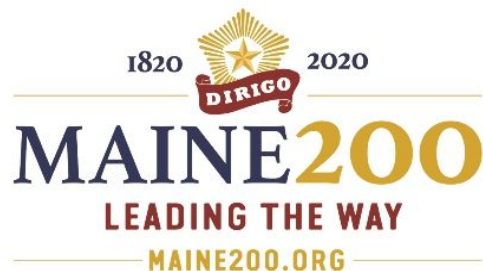


# Eliot, Maine

## MAINE 200-PLUS-ONE HISTORIC SITE TOURS

### HISTORIC BUILDINGS



**1. Dr. Henry Durgin home. 1088 State Rd.** Dr. Durgin, the last of a series of doctors to live in this house, came to Eliot in 1889 and served Eliot for 50 years. The house was actually built by another doctor of Eliot – Dr. Horace Stacey who was born in Shapleigh, Maine and came to Eliot around 1846. Doctors Mark Wentworth and Calvin Guptill also practiced and lived in this house. Dr. Durgin was born in Freedom, NH. He was a member of the school board and a member of the committee that built the High School at the site of the present town hall.

**2. Drake Home. 1081 State Rd.** Across and opposite the Durgin home, this house, built around 1831, is actually half of a house that sat where Frost-Tufts Park is today, on Old Road. It was built by Dr. John Q. Adams and was a large double house. The house was split with part of it moved here and the other half moved to State Road and is the second house north of the Congregational Church.

**3. Benjamin Kennard Tavern. 206 Old Rd.** This house was built by Dr. James H. Pierpont in 1790 and sold to Benjamin Kennard in 1801. Kennard was a baker and tavern keeper. He had a swing sign suspended on one of the large elms out in front and dealt mainly in West India Goods - rum, molasses, tobacco, pipes, snuff and salt fish. Before a Town Hall was built the town meetings were sometimes held here. William Leighton Kennard, Benjamin's eldest son, later took over the business until selling the property to Dr. John Willis, in the late 1890's who had plans of opening a sanitarium. He deemed it one of the most beautiful spots in this part of town. It was later the home of Fred K. Nelson and today is owned by Larry McCullough as Pine Tree Farm a retreat and arts workshop center.

**4. Locust Farm 338 River Rd.** This house was built about 1835 and was owned by Capt. John L. Jenks a well-known figure along the river who at one time sailed whaling ships out of New Bedford. It is believed he might have obtained the property from neighbor Elisha Shapleigh. It contained a grove that hosted early Quaker meetings and an orchard grove with apple, pear, plum, peach and

cherry trees. It passed from John Jenks to his daughter and, in 1904, to Susan Abbott, the first wife of Sherman Abbott. Their daughter Dorothy married Napoleon Rousseau, or "Nap", as he was called. They were active in the Boy and Girl Scouts and this area was known for the Boy Scout Jamborees and Circuses that were held here, the Horse and Dog Shows, and as a meeting place for other groups including the Isles of Shoals CB Radio Club.

**5. Capt. Elisha Shapleigh house. 360 River Road.** Believed to have been built about 1800, possibly earlier, on the lands of the original Shapleigh tract. Later generations of Shapleighs are buried in what is called "The Dead Root and Branch" cemetery at the rear of this property. To the left of the house is an old brick silo. Silos made of brick were rare in New England but with the numerous brick yards in this area it is not surprising to see these. It is assumed they were constructed in the late 1880s, early 1900s. Some say by the Quakers in this area. Captain Elisha Shapleigh, was born in 1778 and died in 1852. He married Martha, the daughter of Andrew Pepperrell Fernald.

**6. Rhodes House. 663 River Rd.** Also called the "Gingerbread House", this was built by William H. Rhodes. He was born in New York City in 1833 and died in Eliot in 1913. He purchased 67 acres from James H. Coleman. The house was built, in 1890, in the style of Andrew Jackson Downing. The lumber was brought over from Dover, NH. by boat. It was a summer house and there were rooms and facilities for servants on the lower level which is just a bit below ground level. It's possible that Rhodes, a house carpenter, had built these houses before. The 1850 & 1872 maps show an "S&G Jenkins" at about the location of this house so it is supposed that Rhodes built his home on the old Jenkins cellar. This part, of what is now River Road, was called Jenkin's Lane prior to 1910. There were several brickyards along this area including the Rowe and Mathes brickyards

**7. Nathan Bartlett House. 235 Depot Rd.**

This house was built by Capt. Nathan Bartlett, in 1740, on the site of his first house and remained in the Bartlett family for over 200 years. Capt. Bartlett came here, in 1713, from Newbury, Mass and built a tannery and erected a brick house made from the clay deposits on Sturgeon Creek. He was the father of James who served under John Paul Jones on the *Ranger* during the American Revolution and his son Nathan was the father of Sylvester Bartlett. The brick house was partially destroyed by an earthquake in 1737. Nathan Bartlett married Shuah, the daughter of Capt. John and Phebe Heard. Phebe was one of those killed at Ambush Rock on July 4, 1697. This was the more recent home of James W. Bartlett. After retiring from the beef business in the 1870s James turned to farming and for many years raised a large crop of cucumbers which he pickled before selling wholesale and shipped apples and apple cider vinegar.

