



Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays from the Newsletter Crew!

# Whitefield News

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Volume 2, Issue 6

Published Monthly

December 2014

## Christmas Events

**Mt View Chamber Singers Perform "Carols in the Round"** Wed. Dec. 3 7:00 pm Donations Welcome

**Holiday Bazaar**, Sheepscot General, Fri. Dec 5th, 4-8 pm Local Crafts

**Christmas Caroling Concert and Sing Along**, Sat. Dec. 6th at the Arlington Grange, 3 pm, refreshments served. Donations accepted for local families in need this holiday season.

**Christmas Program at the Kings Mills Union Hall**, Sun. Dec. 7th 3-5 pm. Santa arriving at 4:00!

**Sheepscot Valley Community Church Program**, Free pictures with Santa, decorate cookies, make ornaments. Dec. 14th 5-7 pm. Check their facebook page for location.

## Another reminder about the Whitefield Food Pantry:

Food and cash donations are always welcome. To make a donation, call Mary and Earl at 582-2684 or send checks to Earl and Mary Lemieux, 377 South Hunts Meadow Rd., Whitefield ME 04353. Checks should be made out to Good Shepherd with a notation on the memo line for Whitefield Food Pantry.

The Food Pantry, located at St. Denis Hall, is open the first Friday of the month, 1-3 p.m. Preparation is always the Wednesday before, starting at 12 noon, at the hall. Help is always appreciated.

Please feel free to call Mary for more information.

## Christmas in Whitefield - A Collection of Holiday Memories



By Cheryle Joslyn, Dan Joslyn, and Debbie Rogers

*Christmas came early to a few of us on the Newsletter committee. The gifts were given by eight elders in our community. They arrived in the format of precious stories as they were passed on to us by each of them. Mary, Stanley, Larry, Albert, Johnny, Dot, Fran, and Don took us back to a time in their lives that few in Whitefield remember nowadays. Woven into the fabric of their Christmas stories was a great deal more than just their remembrances of Christmas as children living in Whitefield. They shared with us life as it was for them in those youthful days (ca 1914-1935 and beyond). There is much to be learned from these fascinating and valuable individuals, and we only began to unwrap their gift, but we pass it on to each of you with hopes that it will inspire you to want to learn more. Perhaps you, too, will ask the question of someone you know, "What was it like when....?" and you will write it down for the future. Thank you Mary, Stanley, Larry, Albert, Johnny, Dot, Fran, and Don, and a very memorable Merry Christmas to all!*

**Mary** - Mary Creamer, 100 years "young," offered these



Mary Creamer Photo by Dan & Cheryle Joslyn

words of wisdom about the Christmas season before she even began to relay her experiences to me. She said, "Today everyone worries about what to buy at Christmas. There is too much thought about spending and buying gifts," she said, and she is quite right. Oftentimes, the gift we remember the most is not the one bought from a store. Mary knows what it is like to do with less and yet, appreciate

more. She grew up in a time when a bag of candy and an orange brought joy to her Christmas morning. She might also get something handmade by her mother like a rag doll, knitted socks, mittens, or a new dress. Her mother would put up a tree after the children had gone to bed, and it would be their surprise in the morning to see it decorated with tinsel and little paper bells. One year her present was a toy watch (quite an extravagance). It would "really wind, but not run," and another year it was a "string of pretty beads," perhaps purchased from the profits of a good blueberry season. The Elderly family farm on the Plains was very remote, but served the family well for making a living off the land. As a very young girl, Mary would drive the horse and wagon all alone to Gardiner to sell handpicked berries to the store and a large hotel in town, and return with groceries and grain before nightfall. She recalled that their horse, Bobby, "made tracks to get home because he knew where his feed was."

When Mary's family first moved to the Plains of White-

field from Augusta (ca 1918), there was no school nearby, so she was "boarded out" with the Duntons to attend 1st and 2nd grade in Kings Mills during the week. She walked, skied, or rode in the wagon up Crocker Avenue for two-three miles to be home for the weekend. She remembers those Christmas pageants at the Kings Mills Hall. All the students practiced and had to "say a little piece," and that is where she saw Santa Claus! He always managed to find her house on the Plains, too! And then...on Christmas day...if the roads were clear, Aunt Hazel would arrive for family dinner. She always brought a special gift of delicious homemade fudge, peanut brittle, or a box of ribbon candy. Treasured memories...they brought a gentle smile to Mary's soft face. Mary found contentment with what she had, and over these 100 years, I would say, she has become a very "rich" person.

