

ELIOT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

**Minutes of Meeting for September 8th, 2008
John F. Hill Grange Hall, Eliot, ME**

Vice President, Judith Hilt called the meeting to order in the absence of the President. Judith welcomed everyone and asked that visitors identify themselves. Dick Madden visited from Belmont, MA. Alan & Nancy Junkins and Gill & Carol Lutz are from Eliot.

Judith said that a small group did gather Aug. 4th for the Society's annual picnic at the Boat Basin.

Secretary's Report Dorothy Hansen read the minutes of the May meeting. The minutes were approved after a couple corrections were made.

Treasurer's Report Julie Johnson read the Treasurer's report covering May-August 08. There were credits from Eliot books, dues, contributions to Florence Moulton Memorial Fund and reimbursement from the Grange for construction materials. Some small debits brought the balance to \$1,571.44 in the General Checking Account. An electrical bill and some landscaping costs were debits bringing the #8 School House Fund to \$976.08. Credits of \$ 572.00 from Kennebunk Savings Bank community investment award and \$2,600 from the Town of Eliot appropriation check made a balance of \$12,089.92 in the savings account.

Correspondence Report Peggy Elliott was not in attendance, but she will be sending a thank you to Kennebunk Savings Bank for their check from the community investment.

Membership Report Judith reminded members that our dues now cover the calendar year. Dues are only \$5 and they will again be due in January.

COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS

Program Carol Zamarchi mentioned that if any members have any ideas of people who could present future programs, please let Carol know.

Collections Julie said that her committee has been on break for the summer and would be resuming soon.

Building Paul Johnson said his committee has also been on break for the summer. They are planning to do some electrical work at the Grange Hall soon.

PR/Publicity Carolyn Bogh said that the Portland Press Herald had sent a reporter to cover the student's visit to our #8 schoolhouse. She also sent a picture & story to the Sentinel, which they also printed. Carolyn said that Andrea Rohde sent some readers for our schoolhouse. Carolyn said that she would send Andrea a thank you.

Fund Raising Carol said that her committee has not taken the summer off. They have been making plans for a dance for the Bi-Centennial. For the Bi-Centennial they would like to offer free trolley tours, perhaps running a cemetery tour. Carol again said a big thank you to Helen & Paul Goransson for their generous donation of tickets to an opening night at the Seacoast Repertory Theatre. Carol will soon be giving us the tickets to sell to the show "Meet Me In St. Louis" held on Friday, November 28th. Ticket holders could enjoy hors d'oeuvres, the play, dessert and meeting the cast.

Education Jeannette Paul reported more about the students visit to our schoolhouse. She said there was so much excitement from the children. There were 2 groups totaling around 80 students. After leaving the students made a diorama of the school, which we hope to display at a town meeting. Carolyn made sure that the students were able to sign a guest book presented to the school from students at a previous visit. Thanks were expressed to all who helped to make the students visit such a success.

Bi-Centennial Zip Zamarchi said his committee would be resuming after the summer.

OLD BUSINESS

We were happy to congratulate Edward Hanson on his receiving his Eagle Scout Award. Edward put his project book on display for our members to see. He said he would be inviting us to his ceremony.

Paul said thanks to all who planned and participated in the dedication of the #2 Meeting House Marker on May 21st. He said that Eric Christian did a very interesting presentation with pictures at the dedication.

For the June meeting a group of our members took a road trip to visit the Sanford Historical Society. We found that their building and all their exhibits

are what we could hope to have for our group. Our members had time to examine the exhibits and found items of particular interest to them.

NEW BUSINESS

Judith passed a sheet for members to sign up for refreshments for upcoming meetings.

Another sign-up sheet was circulated looking for volunteers to work in the Historical Society's booth at the Eliot Days Festival.

A thank you letter was received from the Grange organization for the work done on the Grange Hall.

There was a brief discussion about the upcoming memorial service for Joe Frost to be held Sat. Sept. 13th at the Masonic Lodge on Middle St. in Portsmouth, NH.

A motion was made, seconded, and passed for Judith to adjourn the business meeting.

Carol introduced Rosanne Adams-Junkins to talk about Moses Gerrish Farmer. Rosanne talked first about Joe Frost who intended to share the night's topic before his passing. She said that Joe had collected many autographs & photos of prominent people. Joe was a real champion of Moses Gerrish Farmer. Moses was well known in the scientific and electrical world and worked with numerous inventors including Edison. He was a prolific inventor of many items that often were not patented until later. Rosanne talked about a book, "Telephone Gambit". Joe Frost had been very instrumental in producing this book, which frequently mentioned Mr. Farmer. Moses Gerrish Farmer was born February 9, 1820 to John & Sally Gerrish Farmer in Boscawen, NH. Moses' mother, Sally kept a diary during Moses' early years. She said that Moses could play any musical instrument. He gave piano lessons to earn money during his school years. Moses married Hannah Shapley from Eliot December 24, 1844. Moses and Hannah had a daughter Sarah Jane. Sarah Jane known in her own right started conferences and spiritual retreats in 1893 at Green Acres which became a well known meeting place for the Bahai faith. Moses Farmer had successfully lighted his home in Salem, MA 20 years before Edison perfected the incandescent light bulb. Moses is best known for his telegraphic inventions, his alarm systems and at the age of 46 created his dynamo. Memorial services were held for Moses Farmer in Chicago, Boston and Eliot with burial at his home, Bitter Sweet in Eliot in May of 1893. Rosanne projected pictures of Moses'

family, acquaintances and many of his inventions. She took questions and some discussion.

**Respectfully Submitted
Dorothy Hansen, Secretary**

NEXT MEETING—Monday, October 6th

OCTOBER'S REFRESHMENTS—Cindy & Denny Lentz