

Are we getting a little ancy while waiting for our meetings to start up again? Here are some mysteries to solve. **Paul and Julie Johnson** invite you



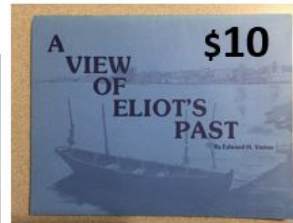
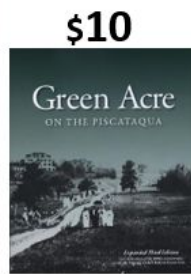
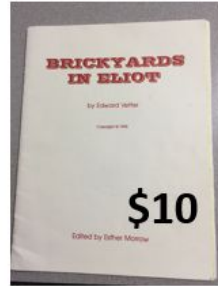
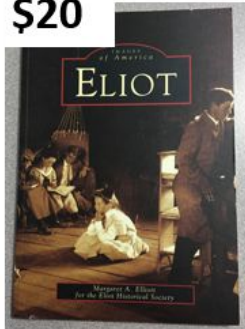
to an **ELIOT HOUSE CONTEST** Julie has been going through photographs in our collection and they are hoping there might be someone out there who recognizes the location of the houses shown in these pictures. If you do please email us at info@eliothistoricalsociety.org and, if you can, include a picture of how the place (s) look now. Happy hunting!



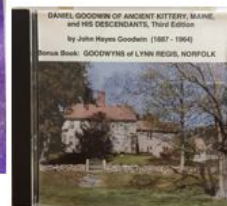
Anyone out there have an idea as to what this was used for? If you do, let us know.

BOOKSALE!!

\$20



Marble bags and chalkboards \$5 each



Schoolhouse notecards - any donation accepted

Limited quantities available

Contact Jan Cerabona and her "mobile bookstore" to arrange local only pickup - 748-0932

Brickyards of Eliot, E. Vetter

Schools of Eliot, E. Zamarchi/J. Paul

Images of America - Eliot, P. Elliott

A View of Eliot's Past, E. Vetter

Views from Rosemary Hill, H. Goransson

#8 Schoolhouse History, CD

Daniel Goodwin & His Descendants, CD

Green Acre on the Piscataqua, Perry, et.al

Sarah Farmer & Green Acre Activity Book*

Bagged Marbles & Slate chalkboards*

One-room schoolhouse notecards - designed by 2nd graders

*great Easter Basket items

Great Works Regional Land Trust (GWRLT) reports that **Paul and Helen Goransson** have added another 50 acres of farmland under a conservation agreement. These agreements now permanently protect the pastures and paddock areas of the historic Sylvester Bartlett Homestead, Thompson Horse Farm, and Sullivan Hillside on Depot Road. With two previous agricultural agreements 150 acres of farmland is protected, ensuring that the scenic, rural, and agricultural importance with preserved for generations to come. A working farm, the Goransson's 30 year-old, 240 acre Bondgarden Farm produces beef, hay, chickens, turkeys and their horse breeding business known as Bartlett Homestead Stables.

YORK RIVER WILD AND SCENIC DESIGNATION UPDATE: Jennifer Hunter, of the York River Wild and Scenic Study Committee, has notified us that in December **Senator King and Senator Collins introduced a bill to designate York River into the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.**

House Bill HR 1248 was introduced by Congresswoman Pingree and Congressman Golden back in February 2019. HR 1248 was favorably reported to the House of Representatives by the House Natural Resources Committee on November 27, 2020. HR 1248 just passed on February 26th.

All four watershed communities voted to endorse river designation and accept the York River Watershed Stewardship Plan developed by the York River Wild and Scenic Study Committee in late 2018.



Remembering Peterborough-Free Press Online

A Family from Peterborough, Warren Maine

<https://www.maine Preservation.org/mapping-black-history-in-maine>



Maine Preservation

has launched a new interactive storymap online. **Mapping**

Black History In Maine: A visual exploration of the Black experience in Maine. Highlighting the physical places these Mainer's lived and worked "in order to build a more complete history of Maine and all its citizens".

If you are looking to get outside for a while, the **Goodwin Forest** in Eliot provides a nice 1.2 mile walk out and back. Thank to a sale to GWRLT from Bruce Goodwin in 1017 and the remainder from another nephew in 2018 and funds from the Town of Eliot these back 74 acres of forested land, off Goodwin Road, provides a nice 1.2 walk out and back. 870 Goodwin Road. Parking off the street.

Notes on Eliot Maine History

Random investigations into the history of Eliot, Maine and the Piscataqua River region.