**Stanley** - The Christmas holiday season did not disrupt the routines of farm life for 80 year old Stanley Tibbetts too much when he was a boy. Even on Christmas morning, the hens needed to be grained, the cows, calves, and draft horses fed, and the cows milked. There were chores in the morning and chores at night; and in between, you got done what you had to get done. The chores were always there, just as they are now on the Tibbetts farm where Stanley was raised and still lives.



Stanley Tibbetts Photo by Dan & Cheryle Joslyn

Stanley was the second youngest of the seven children of Gladys and Charles, so you can probably imagine that "frivolous gifts" were not often given out at Christmas. The holiday spirit still rang through the old farmhouse, however, and after the morning chores were done, they would all gather around the tree to share what Christmas had brought them. There were useful things like new clothes and enough toys to "provide ample entertainment." Chicken dinner with all the fixings was prepared on the wood cookstove. Stanley recalls that all those boys were "expected to be pretty clever with an ax" because it was their job to split the firewood in order to keep that stove hot.

There generally wasn't much "traffic" out front on Christmas day; a few automobiles, a horse and sleigh or wagon would go by, perhaps. Townhouse Road was oftentimes coated with fresh snow. That meant good sliding if the weather cooperated. Stanley's brothers and sisters could get a really good slide from the big knoll behind the house down into the valley across the road. When it was crusty, Stanley and his friend, Mike McCormick, hauled their sleds to the top of St. Denis hill, and they slid all the way to Townhouse Road.

Each day in Stanley's barn, the feed gets put out, the barn door is opened, the cows come in, they go to their stall, get hooked up, and the milking begins. Stanley doesn't milk any more (others do that routine for him), **Continued Pg. 2**



**Memories Pg. 1** but he still tends to the calves each morning. That's his chore now, just as it was when he was a boy.

**Larry** - There was a twinkle in his eye as 94 year old Lawrence Felt (Larry or WaWa to some of us) recalled what his Christmas was like growing up as a boy on the farm in Kings Mills. His family lived with his Grampa and Gramma Felt, and they made sure Santa found his sister, Glennis, and Larry's tree and that the dinner table was always covered with special treats. Red paper bells hung in each roadside window. The house was banked with sawdust, then fresh green boughs placed on top and a little fir tree stood at each end of the front of the house. On Christmas Eve, "Grampa would make tracks in the snow to the back widow and then tell us that Santa was too fat to come down our chimney, so he had to come through the window." It was Larry's chore to keep the woodbox filled. He said, "In the wood cookstove, Gramma Felt always made her special pork roast, loaves of bread, vegetables of all kinds, and of course, pies! She made the best mincemeat and lemon meringue. She had to scold me just a little once when I skimmed the tops off all 14 of her pies that were cooling on the dining room table. I liked her lemon meringue pies!"

Larry recalled that they always had a party at the Whitefield Union Hall just before Christmas. Upstairs the big tree was decorated with tinsel and paper bells. The presents were underneath for the children. Edith Wentworth would wrap up her delicious yeast rolls, loaves of bread, and her summer canned goods to give to everyone who came to the party. "We'd sing songs that we had practiced in school, and perform little skits on the stage. The bells would start jingling downstairs and we knew Santa (Ernest Dunton) had arrived. He'd make the rounds, picking out presents for every good little boy and girl. It was lots of fun." Larry remembers, "Everyone was neighborly and had a good time!"

**Albert** - Sometimes not all of our recollections of Christmas bring us thoughts of "goodness and cheer," and for Albert Boynton, perhaps this holds true even today. It was in January, just after Christmas, when Albert was only six years old that his father came upstairs by lamplight to break the sad news to his children that their mother had passed away. Albert can even remember the exact time of the morning when his world suddenly changed forever. "In one fell swoop, we had lost our mother, our cook, and the bill collector," but the Boynton family persevered. With seven children to care for, Albert's father relied on hard work, adaptability, and competence to see them through those very difficult years.

In 1926 Albert was born in the small red building



Larry Felt Photo by Dan & Cheryle Joslyn



that sits east of Mills Road on Clary Lake dam. When he was one, the family moved to the house across the road which Albert still occupies. For quite some time, Albert remained nameless because his parents could not make up their minds. He thinks he can recall hearing them say "Baby" when referring to him. His older brother, Alden, came by with his horse one day and asked, "Have you named that baby yet?" "Not yet," was the response. Alden strongly stated, "His name is Albert Robert Boynton!"...and that was that...a "gift" to his brother! Albert said, "I never did know where Robert came from." So you see, it doesn't have to be Christmas to give a gift.