**8. The Sylvester Bartlett House. 255 Depot Road** was built by Justin Bartlett, the brother of Sylvester and son of Nathan Bartlett around 1865/67. Shortly after, Justin, his wife and children died and Sylvester and wife Clementine Raitt (1830-1911) moved here and raised their family. It was built on the site of John Heard's Garrison and was part of his 1600s tract. Sylvester Bartlett (1822-1901) and his brother James (1828-1915) joined in starting a large retail meat business in 1855, which continued through the Civil War. They bought their cattle, had the beef dressed for them and sold it from their carts in the near-by towns as well as utilizing the railroad to ship to other parts. Sylvester was a member of the Methodist Church and was a strong believer in prohibition, prominent in town affairs and served in the Maine legislature. This house was connected with Dr. Willis' house on Old Road with the first telephone line in Eliot in 1903. Today, both the Sylvester Bartlett and Nathan Bartlett homes are part of Bondgarden Farm, owned by Paul and Helen Goransson.

**9. Bartlett Mill House. 258 Depot Road.** Now a private residence, it was a grinding mill and most probably was run, in the beginning, by wind power. There was also, at one time, a water tower. During the 1920s C. Edward Bartlett (1863-1956) ran the mill with a "one-lunger" engine.

**10. Staples home/Eliot Farmer's Union. 144 Depot Road.**

The house was built by Sylvester and Clementine Bartlett, but they didn't live here long before building the house on Depot Road, selling the house to Samuel W. Staples. The Staples family operated a dairy farm, sold apples from their orchards and wool from their sheep. The one and a half story ell at the rear of the main house was the home of the **Eliot Farmer's Union Store** during the 1930s when John and Rose Staples lived here. The groceries were stored in the second floor area of the shed which is attached to the house. Carlton Staples, their son, remembered the glass display case there which contained a special treat - National Biscuit Cookies - they had marshmallow on the top and a covering of chocolate. As a young boy he made a regular habit of making off with them. On one such occasion he had too many cookies and got very sick. The Farmers Union was originally part of the Maine Farmers Union and like so many others they split off when they found they could get grain and other farm goods at an even lower price, on

**11. Major James Shapleigh house. 1638 State Road.**

Built about 1820. There was a very large barn to the rear of the house that burned down in the 1950s. The house had its perpetual supply of water from a spring that came up in the kitchen. The establishment of the Electric Railroad through Eliot, was seen as an inconvenience to the farmer as it passed through their premier grazing and haying lands and often they weren't being paid for the land taken. James' son Augustus or "Uncle Gus," as he was called, was living here in 1902-3 when the tracks were being laid. He was one of the farmer's who hadn't yet been paid for his land so when he heard that the first car, carrying the officials and big-wigs, was due to come through the next day, he got to work and between sunset and dawn he and his hired man built a sturdy fence across the tracks on his land. Next morning when the car came down the track it came to a sudden stop. Unable to tear down the fence the officials left but soon came back and

asked him to remove the fence. Gus told them, when he got paid for the good grazing land as they had promised he'd remove it. They went away to return in an hour with the payment. Uncle Gus gave them a receipt and sent the hired man to remove the fence. He is reported to have told them, "Never try to cheat a Yankee farmer again".

**12. Capt. Dependence Shapleigh (1744-1812).**

**1609 State Rd.** Named "Nine Gables" by Mrs. Lorol Schopflocher, of Montreal, Canada when she bought the house in the 1930s. Much of the original house, built about 1768 on this site, burned and the present home is believed to have been rebuilt about 1840 by his great grandson, also named Dependence.

**13. Capt. Elisha Shapleigh House, circa 1775. 4 Governor Hill Rd.**

Capt. Elisha, who was born in 1749 and died in 1822, trained his company of militia during the American Revolution in the living room and their bayonet marks are said to be still noticeable on the inside walls. He and Andrew P. Fernald were instrumental in having Eliot incorporated as a separate township in 1810. It was later the home of James Shapleigh and Samuel Chandler Shapleigh; the house sitting on the lands of their ancestor Nicholas Shapleigh. The ceilings downstairs are 6 feet high and that single large chimney serviced 5 fireplaces. The large door, facing State Road, was used to bring the deceased to the family cemetery opposite.