Editor Note: We are adding a new feature to our newsletter. Eric R. Christian, who describes himself as “software engineer by day, amateur local historian by night” has started a series of **BLOGS** which is sharing with the community via the Historical Society’s website. Hope you enjoy them as much as we do! You can also find them at <https://eliothistory.blogspot.com/>.

Thursday, February 25, 2021

The Frost Garrisons

When learning about Eliot history we hear a lot about "The Frost Garrisons". Not to be confused with "The Frost Garrison". How many can locate it or really know what it is? What is the difference between "The Frost Garrisons" and "The Frost Garrison"? There are currently three locations in Eliot that are on the National Register of Historic Places. The William Fogg Library, the Paul Family Farm, and the Frost Garrison and House



1738 Frost Garrison

I will admit that for a long time after I started researching Eliot history, I still did not know much about the Frost Garrisons. I had never even seen the site until I volunteered on a work crew in 2014 to provide much needed clean-up and brush clearing around the old structures.



2014 Clean up

What and Where is it?



The Frost Garrisons are three structures all built within a few years of each other starting in 1733 by Colonel John Frost (b. 1709) The three structures are located at 23 Garrison Drive in Eliot. The original land on which the garrisons stand encompassed about 140 acres and was known as Stony Brook Farm. The Town of Kittery granted this land to Charles Frost in 1660. Stony Brook was one of the ancient names for the York River.

The Stony Brook land was given to Charles's second son John Frost (b. 1681) in his will after he died at Ambush Rock in 1697. John Frost was residing at Newcastle, NH and had no immediate need for the land, but did apparently build a house and barn here in which a tenant lived. In 1730 (York Deeds Book 14 Folio 59) he sold this Stony Brook property to his son Colonel John Frost for 1,000 pounds.



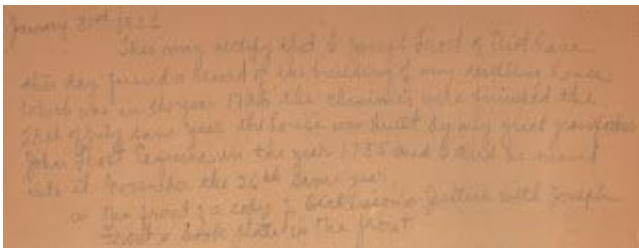
1736 Powder House



1736 Frost House

Colonel John Frost quickly set to work building his homestead upon Frost Hill. The main house was constructed about 1735 and finished in 1736. The smaller garrison structure which became known as the "Powder house" was probably constructed next, followed by the larger garrison house constructed in 1738. Why were these garrison structures built at this time? Colonel John Frost was building his homestead in a fairly isolated part of Kittery. And his family was very familiar with the dangers posed by the historically bad relations with the Native populations. By 1730, most of the Wabanaki Confederacy had abandoned their coastal settlements and pulled back further inland and north to Canada, but there were still skirmishes related to the ongoing wars on the frontiers. Colonel John Frost had lost his grandfather Charles to an Indian attack 33 years earlier. Building garrisons as a precaution was still a prudent measure in 1730.

The application for acceptance of the Frost Garrison property into the National Register of Historic Places mentions that the original Frost house was destroyed in 1760 and rebuilt in 1778, I have not found any evidence of this. In fact, a descendant of Colonel John Frost who was living in the house in 1836, Joseph W. Frost, provided a written certification that he



discovered a record of the building of his house that stated the chimneys were finished in 1736. I believe at the time of this application to the NRHP there was confusion between the Colonel John Frost Garrison and the Major Charles Frost Garrison which actually was destroyed in 1760. The Charles

Frost Garrison stood just south of the sharp bend on Goodwin Road and will be the subject of a future blog article.

The description, as part of the NRHP application, mentions there was once a tunnel that led from the main house to the smaller garrison house as a means to evacuate the house for the safety of the garrison in the event of an attack. It would be interesting to find evidence of this tunnel.

Were there Indian attacks?

It is also mentioned, in the history of the Frost Garrison site submitted to the NRHP, that there is evidence of arrow and bullet attacks upon the garrison. I have not found any evidence that any Indian attacks occurred within the boundaries of the Town of Kittery after 1730. Most of the ongoing battles at this time occurred much further inland. The most known battle was the 1725 Battle of Pequawket fought at the site of present-day Fryeburg, Maine as part of the end of "Dummer's War".

20th Century



1984 Subdivision

The Frost Garrisons, known for many years as the Frost Farm at Frost Hill, remained in the Frost Family for 287 years until 1947. The property was eventually sold in 1969 to Joseph Parsons who was the owner when the application was approved for the National Register of Historic Places.

By 1984 the 100-acre property went through a subdivision. So today the Frost Garrisons lie on a 4.7-acre lot surrounded by a modern residential development.