It was less than two months after his wife died that Albert's father had deposited \$1500.00 in the bank from his very successful lumber mill. The eight workers he employed needed to be paid, as well as other expenses tended to. That next Monday, all the banks were closed by the government. "The Depression was in full swing, and just like that, our family had lost their ability to conduct business. The bank foreclosed on the lumber lots, and my father couldn't harvest the lumber. All the men were laid off. Times got tough for our family!" said Albert. Christmases after that were quiet and uneventful.

It was President FDR who said that very March of 1933, "We have nothing to fear, but fear itself," and Albert's family certainly exemplified that thought. They continued on with their lives and did the best that they could for one another. "We always had a tree. The glass ornaments were carefully used from year to year. Tinsel was picked from the branches and saved. Even the wrapping paper was folded and used under the next tree."

There was one very special gift that Albert wanted to tell about. He had spotted a Mackinaw in the Sears Catalog that he desperately wanted. He calculated that if he raked blueberries, in August he would have the \$17.00 for the jacket. However, at the end of the raking, his boss handed him a ten dollar bill and told him that was what he was due. Albert knew he had earned much more, but he didn't challenge the man. He couldn't buy his Mackinaw and wondered how he'd stay warm on his walks to school.

That next Christmas when everyone gathered around the tree, a large package was handed to him. Not suspecting, he carefully unwrapped it and discovered that his father and siblings had ordered that coat. He had received the most expensive gift of his life. He was thrilled! And so...after 88 Christmases, and after some very difficult times, Albert still feels so very fortunate for the life he has been given.

**John and Aunt Dot** - Johnny Morin and Great Aunt Dot Foster (Griffin) recalled Christmas (as recorded by Leane Morin):



John Morin—Morin Family Photo

John Morin grew up on the Mills Road (Rt 218) in Whitefield in what is remembered now as the Zabik house. He recalled spending one whole Christmas night on the floor when he was 8 years old. He hid underneath the dresser, peeking out the bed-

room door, just to see if Santa would be coming; and of course, he did! He remembered the special gift Santa left. It was a pair of skis and a sled. Perhaps that was how Johnny got the idea to make his own sleds later on.

"Don Gould and I used to make barrel stave sleds. We would take barrels that were probably three feet high and use the barrel staves to make runners in the back and front of the sled. We would make the front so it could turn. Across from the house there was a really steep hill with a woods road right down to the Sheepscot River. We'd go down that hill, hit stumps, and every now and then, go into a tree. It seems as though we'd stave a sled up once every two or three days and go back and make another one. We got pretty good at it after a while. We'd even wax the barrel staves. Waxed runners would go like a son-of-a-gun! Yeah, Don Gould and I were pretty good sled makers!"

Great Aunt Dot recalled, "My sister, Tillie, at age thirteen, thought she would get us a Christmas tree. She brought it in, we decorated it, and the next morning — oh did it stink! It

was a cat spruce. A cat spruce smells just like a skunk. We had to throw that tree out! I also remember the first dolls we



Griffin Girls, Dot, Ethel, Marion and Cora—Morin Family Photo

had that cried. We were eight or nine then. We always had little dolls; not the really big ones. One year my sister, Marion, sent us packages, and when we got the packages, we tipped them. They made a noise! When we opened them Christmas morning, we each had a doll that cried. That was quite a surprise!"

**Don and Fran** - (For our last "Christmas in Whitefield" story we asked a longtime couple to take us back)



Fran and Don Gould sat at the kitchen table with their son, Dennis. Fran jokingly recalled, "I used to blister their ass and say 'Get back upstairs. Get back in your bedroom. It ain't time to get up yet!'"

She was hollering at

their three children, Greta, Dennis, and Sally. "One thing the kids always liked to do was play with little mechanical toys, and that was the only time of the year they would get to play with them. All three of the kids would lay down on their belly under the Christmas tree and wind up those little toys and watch them go round and round. One time we had a little train that would go around and under the tree. Sometimes it would get stopped in back of the tree and one of the kids would have to get down on their belly and skinny under the tree to try to get that train going again."

Fran also recalled that when she was growing up in Coopers Mills they always had a Christmas tree. They had lights for it but didn't use them very often because they were large bulbs and they got really hot.

