sweater) which you can, perhaps, use in some project. (See Page 9)

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