I have mentioned a couple of examples of how the John Frost Garrisons is often confused with the original Frost Garrison of Charles Frost. If you look up the Frost Garrisons on the Internet you will see the repeated mistake that it is the ancestral home of the poet Robert Frost. The Charles Frost Garrison is the ancestral home of Robert Frost, not the Colonel John Frost Garrisons.

Today

People sometimes ask the Eliot Historical Society if the Frost Garrisons is a publicly accessible site and can it be visited freely. The answer right now is no. The property has always been privately owned. So, any visit should be with the property-owner's permission. There is an easement with the property that any work proposed on either of the three buildings requires an opinion from the Maine Historical Preservation Commission. It would be a tragedy to lose such a historical treasure which is why a number of us gathered in a cold steady rain in 2014 to cut away vegetation that was overtaking the structures. The nature of the property as a private residence means future generations rely on owners who have a passion for preserving the history of their property.



Author & Son 2014

Upcoming Area Events

MARCH 6 - *Celebrating a Heroine of Eliot: Sarah*

Farmer 8:00pm (EST) An Evening with filmmaker and commentator Dr. Anne Perry. A 10-minute film about Sarah will be flanked by introduction and commentary, followed by discussion. Sponsored by the William Fogg Library. Online event. To Join Zoom meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85902910217...> Meeting ID: 859 0291 0217 Passcode: Sarah

Celebrating a Heroine of Eliot: Sarah Farmer, with filmmaker and commentator Dr. Anne Perry

Sarah Farmer, a dedicated supporter of the William Fogg Library. Sarah was instrumental in revitalizing the Eliot Library Association in the late 1800s and worked diligently with Dr. John L.M. Willis and Mr. Francis Keefe to coordinate the creation and building of the William Fogg Library in 1907.

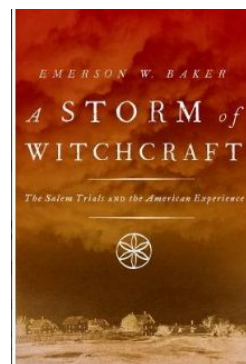
March 6, 2021 at 8:00 PM via Zoom



MARCH 7-13 - Great Works Land Trust (GWRLT) Annual Spring Auction - online Registration and preview

begin March 1. Register for and access the auction at www.auctria.com/auction/2021GWRLTSpringAuction

MARCH 11 - 8pm. Emerson W. Baker, author of *Storm of Witchcraft: The Salem Trials and the American Experience* investigates the key players in the Salem witchcraft crisis and illuminates why the tragedy unfolded as it did. ONLINE event, sponsored by History Camp is accessed through website: <https://historycamp.org/>





March 24 & April 11 - WINTER FARMER'S MARKET - the Berwick Town Hall, 11 Sullivan Square from 10:00am to 1:30pm. Meats, eggs, milk, vegetables, fruit, herbs, maple syrup, baked goods. SNAP and EBT are accepted. Masks required. 603-534-3831

March 27 & 28 Maine Maple Sunday Because of the pandemic

Backfields Farm in Eliot, sadly, will not be offering tours and welcoming people to come help this year but once the syrup is available, they will set up a way to sell safely. We're hoping she and Jay might do a video to share with us! There is also a limited supply of honey and soap. Check out their website at Backfieldsfarm.org



April 3rd & 10th - History Hike at Savage Wildlife Preserve, 10-noon, South Berwick. Early Settlers of Shorey's Brook with John Demos of OBHS. Free to members of GWRLT. Donation of \$5 or \$10 for family recommended for others. Space limited to 8-10 people. Registration and masks are required. Visit www.gwrlt.org, call 207-646-3604 or email info@gwrlt.org

April 7th - Wednesday Wandering Newichwannock Woods, 10-noon. Berwick. Free to members of GWRLT. Donation of \$5 or \$10 for family recommended for others. Space limited to 8-10 people. Registration and masks are required. Visit www.gwrlt.org, call 207-646-3604 or email info@gwrlt.org

April 17th - Vernal Pools at Tatnic Woods Preserve 9-11am Wells. Family Friendly. Free to members of GWRLT. Donation of \$5 or \$10 for family recommended for others. Space limited to 8-10 people. Registration and masks are required. Visit www.gwrlt.org, call 207-646-3604 or email info@gwrlt.org

April 22 - 7:30pm *Involuntary Americans: Scottish Prisoners in Early Colonial Maine* - Old Berwick Historical Society Online program. Dr. Carol Gardner will talk about some of the lives of Maine's earliest settlers - prisoners of war who were sent to Maine, New Hampshire and Massachusetts against their will in 1650-1651. Past programs can be viewed online at their website. Non-Members are asked to consider a \$5 donation to support our future Lectures, or - even better - become a Member!