After Fran and Don were married, Fran was ahead of the crowd with her choice of a tree. "You remember when the Railway Express was right behind the city hall in Augusta?" Fran asked. "That's where the freight yard was," said Don (behind what

**Continued Pg. 3**





**Memories Pg. 2** used to be the Augusta Police Department on Willow St.) "That's where we went and picked up the tree," explained Fran. "I said to Don, 'We got to go into the Railway Express 'cause I got a package comin.' He asked, 'What in the hell you got that's out there?'" Fran continues, "We went out and here's this box almost as big as this table. Don disgustedly asked, 'What did you get?'" "I told him I got a Christmas tree." Don yells, "You got a what?" She answered, "I got an artificial Christmas tree."

"She sent away to a popular club for a tree!" Don laughed.

"Well, he kind of frowned on it at first, and I knew, in a minute, he would if he knew I'd bought it. Before that, every year I'd take our real tree out through the house, and spills would be everywhere. After that, Greta Ann couldn't even remember having a regular tree in the house," Fran chuckles.

**We hope that tree gets pulled out, propped up, and lights their home for many more Christmas mornings! Thank you, one and all, for sharing your stories.**



## Plan now for winter heating

By Tony Marple

Plan now to lower your heating bill by tightening your house and replacing heating systems with new energy efficient models.

Help is available through Efficiency Maine, a State program funded by a surcharge on electricity bills (*Efficiency Maine.com*), 866-376-2463. The program offers funding for air sealing, home insulation, and heating system projects. While most of Efficiency Maine's incentives require some out of pocket expenses, the energy cost savings can be dramatic. You can also reduce your electricity bill with funding for hot water heat pumps and other electric efficiency projects.

The Community Housing Improvement Project (CHIP), located in New Harbor, provides volunteer assistance to improve the energy efficiency of homes and also has a heating assistance fund. Contact them at 800-924 -9571 or [info@chipinc.org](mailto:info@chipinc.org).

Low income residents may also be eligible for heating fuel assistance from the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). Applications are available through [mainehousing.org](http://mainehousing.org), or you can call 626-4603. Joe 4 Oil, a Massachusetts organization, was founded by Joe Kennedy and provides heating assistance in fourteen states including Maine. Applications are available by calling 877-Joe-4oil.

If you plan now, you can reduce the chances of a winter heating emergency.

## Neighbors helping local firefighter

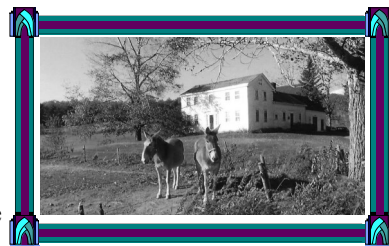
Firemen, neighbors, and friends arrived with materials in hand to help out a fellow fireman, 24 year old David Mason who is battling lung cancer, by volunteering their time to shingle his home's leaky roof. The leaky roof is a thing of the past. On December 13th at the Whitefield School, 4-6 pm, the firemen are planning a benefit supper to help with David's expenses.



*Mason home, Photo by Ray Joslyn*  
School, 4-6 pm, the firemen are planning a benefit supper to help with David's expenses.

## The 2015 Arlington Grange Calendar "Farms of Whitefield" is now available at:

The North Whitefield Superette, Sheepscot General, Hussey's and The Alna Store.



## New Whitefield trail opens Dec. 18

By Kit Pfeiffer

A defining feature of Whitefield is the beautiful Sheepscot River that runs through it. Now the public can walk along its banks on a newly-cut trail. It starts at the Recycling Center behind the Town Office on Townhouse Road and crosses over the Chase Happy Farm property conserved by the Sheepscot Valley Conservation Association.

The Happy Farm River Trail will officially open to the public on Thurs., Dec. 18 at 11 a.m. Students and teachers from Whitefield School will walk over and participate in the opening ceremony. The new trail is expected to be a valuable resource for outdoor education and recreational use by the school.

Thanks to the generosity of the Patrick Chase family and landowner Brad Bowden, the public is now



Photo by Kit Pfeiffer

welcome to enjoy walking, snowshoeing or skiing along several miles of trail, across open fields, through woods, and along the Sheepscot River. The 2,200 feet of shoreline have a wooded buffer of mixed hardwoods and softwoods, and this part of the river contains spawning and nursery habitat for Atlantic Salmon as designated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Come out and walk the new trail at 11 a.m. on Dec. 18. Park in the designated area adjacent to the Recycling Center and look for the kiosk with trail maps at the corner of the lot. Dogs on a leash are welcome. For more information or to volunteer with the Whitefield Trails Committee, call Kit Pfeiffer at 446-9768.



