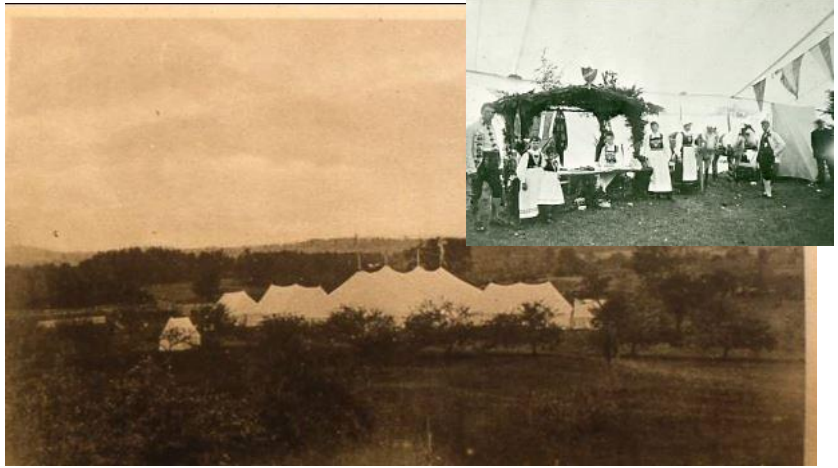


HISTORY WALK TOUR

1. Beginning at the corner of State and Beech Roads. To your right, where the house is today, at **1274 State Road**, the land was originally part of the fields belonging to the Moses Farmer family whose house is directly across the road. Their daughter Sarah kept her riding horse here. The *Eliot Library Association's "Midsummer Fetes"* of 1888/9 were held on these to raise funds for a public library. The property was purchased in the 1970's by Wayne Davis who had a building built for the First National Bank of Biddeford. Sherman Jones was the architect and Alphonse Marconi of York the contractor. The bank opened in 1975 and was subsequently home to the Maine National Bank, the Bank of New England and lastly Fleet Bank which closed in 2000. It was a church and daycare for several years before being turned into a home, in 2020.



2. Directly across, at **1271 State Road**, is "*Bittersweet*", the *home of Moses Gerrish Farmer*. The original building was the home of the Richard and Olive Tobey Shapleigh whose daughter Hannah married Moses Farmer. The building was enlarged in 1880 when the Farmers returned to Eliot from Newport, RI. Mr. Moulton of Dover, NH was the contractor. It was an

expansive home with a tower which burned in 1904 and was replaced with the present structure. Hannah Farmer was a philanthropist and is best remembered for Rosemary Cottage. Moses Gerrish Farmer was a noted electrical inventor, among his inventions were the fire alarm pull box, the dynamo, printing telegraph and the first incandescent light bulb. Daughter Sarah Jane was one of the original builders and the founder of Green Acre. The Shapleigh cemetery is to the rear of the house.



The small home to the right of *Bittersweet* was the workshop of Moses Gerrish Farmer and originally sat to the back of the house. It was moved to this location in 1940 and made into a home

[3] To the left, at **1266 State Road**, in the 1800s was the *home of John Hanscom*. In later years it was called the "Old Black House" due to its rundown condition. The house was torn down in the 1930s and this house built by *Arthur and Rachel Duckers* who

had a grocery and gas station here. Rachel had a beauty shop on what is now the "sunporch" and the family lived in an apartment upstairs. The grocery and gas station closed in 1945 but Rachel continued her beauty shop. During the Big Maine Forest Fire of 1948, the gasoline tanks were removed from the lawn





area for the purpose of storing water for fighting the fires. More recently this was the home of Edward and Ruth Vetter. The stretch of highway from Beech Road that goes to the Kittery line was built in 1825 and was called "Bolt Hill".