The family cemetery has a very unusual brown marble stone at the front reads: "Hetty, aged near 100 years, died 1863, a long and faithful servant". Hetty was one of several known slaves owned by the Shapleigh family. Two others were named Black Will and Prime. Records in the census give her name as Mehitible Patch who we believe was related to Black Will, aka William Black. As with many such servants Hetty's room was in the garret (under the eaves in the attic). When Hetty was old and very ill, the family tells that Elisha insisted that she be brought downstairs to room and sleep in the parlor until she was better.

**14. King Tut's Cider Mill. 815 Goodwin Rd.** Bertrum Tuttle who started the Tuttle Cider Mill, descended from one Daniel Tuttle who settled in Greenland NH after the Civil War. Bertrum was born in Greenland and settled here in Eliot and started the cider mill in 1903. He made his own cider as well as pressing cider for his neighbors and also sold fresh apples. He worked as a conductor on the Portsmouth, Dover and York Electric Railway and later became a superintendent of the railway. He was one of the first persons, in Eliot, to have electricity. When working on the electric car line he connected the power from this near his house to his cider mill to operate the large motor to power a 50 ton press. He married Effie Stacy, daughter of George and Harriet Stacy. Charlie Tuttle, Bert's son took over and was known as "King Tut". He ran the cider mill until 1975. He also opened a restaurant called "King Tut's" located at what was, until recently the Muddy River Marketplace. Today Charlie's son Ken runs "King Tut Cider Mill. He makes over 15,000 gallons of cider each season and sells apples and wine making supplies.

**15. Bonnie View Farm. 226 Goodwin Rd.** This house sets on land once owned by Jonathan Hammond. The house, was reportedly built in 1817, with an addition built in 1840. It appears that present house may have been the second on this site. A newspaper report from 1901 says that the "dwelling house of Charles and Albion K. Hammond was destroyed by fire, together with much of its contents." It was a son-in-law, the Reverend A.W. Lapham, who first called this place "Bonnie View". From about 1950 and into the 1960s it was operated as a nursing home.

**16. Third Hill Farm. 269 Brixham Rd.** The house here is the second one on this property. Thomas C. Bartlett (d. 1893), brother to George C. Bartlett, is recorded on the 1856 and 1872 maps as living at this location. Thomas probably did not live in this newer house. The set of buildings here today supported the Third Hill Dairy Farm, one of the last processing plants in York County. Arthur, Edward and John Bartlett operated this business from the mid-1930s to 1987. This farm is rich in history with several Bartletts who operated saw mills and grist mills on Stoney Brook. John Heard Bartlett located at the Third Hill in the mid 1700s. Will Bartlett operated a water powered saw mill up until the 1930s depression. He took what money he had out of the bank and bought an engine. He wanted to be able to saw whenever he wanted to - not just when there was water enough. Using the water from Bartlett Brook, whose source is York Pond, another dam was put in in 1970 which generated 28 horsepower and was thought to be the largest in the region generating power. The wiring to the farmhouse was laid underground and located some 1600 feet from the plant. It was used to provide standby service for the dairy and house. It was speculated that enough power could be generate to operate for 6-8 months, provided the water supply held out.

**17. Nathaniel Staples House. 2 Littlebrook Airpark.** Nathaniel Staples purchased 350 acres of land with this house upon it from his first cousin Noah Fernald. The house is believed to have been built in the 1730s by a member of the Fernald Family. Nathaniel was a private and a sailor in the Revolutionary War. He enlisted on May 12, 1775, serving as a private in Captain T. Fernald's company of the 13<sup>th</sup> Foot Regiment. He marched to Boston and fought at the Battle of Bunker Hill in June of 1776. In November he enlisted on the privateer brig "Dalton" which was captured by the British warship "Reasonable" in December. The officers and crew were taken to England and confined in the notorious Old Mill Prison at Plymouth in June of 1777. He was exchanged in March of 1779 sailing with John Paul Jones on board the "Alliance" and arrived back in Eliot in August 1780. Nathaniel married Elisabeth Leighton, daughter of Deacon William and Mary (Bane) Leighton. Nathaniel Staples was instrumental in getting the town to make a road from William W. Fernald's in Kittery to Moses Paul's in Eliot about 1812 – this being today part of "Goodwin Road". After 100 years of Staples control the farm was sold to the Nashua Lumber Company to settle the estate of Nathaniel Staples (grandson of the original Nathaniel). Later sold by them to Nelson and son John S. Barnard who began their own market gardening operation and planted apple and peach trees. By the late 1920s and early 1930s they were trucking the fruit into the Portland, Maine market. Most of the crop land associated with this property remains in Barnard descendants' hands to this day in 2010. The rest of the farm on top of the hill was eventually purchased by Jack Hardy who founded *Littlebrook Airport* in 1971.



*ELIOT, MAINE*