## A reminder from Chief Higgins

Whenever there is a large storm that impacts our town or any other large-scale disaster, the fire station will be open as a warming shelter where people can come, have some coffee, get water and the latest information on the situation. We are in contact with Lincoln County Emergency Management giving us the latest updates. We will address any needs or concerns of our people until the emergency is over.

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# DECEMBER 2014 COMMUNITY EVENTS CALENDAR

- 1st **ZUMBA** 3:10-4pm, Whitefield Elementary  
**Coopers Mills Fire Dept.** Anyone interested in supporting or learning more about CMVFD is welcome. We won't rope you into anything right off. 7 pm  
**Kings Mills Fire Dept.** 7pm
- 2nd **Women of Whitefield**, Sheepscot General, 10 am  
**Select Board** 6pm
- 3rd **Yoga**, Sheepscot General, 6 am  
**ZUMBA** 3:10-4pm, Whitefield Elementary  
**Food Pantry Volunteer Set up** 12 pm on, Help always welcome  
 Call Mary Lemieux for more info 582-2684  
**Whitefield Historical Society**, 6:30 pm  
**Mt. View Chamber Singers Perform, 'Carols in the Round'**, St. Denis Hall, 7 pm
- 4th **Senior Men's Group** Sheepscot General. 10 am
- 5th **Whitefield Food Pantry**, St. Denis Hall, 1-3 pm  
**Holiday Bazaar, Sheepscot General, Gifts for sale 4-8 pm**
- 6th **Christmas Caroling Concert and Sing Along, Arlington Grange 3-4:30 pm**  
**SVCA Annual Meeting and Holiday Potluck**, SVCA office, Newcastle, 4-7 pm  
**Free Movie Night**, Sheepscot Valley Community Church, 6 pm
- 7th **Christmas Program** - Kings Mills Union Hall 3-5pm *Santa arrives at 4:00*
- 8th **ZUMBA** 3:10-4pm, Whitefield Elementary  
**Whitefield Municipal Fire Dept.** 7 pm
- 9th **Select Board** 6pm  
**Kings Mills Union Hall Board Mtg.** 7 pm
- 10th **Yoga**, Sheepscot General, 6 am  
**ZUMBA** 3:10-4pm, Whitefield Elementary  
**Arlington Grange** 6 pm Pot Luck Supper, 7 pm Meeting All are welcome.
- 11th **Senior Men's Group** Sheepscot General. 10 am  
**RSU School Board Meeting**, Chelsea School, 6:30 pm to 9 pm
- 13th **Benefit Supper for David Mason**, Whitefield School, 4-6 pm
- 14th **Whitefield Athletic Association (WAA)** Whitefield School 6 pm
- 15th **ZUMBA** 3:10-4pm, Whitefield Elementary
- 16th **Happy Chanukah**  
**Women of Whitefield**, Sheepscot General, 10 am  
**Select Board** 6pm
- 17th **Yoga**, Sheepscot General, 6 am  
**ZUMBA** 3:10-4pm, Whitefield Elementary  
**Planning Board** Fire Station, 6-8 pm
- 18th **Senior Men's Group** Sheepscot General. 10 am  
**Happy Farm Trail Opening**, Recycling Center, 11 am
- 19th **Open-Mic Night**, Sheepscot General, 7-9 pm
- 20th **DRUMMING CIRCLE**: Open to the public, all ages welcome.  
 Sheepscot General, 6:30 pm
- 21st **C4 - Cookies, Caroles, Communion & Candles** Sheepscot Valley Community Church 4:00 pm
- 22nd **ZUMBA** 3:10-4pm, Whitefield Elementary
- 23rd **Select Board** 6pm
- 24th **Yoga**, Sheepscot General, 6 am  
**ZUMBA** 3:10-4pm, Whitefield Elementary
- 25th **Merry Christmas**
- 26th **Happy Kwanzaa**
- 29th **Yoga**, Sheepscot General, 6 am
- 30th **Select Board** 6pm
- 31st **Yoga**, Sheepscot General, 6 am  
**ZUMBA** 3:10-4pm, Whitefield Elementary



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 We'll add you to the town calendar website and newsletter.

Deadline for newsletter submissions is  
 the 15th of the month. Email  
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