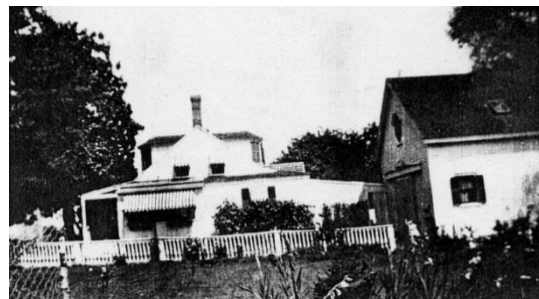
4. The **Eliot Meat Market**: In the mid 1800's this was the home of the Liebman and Staples Store. Saunders [Sanders] Liebman took it over from his father Frank in 1892. It was sold again in 1926 to James Turner and

then Louis Willett moved his business here in 1945. Willett died, tragically, in a train accident just after he acquired the building and it was sold to Lindley Pease and became "Pease's Store". Gerald McDaniels and his wife

purchased the business, in 1949 and it became known as "McDaniels' Store" from 1949 to 1961, when his son Jerry McDaniels took it over and ran it until 1984 when he sold to Alan Newson to become "Newson's Store". The store changed hands again when Brad Stevens and Bullard moved their business up the road from the original Eliot Meat Market, on Farmer Road, in 1986 and christened the building the "Eliot Meat Market" In 2004 it was sold to the present owners who renamed it the "Eliot Meet Market".

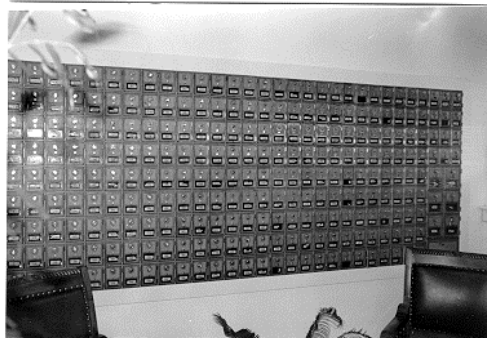


5. Just back from Sam's gas station, at **174 Farmer Road**, is the **Henry Culver home**. This house was moved from the river's edge, off Pleasant Street to its present location, on the homestead lot of Sylvester Brooks, over 175 years ago. In the early 1930s it was the home of Henry S. Culver, who was born in Ohio and was consulate to Ireland. He lived in New Brunswick, Canada and Ireland before settling here, because of Green Acre. He has the distinction of being the first Baha'i in Ireland.



6. The brick building, at **1284 State Rd**, once housed **Eliot's Post Office** from 1962 until 1990, hence the street next to it - "Post Office Drive." Postmaster Christine Davis spearheaded the acquisition, for the people of Eliot, of this new post office building. Up until 1935 there was a "South Eliot" and an "East Eliot" post office. The two offices were and located at the old *T.F. Staples Store*, later

Goodwin's Store and more recently *Village Pizza*, on Pleasant Street. Dedicated in 1962, It retains the dedication plaque and wall of post office boxes in the entry room.



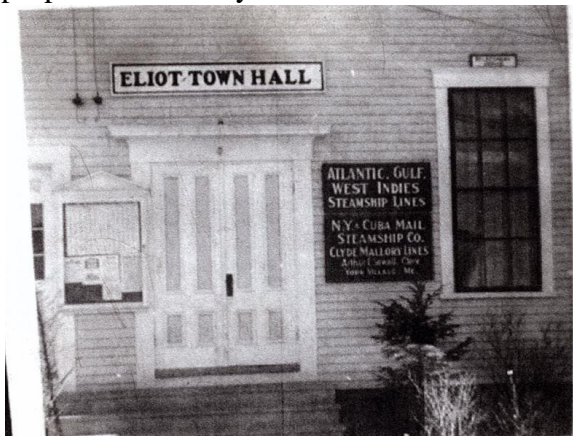
7. The house on the other side of Post Office Drive was at one time **another of the homes of the Hammond family**. Emma Hammond, an aunt of Sarah Farmer lived here in the early part of the 20th century.

