



## EXONIANA DO YOU REMEMBER?

Can you identify this mystery photo from the archives? Memories from any era are most welcome. Answers and/or reminiscences will be published in the next issue. Mail to Exoniana, c/o *The Exeter Bulletin*, Phillips Exeter Academy, Communications Office, 20 Main Street, Exeter, NH 03833.

### ANSWER TO THE LAST ISSUE:

Exonians remembered this corner of the Assembly Hall, formerly known as the Chapel. Some of you recognized the curves of the bench tops and “The Great War” memorial plaque honoring Exonian veterans who died serving our country in World War I. Others reflected on the portraits themselves—Daniel Webster, class of 1796; Francis T.P. Plimpton, class of 1917; George A. Plimpton, class of 1873; and George Bancroft, class of 1811. One reader even identified the painter of George A. Plimpton’s portrait, while others reflected on the assemblies.



still thundering across Poland. At one of the first chapels I attended, the leader for that day (I think he was in the history department, but I am not sure) got up and said he was going to read us an editorial from either *The New York Times* or *The New York Herald Tribune*, I forget which, and then would tell us something about it. The editorial had to do with the dangerous ambitions of Germany, and fitted very well with what we were then aware of through both radio and newspapers. When he came to the end, he stopped and looked us over for a few moments. “That editorial,” he said, “was written in August of 1914.” I will never forget my—and perhaps all of our—shock at how history was repeating itself.

*Russell Hunter Ph.D. '43  
Beverly Hills, CA*

### AND THE WINNER IS:

**FIONA BAYLY '85 OF NEW YORK, NY**, who received a Phillips Exeter Academy cheese-and-beverage picnic pack for two. “The photograph is of the corner to the left (from the audience’s viewpoint) of the stage in the Assembly Room. Who could mistake the subtle curvatures of those bench backs shown in the foreground? Interesting picture—and evocative of many of my favorite assemblies.”

### THE GREAT WAR

Your photo shows a wooden plaque memorializing Exeter dead in “The Great War,” which is what we used to call World War I before that worldwide show that I

participated in. As I recall, it was in the Chapel on the righthand side of the room close to the stage. I am sure it hung in the chapel because the four portraits shown in the picture were among those that lined the walls of the room. I have some question about its exact placement, because the seats shown in the lower part of the picture do not look exactly like those that I remember—which had upright slats above the seats. These appear to have solid backs. But perhaps the ones I remember were changed before the big remodeling of the Chapel that I saw when I came back for my 50th. Or maybe those are the current seats—and the plaque is now in a different place.

When I was a prep, I sat very close to that plaque. I had entered Exeter in September 1939, while Hitler’s tanks were

### GRANDMOTHER’S PAINTING

The location is in the Assembly Hall of the Academy Building. The two portraits to the right could be of Francis T.P. Plimpton '17 and George A. Plimpton, class of 1873, the latter painted by my grandmother Blanch Ames. The upper left portrait could be Daniel Webster. The World War I “The Great War” memorial records those who fell.

*Francis “T.P.” Plimpton Jr. '46  
Ormond Beach, FL*

### A PLIMPTON CORNER

As the wife of a loyal Exonian, Stanford N. Phelps '52, I would like to submit my answer to Exoniana. The location: Assembly Hall. Subject matter: Memorial to

those Exonians who died in WWI and portraits of Daniel Webster, George Bancroft, Francis Plimpton and George Plimpton. Today, George Bancroft is elsewhere in the Assembly Hall and has been replaced by Calvin Plimpton—creating a Plimpton corner. We were at Exeter for the Exeter-Andover game.

*Betsy Phelps  
Greenwich, CT*

*Editor's note: Congratulations to Betsy Phelps for winning the second prize. All names except for the first one received were placed into an envelope and Betsy's name was drawn. Enjoy your picnic pack!*

#### STAGE FREIGHT

We gathered here every morning before classes. One morning before assembly, Mr. Fish's car was moved onto the stage! (I believe it was removed before the school assembled.) There is a painting of my great-uncle Larz Anderson (1866–1937) on the wall to the right of the stage.

*Larz K. Anderson '53  
Pittsboro, NC*

#### GRILL MEMORIES CONTINUE:

In one of the many enjoyable responses to the Grill quiz in your fall 2003 issue, Jere Turner '49 referred to the Grill as “the

premier center of communications.” If I failed to appreciate that as a student, I learned it as a faculty member. In my first weeks as a new member, I noted the remarkable absence of faculty in the Grill at times when one might expect a packed house. I finally asked Bucky Bruce where my colleagues might be at these times. He informed me that the faculty met regularly once a week and were doing so as we spoke. My skimpy orientation as a faculty member was probably something akin to the students being told, “There are no rules at Exeter until they are broken.”

As the letters attest, few alumni who knew them forget Bucky Bruce and Charlie Gillen. For many, they were a part of the Exeter educational experience. As a faculty member, I came to appreciate even more their “stern yet tender” touch in introducing young Exonians to some of the realities of the world.

*William J. Jackson '44  
North Springfield, VT*

## DON'T FORGET TO WRITE

**We want to hear from you. Write to us at *The Exeter Bulletin*, Phillips Exeter Academy, 20 Main Street, Exeter, NH 03833. Or you can email us at [bulletin@exeter.edu](mailto:bulletin@exeter.edu).**

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### A 'FAC BRAT' REMEMBERS

I enjoyed the article in your fall 2003 issue “It's a Small World After All.” A friend of mine, Clark Cowen '47, gave me the *Bulletin* to read, knowing I had been a “fac brat” during the 1940s. As it turns out, Clark was a student at Exeter around that same time as well, living in Hoyt Hall while my father served as housemaster there!

My father was Donald H. Miller, who taught chemistry. From Exeter, he went on to become headmaster at Newark Academy, at Germantown Academy in Philadelphia and finally at the Gulf Stream School in Florida.

When my family was in Exeter, we lived in a house on Pine Street next to Janie Kent's; then we moved to Hoyt. One thing I remember very clearly are the wooden walkways that connected the buildings during the winter. Students would rush over the walkways on their way to meals and make a terrible racket.

My best childhood memories are of Exeter. I hope today's fac brats will have the same wonderful memories of their “small world” when they reach my age. It is these memories that brought me back to New Hampshire.

*Eileen Miller Sloan  
Wolfboro, NH*

## TWO CONTEST WINNERS EVERY TIME!

**There will be two prizes awarded for the correct answer to the Exoniana contest. One prize will be for the first correct answer received via delivery by the U.S. Postal Service. The rest of the correct answers will be placed into a drawing and one winner will be chosen at random.**



### Darcy Curwen Memories

**Kathleen D. Curwen, chair of the science department and a member of the PEA faculty since 1988, would like to receive your recollections of her husband's grandfather, former English instructor Darcy Curwen (1892–1967), for a project she is compiling. Please contact her at [kcurwen@exeter.edu](mailto:kcurwen@exeter.edu) or by mail at Phillips Exeter Academy, 20 Main Street, Exeter, NH 03833.**