

A-CHIS

Alexander-Crawford Historical Society
September/October 1982 Membership: 319 Number 26

EARLY PRINCETON

PRINCETON: Formerly township No. 17, eastern division of Bingham's Purchase, connected with Calais 20 miles by the St. C. & P.R.R., on the St. Croix River, 44 miles north of Machias. Incorporated Feb. 3, 1832; settled in 1815 by people from Calais; has a tannery and a woollen mill. Noted as once the residence of the old Indian "Lewey", who had a house, and lived on the island; hence the name of "Lewey's Island" by which the place was known for many years. In 1880 population 1038. Valuation \$176,518. (From Atlas of Washington Co. Maine, by George N. Colby & Co. 1881)



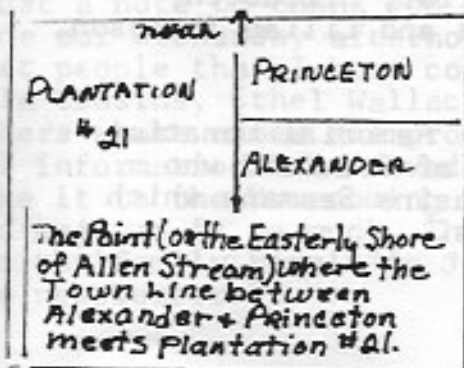
ATHION LEWEY INDIAN GUIDE, GRAND LAKE MAINE

C A L E N D A R

Tuesday, Sept. 21: Members are inviting guests to our 2nd Annual Meeting & Birthday Party, where they will meet Dr. John Ahlin of Machias, author of "Maine Rubicon", and former professor of American History at Wheelock College. "Local inhabitants attitudes toward nature and the wilderness in our past" has been selected as his topic. (A potluck luncheon is planned)

Tuesday, Oct. 19: Princeton historian Roberta wheaton, who will be on vacation from GP, will be our speaker at this open board meeting. Her subject? Why EARLY PRINCETON of course! Roberta is a charter member of our society. A chowder and sandwich luncheon will follow her talk.

(NOTE: All our fall/winter monthly meetings are held the 3rd Tuesday mornings, beginning at 10a.m. at the Dudleys' home on Pocomoonshine Lake.)



Activities at Home



Thursday, Sept. 9: St. Croix Island will become an International Park when high officials of the U.S. and Canada meet to sign an 'memorandum of understanding'. The program will open at 9:30 a.m. at the 'Island Overlook' site at Red Beach, Calais. After the program spectators will be taken by boat to cruise around the island. The signing ceremony at 2 p.m. will be conducted at the Algonquin Hotel in St. Andrews, N.B.

Saturday, Sept. 11: The 3rd Joint International Canadian-American Family History Conference will take place on this date in Eastport and Lubec. The all-day session is being co-sponsored by the Sunrise Research Institute, Inc.; Historical Resources Administration (Providence of New Brunswick); and the Border Historical Society of Eastport. (Roberta Wheaton and your president are planning to attend.) For further information call 454-8472, or John Bodger, SRI secretary at 255-8077.

FIRST SUMMER IN OUR NEW HEADQUARTERS: Our two evening programs held at the Crawford Church this summer were very successful. The first, "Greek Odyssey", as presented by Jennifer Sanford, 15, (WHO HAD BEEN THERE!) was delightful. And the August 3rd presentation, "Alaskan Adventure" by our director Audrey Ketner, made us all want to visit that beautiful state RIGHT AWAY! (We have another member, Millie Winckler, who has been having adventures in Alaska this summer. Perhaps she'll tell us about them later).

Visitors signing the attendance book came from Florida, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, Colorado and Connecticut. Homefolks were from Alexander, Crawford, Calais, Wesley and Woodland. And a couple, from St. George, N.B. drove over both evenings because, "We like to hear about far away places."

We also had two fine craft programs at the church this summer. One was a Rug Braiding demonstration by Kaye Priestley of Pembroke; the other, "Basics of Quilting" by member Karen Sears of Alexander. Both were excellent but poorly attended, because they were poorly advertised. We hope to continue these free "Folk Arts & Crafts of the Maine Woods" series next spring and summer. We would appreciate suggestions you might have. We have just discovered a member who can do 'cording' expertly. What can you share with us?