8. At 3 Dixon Road is the *Site of the 1880 Town Hall*. In 1880 the town paid Albert and George Shapleigh to construct a permanent building to hold Town Meetings. It was a single story, building, open to the rafters with wooden floors. There was a dug-out place under for a wood fired furnace. Upon entering the building on either side of the entrance hall was a small corner room. One was the Selectmen's office and the other a coat room. The one large room contained a platform at the rear where, when used as school, the teacher's desk sat. There was a large wood stove to provide heat. Up until this time meetings were held in many various

places beginning with the Congregational Meeting House located near Cram's Corner. Those lasted until the church was demolished in 1837. Other meetings were at Benjamin Kennard's Tavern on Old Road, and in a Town House built on land of William Fogg for about eight years until that burned. Other town meeting places included the #8 Schoolhouse on Greenwood, Eliot Academy at Kennard's Corner, George Ireland's barn, in front of Melvin Dixon's blacksmith's shop, in the highway. This building served many purposes over the years. It was used as

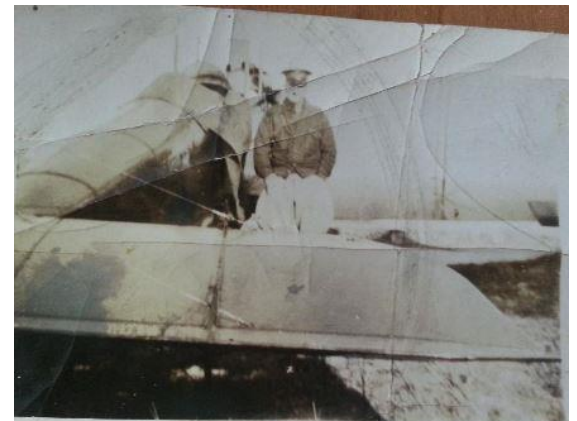


a Free High School, intermittently from 1888 until 1906, when the new High School was built. At one time the Selectmen' office was here. In 1918 a fire station was established here, with the other being in South Eliot, and in 1948 was converted to a gymnasium for Eliot High School teams to practice in and used until 1956 when the new multi-purpose building (now part of Eliot Elementary School) was ready. By action of the then Governor of Maine, John F. Hill, a native of Eliot, it became the office of the Eliot Steamship Company in the early 1900s, bringing tax revenue to Eliot. The building was sold in the 1966, torn down and the present house built.



An exciting event occurred here in 1925. At 12:30 pm on Wednesday, January 7 1925, a bi-plane, lost in the fog on a flight from New York to Boston, crashed into the corner of the Town Hall, sending a 300-pound safe clear across the room in the Selectmen's Office. Army pilot Charles Benning Oldfield dipped below the fog in attempt to

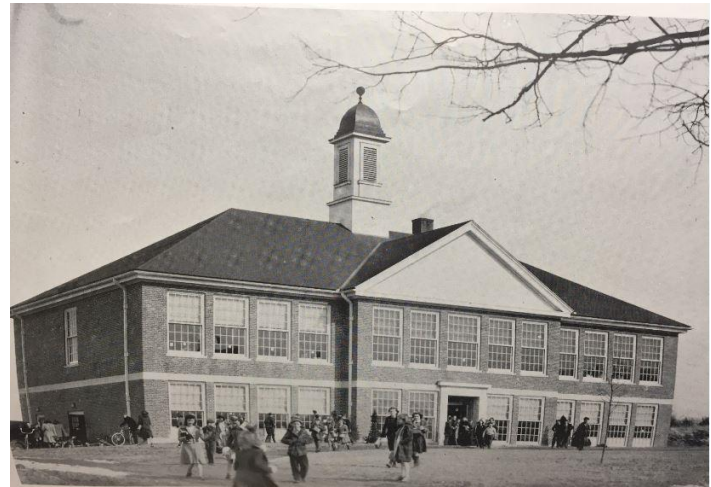
find a place to land and by the time he got to George Everett Hammond's field in Eliot, his engine was dead. He was out of gas. He glided in, overshot the edge of the field, barely missing a stone wall before he slammed into the building. Luckily no one was hurt when the wood, plaster and glass sprayed in all directions. The



