

**JANUARY 9, 2016--** Please note our date change due to the New Year Holiday! We meet at 7PM at the John F. Hill Grange Hall, State Road. Refreshments will be served by Julie Johnson.

## **SOCIETY NEWS:**

### **NEW OFFICERS ELECTED!**

#### **2017-2018**

**President – Paul Johnson**

**Vice-President – Dennis Lentz**

**Secretary – Helen Goransson**

**Treasurer – Pam Ashley**

**Director – Polly McDonough** (replacing Carolyn Bogh)

### **HOLIDAY FAIR/ RAFFLE FUNDRAISER**

Thank you to everyone who helped with our Holiday Fair booth at Marshwood High School on December 3<sup>rd</sup>. Although a smaller turnout than previous years and fewer vendors, we did well with our baked goods and raffle sales. The drawings were held at our December 7<sup>th</sup> meeting for the raffle prizes. The winners were:

1. A beautifully framed glass sketch of the *Nightingale* by Carol Zamarchi's daughter. – ***Ellen Lemire***

2. Three framed paintings of Eliot scenes donated by artist Maryanne Kennedy. – ***Martha Leathe***



3. An antique crocheted bedspread donated by Margie Brown. – ***Nannette Jones***

### **EHS/ELIOT SCHOOL COLLABORATION:**

We are looking to our members that have knowledge of any aspect of Eliot's history, who would be willing to share their stories and knowledge with the 2<sup>nd</sup> graders at the Elementary School, to become involved in a collaborative effort between the Society and the School. The 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teachers have been given a grant to be used to bring Laurie Downey's *The Local Stories Project* to the Eliot Elementary School. The program involves journaling, conducting interviews and producing artistic presentations including theater, music, and a mural. It is seen as a further step in building upon the present offerings and expanding the Eliot history program for the students. We are pleased to be included in the project and to be asked to support such a worthy endeavor. If you can help or know of someone who might be willing to share their knowledge and stories please contact Jan Cerabona at 748-0932 or jcerab2805@aol.com.

### **FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE**

This active group is looking for fresh ideas for the coming year and invites new members to join them. If you are interested please contact Sylvia Moynahan (439-9713 or samegmeliot@myfairpoint.net) or Carol Zamarchi (748-0889 or czip@comcast.net).

### **SOCIETY MEMBERS IN THE NEWS**

In August, Society members Walter and Barbara Hanson participated in a reenactment at Fort Stark in New Castle. They joined other living history reenactors, representing various conflicts, from the Revolutionary War to Vietnam, in an effort to educate people about these conflicts. The Hansons have been gathering supplies and artifacts for their Vietnam Medical camp for several years now. Walter started this in honor of his father who was a Medical Corpsman serving in Vietnam. He portrayed a surgeon in a Navy Active Support Camp and Barbara reenacted the role of a Red Cross Volunteer. This coming year we hope to have Barbara and Walter speak at one of our meetings.



## NEW ACQUISITIONS

Elizabeth Frost, the daughter of late Society member Joseph W.P. Frost, recently contributed a collection of papers belonging to her father relating to the history of Eliot and the Frost Family, some of which contain notes from his brother John E. Frost, who as we know, did much work with genealogy and cemetery inscriptions. Included in the collection is an 1850 Portable Lap Organ (melodeon) owned by Moses Gerrish Farmer. In Augustin Caulwell's *The Rich Legacy* he writes that Moses, as he made his weekly walks from Stratham, NH to Eliot, in 1843, to teach at the *Eliot Academy*, he would carry his melodeon under his arm. It has not been ascertained who the builder of this melodeon is. The Museum of Fine Arts in Boston has one made about 1944 by Daniel B. Bartlett of Concord, NH (Moses was from Boscawen) that is nearly identical to this one and we know that Moses' cousin, Alfred Little, also invented and manufactured a melodeon. More research will be needed to perhaps discover its maker. Although in need of repair the bellows is in working order and it does produce a pleasant sound. Perhaps there are members who may remember Joe bringing it to a Society meeting and talking about Moses Farmer. The picture below shows it in the carrying box that it was stored in. Also shown is a picture of man playing the organ. The photo of the Emery/Frost mill site on the York River is also from the Collection.



*The Frost/Emery Mill on the York River*



## CEMETERY NOTES:

Tucked away down a long driveway at the end of Old Cottage Lane is a cemetery marked by a few stones. Here are the resting places of some of the early Morrell family members, while later ones lay in the recently restored cemetery that can be seen from the Old Cottage Lane circle. One stone in particular caught my eye, as it did Joseph Frost years ago, and that is the stone of Samuel Drowne (1677/8-1720/1). An article in the *Portland Telegram* in 1923, written by Ethel Morrell McCollister, describes the cemetery thus:



"There is a small cemetery just back of the house [old Morrell house, no longer standing] on the hill side and one wonders why this was established when John (Morrell) and several of his children were buried at the foot of the hill. There are several stones still standing and the oldest is that of John (Morrell) senior's son-in-law, Samuel Drowne who died in 1730 [sic], the year the garrison house was built.

Samuel was the son of Leonard Drowne and Elizabeth Abbott and married Elizabeth Morrell in 1698 at Boston, Massachusetts, the daughter of John Morrell and Sarah Hodson/Hodsdon. He lived in the area called "Cold Harbor". The Morrells ran a ferry here, from Eliot to Dover Neck and were also brick makers and in 1686 received a license to run a tavern. The gravesite of John

Morrell has not yet been located.



*Godsoe map showing John Morrell's Garrison house. It burned in 1932,*

From what I have been able to discover Samuel's family were well known for their work with copper and silver. It is Samuel's brother Shem (1683-1774), born here in Eliot, who most

intrigued me when I discovered that 2016 was the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the weathervane. Shem was a coppersmith and tinplate worker and had a shop in Boston. He is noted for crafting America's first authenticated weathervane in 1716. It is of a gilded Indian archer and graced the cupola of the Providence House in Boston, then the official residence of the Royal Governor. It is now in the Massachusetts Historical Society collection.



Probably Shem's most famous work is the weathervane on top of Faneuil Hall in Boston, Massachusetts. Commissioned by Peter Faneuil in 1742 it is of a grasshopper made of copper gilded with gold leaf and glass eyes and exists today as a well-known symbol of Boston.



**A Sunday School teacher began her lesson with a question, "Boys and girls, what do we know about God?" A hand shot up in the air. "He is an artist!" said the kindergarten boy. "Really? How do you know?" the teacher asked. "You know - Our Father, who does art in Heaven.."**