CONTRIBUTIONS: It is through such 'supporting members' donations we are able to meet our bi-monthly printing bill for this newsletter, purchase stationary, additional stamps, and supplies for our hospitality basket. We take this opportunity to thank the following members for their recent generosity: Victor and Stella Archer, John M. Dudley, GEORGIA-PACIFIC Corp.; Audrey Ketner, Ferne Strout Mellor, Elizabeth Olson, Mr. & Mrs. Harley C. Pulk; Elva Cousins Seamans and Lilian Thompson.

BUILDING FUND: We acknowledge with deep gratitude the Memorial Donation in the name of Chuckie Church (Clarence Brady Church) of Crawford who died on August 21, 1982, and the donation from Eva Cousins Seamans which have brought our Building Fund to Four Hundred Dollars.

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Letters from Members

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LOVES HER HOME COMMUNITY: "I have been a member long enough to receive three newsletters which I enjoy very much. My husband and I and our family were welcomed into Alexander in June 1942. I was 40 years old that month. Now I have lived here 40 years. I like this town very much and hope others who move in will like it well enough to stay." Edith Hatfield, RR #1, Box 753, Alexander, Me. 04694.

Kenneth A. Field, 4 Phillips Manor, Towaco, N.J. 07082: "In your July/Aug. 1987 A-CHS newsletter (p.6) it states that Alexander was known as Plantation No. 16 before incorporation. Do you know where Plantation 17 is? A Pamela Field was born there in 1827, and her parents were Robert and Pamela Benson Field who were my great great grandparents. Incidentally, Robert is listed on the same page as a household head in Alexander in 1830. I have enclosed a return envelop."

EDITOR'S NOTE: The Town of Princeton was Plantation 17 until incorporated on Feb. 3, 1832. The naming of the town is interesting as reported by Bruce W. Belmore in his book 'Early Princeton, Me. . "Prior to the application for incorporation there had been much discussion among the townspeople as to what name to give to the new town. Some favored Bonney, others favored Bonneyville. According to the records of James Spencer, Ebenezer Rolfe held out for Princeton in honor of the town of that name in Massachusetts from which he came; and Ebenezer won. And a pretty name it is and widely so taken, inasmuch as practically every state in the Union has a town of that name, a fact well known to many of us who have had our mail missent."

Gertrude Strout Winter, Bucksport, Me. "Just a word about Pliney (Frost) and John Dudley (2nd). I have seen in the society's letters that some of my scrapbook collections were being given to it - copies I have gathered along the way. I gave some things to Pliney, those he could use in his town history. I told him to use the papers as he wished and when through with them, give them to the society or keep them. All credits belong to him. In your last letter I read where he gave the Stephenson genealogy to you. This was written by a wonderful woman, great, great granddaughter of William Bonney (Moses) and Rhoda Pike.

In the spring I received a letter from Mary Williams thanking me for Strout papers for the society. I had given them to John (#2) Dudley. I wanted these boys to have credits for these papers, and I felt sorry they gave me the credits. Jane, it belong to them! It was such a good unselfish thing they did. So many have copied from those scrapbooks, used the articles and never gave any credits, even to the Calais Advertiser et al where much came from. Alexander-Crawford Historical Society should be proud of these boys - you're lucky to have them on your team.

Ellen McLaughlin, 5604 12th Ave., South, Birmingham, Alabama 35222:

"Just a note to thank you for your hospitality and warm reception that made our Wednesday afternoon with you so pleasant. It was good to finally meet people that I have corresponded with over the past months - especially Zela Cousins, Ethel Wallace and Jane D. I also enjoyed getting to know others whose names are prominent in the newsletter. I am going to collect all information I received and find out where the gaps are. Perhaps I can make it to the Homecoming and fill them in. My foks had a wonderful time and enjoyed it so much. They were certainly glad they decided to come (to the 'Family Picnic' in July) My mother is going to try some recipes in the newsletter."

