

Eliot Historical Society

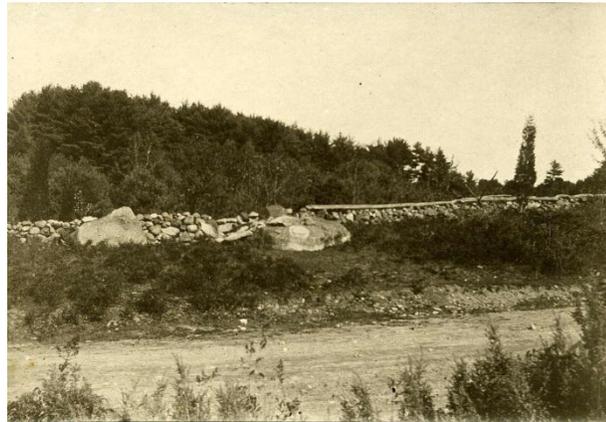
January 2016 Newsletter

Next Meeting: February 1st at the John F. Hill Grange Hall, 7pm. Helen Sullivan and Jan Cerabona will be hosting the refreshments. We will have no program so that the membership can focus on the plans/goals of the Society. Please plan to attend as some items may require a vote of the membership.

It is very fitting that we will be taking the time to re-group and re-energize since it was 119 years ago, one week to the day, on February 8, 1897, that citizens concerned with preserving the history of their town formed the Eliot Historical Society. Led by Dr. John L. M. Willis, who became its first president, their first public event was the commemoration of the death of Maj. Charles Frost on July 4, 1897 and the placing of what would be the first of many plaques around the town to mark important places. Their stated purpose was for the “collection and preservation of historical facts connected with the town of Eliot and its surroundings”. Their Charter members numbered 50 and with an entrance fee of \$1. Annual

dues were \$1 and a subscription to the publication *Old Eliot* cost \$1 per year (what a bargain!).

Great Hill, in East Eliot, where the picnic was held during the Commemoration of the death of Maj. Charles Frost in 1897.



Ambush Rock – with the original marble plaque



Grave of Major Charles Frost

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The Libbey Development: The appeal of the decision to approve the project known as the “Libbey Elderly Housing Development” will be held on January 21st, at 7 p.m. at the Grange Hall.

Recent Acquisition: This summer Rosanne was contacted by the Town Hall clerk just before the August cook-out concerning a gentleman doing a restoration at the Marie Joyce property on State Road. There are those of you who may remember it being the home of school teacher Esther Morrow and her husband.

Rosanne and Ruth Varney-Benedict went over to check out a painting that was being offered to the Historical Society. The painting of the clipper ship *Nightingale* had been taken down from over the fireplace and the new owner of the property felt it should be preserved, although he didn't want it. Ruth and Rosanne gratefully accepted the beautiful painting on behalf of the Society.



The painting itself is more than 13 feet long and 3 feet in height and will need to be put on a frame.