propeller was splintered and the radiator cracked. Students at the high school 300 yards away heard the crash and despite a stern warning from their teacher, Carleton Staples jumped out of his classroom window and ran over to get a closer look. Dare devil aviator, Jimmy Doolittle flew in from Boston, assessed the damage and returned to order parts and repairs were made that day. The next day a crowd gathered to watch Oldfield depart. The opening in Hammond's stone wall was too small for an airplane to squeeze through. All day was spent trying to get the bi-plane back into the meadow for takeoff. In the end the plane had to be hoisted over the wall with the help of Eliot men. At 4 pm Captain Charles B. Oldfield boarded his plan and lifting off he circled the field twice and with a tip of his wing to the people of Eliot, he was gone.

9. Hammond Park is named for George Albert Hammond who lived in the stately old house with the white fence, at 1328 State Road. He was known in town as "Squire Hammond" and spent his 89 years serving his town. He was elected to Town and County offices including Representative to the General Court in Maine in 1853 and 1869 and also ran for Senator. He worked to establish a Free High School in Eliot. Squire Hammond died in 1902. His son George E. Hammond married Betsy Warren Huntress and was one of the builders of the Eliot Hotel (now Green Acre) His sister Julia married Jeremiah Libby who lived next door. When they straightened out State Road to remove a small curve, that extended from the town hall to the Hammond house, it left a small piece of land with no purpose. The Joseph Hammond family gave this land to the town for a park. The Eliot American Legion Post 188 is responsible for the flag pole, which was placed in 1989 and the wooden plaque and bench placed in 1987. The gazebo was a gift from the Eliot Garden Club to the town, as is the **"Blue Star By-Way Plaque"** which was originally placed, in 1995, at the intersection of Farmer Road and State Road and moved to this location when that intersection was reconfigured. The marker commemorates the "Blue Star" in World War II Service Flags designating a family member in the service. At the time it was the 4th marker of its type in the State of Maine.

10. Eliot Elementary School. The school sits in what was once a field belonging to the Hammond family. The land was given by Florence Hammond for the building of a High School. Built in 1940, it served as Eliot's High School, replacing the one built in 1906, until SAD #35 was created and Marshwood High School was built in 1966. In 1951 a new primary school was built to the left side and in 1957 a multi-purpose gym was built connecting the high school to the primary school and creating one set of buildings as it stands today. It was built with the understanding that as the town grew so could the school facility and so it has.



11. Eliot Fire Station – Eliot's first fire station was in South Eliot in what is now the American Legion building at the corner of Main Street and Cross Street. In 1914 a group of Eliot citizens formed the Eliot Volunteer Fire Association with Pearl Cole as the first fire chief. It was divided into 2 companies with Greenwood Street being the dividing line. Each company had its own officers. In 1934 the two companies merged. In 1961 the fire station moved to this new building on State Road.



12. Beyond Hammond Park and behind the Police and Fire Stations is Eliot's present Town Office Building. It is located on the same Site as the High School that was built in 1906. The school's architect was Alvah T. Ramsdell of York, Maine who designed what is now the McConnell Center and the Garrison Arts Players and the Wentworth Home for the Aged in Dover, New Hampshire. This High School building served until 1940 when the new high school (now the Eliot Elementary

School) was built across the street. The building then became “Central School” and housed various grades until 1963 when the Town Offices were moved here from the Grange Hall, which it had used since 1946. The building was torn down in 1987 and the present Town Hall built.

The marker at the Town Hall is actually the *gatepost from the Ebenezer Plaisted* homestead at a place by York Pond in East Eliot called Punkintown. It was donated by Frank Parsons of York and was dedicated in 1989. The gate post contains the date of 1858.

