

Eliot Historical Society

December 2015 Newsletter

Greetings,

Hope you all are having a wonderful Holiday season. For those of you living in southern Maine and New Hampshire it has been great weather to continue working outside. A little snow for Christmas would have been nice, but I'll take the great traveling weather any day as I have no fear that winter will soon be upon us.

At our December meeting the new slate of officers for 2016 were voted in. Serving for the coming year:

- *President - Rosanne Adams*
- *Vice President – Paul Johnson*
- *Secretary – Helen Goransson*
- *Treasurer – Toni Searles*
- *Director's – Carolyn Bogh, Zip Zamarchi, Eric Christian*

Archival Room update: Shortly before Christmas our archives collection received a new home thanks to a very hard working and enthusiastic group headed by Paul Johnson. A huge THANK YOU to Paul and Julie Johnson, Zip Zamarchi, Jack McDonough, Keith Searles, Skip Brown, Denny Lentz, Bud Moynahan, Robert Fisher, Dick Bogh, Carol Zamarchi, and Ernie Bruneau and to the members of the John F. Hill Grange #393. There is still some work to be done but the collection has been removed from storage, placed in its new home and ready for new shelving. This new location will give the Collections Committee the much needed room to do their work.

Recent acquisitions/donations to our Collection: The Society was recently given an old snow roller which came out of the barn of the 1872 farm of Simon Emery on Hanscom Road. It is presently being stored off-site until plans are finalized for its display.



The family of Edward Vetter has given the Society several boxes of papers and photographs belonging to Ed. Ed was a past president of the Historical Society and spent a life-time actively seeking out residents and others who had old photographs to share, which he then copied in an effort to preserve them. Some of these reproduced photographs, which he framed and donated to the town, can be seen at our Town Hall. He also wrote three books on Eliot's history – “A View from Eliot's Past”, “Landmarks and Plaques of Eliot” and “Eliot Brickyards” and was instrumental helping to see that the William Fogg Library was placed on the National Historic Register.

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For those of you interested in local genealogy, at our June 1, 2015 meeting we were presented with a collection of Bartlett Papers by Laura Burnham and Rolfe Voltaire. Laura is a direct descendant of the Bartletts of Eliot. The papers were in a badly burned wooden crate on the third story of the barn of the Griffin Hardware Company (Judge James Bartlett Griffin) in Newmarket, New Hampshire which Rolfe had purchased with W. David Halloran in 1976. A copy of this presentation with an overview of the collection, which was organized by Laura, can be found on our website. www.eliothistoricalsociety.org

Libbey Development update: The Libbey Lane Development report that was mentioned in my last newsletter, although given to the Planning Board, was not discussed by them publically. The Development was approved but it is my understanding that there are plans to appeal the decision.

Birthdays of note: There are three birthdays that we're aware of in January – Jannette Paul and Walter and Barbara Hanson. We wish them all a very Happy Birthday! If you would like to have your birthday recognized please drop me a note.

Next Meeting: January 4th at the John F. Hill Grange Hall at 7pm. Our speaker will be Dick McKenney who will talk about the people who once owned the lands adjoining his property on Goodwin Road. Refreshments will be served by Julie Johnson.

Upcoming Meetings: Our February 1st meeting will be devoted to a full discussion about the Society and our goals/plans for the future. There will be no program so that we can focus on the discussion. Helen Sullivan and Jan Cerabona will serve refreshments.

Dues: A reminder that Sylvia Moynahan is now accepting dues for this year. Still a bargain at \$10!

For those of you who would prefer a copy of this newsletter mailed to you just let me know and we'll see that you get one.

See you in January,

Rosanne