13. The George Albert Hammond House at **1328 State Rd.**, was moved here in 1852 by Hammond, from its original location on what is now Bradstreet Lane in East Eliot. It was moved by oxen over the fields. Bradstreet Lane. Hammond was Representative to the General Court of Maine in 1853 and in 1869 and was instrumental in procuring a Free High School for Eliot. His son George E. Hammond was one of the builders of the Eliot Hotel – Green Acre. This property is owned by Orland McPherson who has served MORE in the past as a Selectman and State Representative and was elected selectman again in 2009. He operates a tree farm and shingle mill here. To the left of the house is the family cemetery



14. At the entrance to Old Libbey Lane, (**1352 State Rd**) on the right, once stood the **3rd Congregational Church**. It was constructed by Maj. James Shapleigh, in 1833, to replace the 2nd Meetinghouse located near Cram’s Corner. This newer building served the congregation until it burned in 1880. The badly damaged church bell can be seen at the present Congregational Church. Very near this third church was a cemetery, but no records of who was buried there. The Congregational Church was first organized on June 22, 1721.

15. If we look down Libbey Lane we see *the old Libbey House* on the left.

Built on a portion of the estate of Simon Libbey, this house was the home of Solomon Libbey and his wife Martha (Hanscom) and later Jeremiah Libbey, who was postmaster for South Eliot in 1854. The Post Office was located in the store within his house. **Libbey Lane** was laid out in 1699 and ran from the Piscataqua River, across the present Route 236 to the foot of Marsh Hill. It marked the central boundary between the lands of Matthew and David Libbey and is part of what is known as the *Knowles Purchase* or the *Baylands*. The old stone wall, marking the southern boundary of the Libbey lands, can be seen on the side of the drive to our town hall.



16. At 1345 State Road, and newly renovated, is the former Parsonage House for the Congregational Church.



17. The present ***Congregational Church*** was dedicated on March 9, 1881. John R. Hanscom gave the original bell, a reproduction of the one that melted in the old meeting house. It was replaced in later years by the bell from the East Eliot Methodist Church, when that church was sold. The damaged bell from the 3rd Church can be seen along the walkway between the Church and McPherson Hall. On the right side of the Congregational Church, the electric trolley line, which came across the fields from Farmer Road, entered State Road and made its way up State Road.

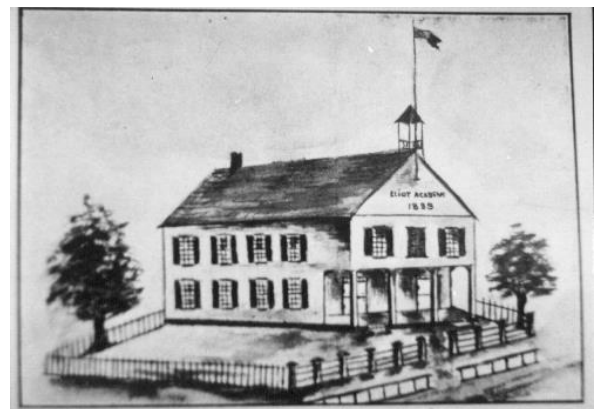
18. Across the road from the church is this lovely house, at **1360 State Road**, that was the home of Howard P. Libbey in the early 1900's, and part of the "Bayland" lands of the Libbey family.



19. The farmhouse on the right, at **1382 State Rd.**, was once part of the Kennard family lands and later the **Maynard Douglas home**. Maynard is most remembered for being a mail carrier. When he first started, he was delivering to 236 homes and at his retirement there were 490 homes. He would pick up the mail at the Kittery Junction Post Office, deliver it to the South Eliot post office at the T.F. Staples Store on Pleasant Street, sort the mail and then go out and deliver the mail on the way to the East Eliot Post Office which was then located at the Railroad Depot. He would then put the mail on the outgoing train and wait for the incoming train, then pick up the mail and sort it and deliver on his way back to the South Eliot Post Office. His route was 27 miles long. Maynard kept two horses - one which he used in the morning and the other in the afternoon. Pulling the mail wagon, they would trot along and when they came to a box they would automatically come to a stop. Even years later this training was still a part of their temperament, as Douglas Raeside's father, who later bought one of Maynard's horses, found out when he took them for a ride. Just as they would reach a mail box the horse would come to a complete stop!



20. **Eliot Academy site. (1389 State Rd.)** The bronze plaque was placed during Eliot's Centennial in 1910. Built in 1839 and opened in 1840, it was the first Normal School in Maine. It was built on the lands of Joseph Fogg who sold it to the Eliot Academy Association. The first floor was for the school, the second for social functions, religious meetings, balls, courts of law, school exhibitions, and political occasions. It burned down in 1875. Thirty years later the town built its first High School (1906). The house was the home of **George F. Kennard**, and, in 1920, the home of Kate C. Ives, first woman Baha'i believer in the United States and later the Hobb's family. This area is referred to as "Kennard's Corner".



21. Just beyond the Douglas house is ***Douglas Memorial Woods***. Dedicated in 2006, it is a 22-acre parcel of woods and wetlands with a $\frac{3}{4}$ mile trail. It is named in honor of Maynard Douglas, and his wife Marjorie Fernald Douglas and was created by their daughter Susan Douglas Fleming. Maynard Douglas is probably Eliot's most remembered rural carrier, serving for 38 years, from 1920 to 1958.

22. The small house on the right, at **1398 State Road**, was originally a gas station run by Maurice Leach. In the 1930s it was a grocery store owned by Edith Chase and in later years was purchased by her son Ralph who enlarged it, in 1935 to accommodate his growing business.



The store had 2 Gulf gasoline pumps.

Ralph later sold it to Robert Leslie who had an IGA store and he later who in turn sold it to Stanley Woods, who ran *Woods TV Repair* from here in the mid-1950s, until he sold it, in 1987, to Ayer and Barrett Realty. It has now been converted into a private home.



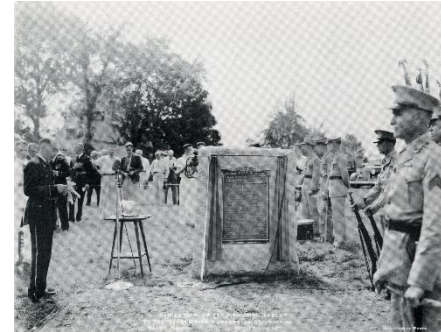
23. The ***John F. Hill Grange*** was formed by a group of civic minded people on May 20, 1902. Being a rural community, it was felt that this fraternal order, based on agriculture would be a real asset. The twenty-eight who became the charter members met at what was then the Eliot Town Hall on State Road, which has since been torn down. They elected their first officers that night. Albert Nowell was its first Master. It was established as Piscataqua Grange 393, until its members applied for a dispensation from the National Grange to honor its native son, who had been a Governor of Maine and so on June 2, 1902 it became the John F. Hill Grange. This building, built on land purchased from Joseph Kennard, was dedicated on December 9, 1910, the year of our Centennial. The Grange has seen its share of fairs, dances, weddings, art shows, church services, and meetings. It was leased to the town in 1946 for a period of 15 years as a community house and municipal building while the Grange still maintained their monthly meetings. In 1951 a very successful Juvenile Grange was established and flourished for a number of years. It has been used by practically every organization of the town for their activities as well as hosting a Farmer's Market for many years. The section of State Road beyond this point down to Fore Road was built in 1843 and was known as the "New Road".



24. The William Fogg Library, located on the southerly side of Sunset Hill has been named to the National Register of Historic Places. The land and a trust fund were given by Dr. John S. H. Fogg in memory of his father William for the building and running of a public Library. The building was dedicated on May 21, 1907 and contained over 6,000 volumes from Dr. Fogg's collection of rare historical books and the library of the Eliot Library Association who raised the first funds for a town library. The plaque, on the library lawn, is a memorial to those who served in WW I and was dedicated in 1937.



On the Library property facing Old Road is the **William**



Fogg House, built in 1819. William was a descendant of Daniel Fogg, the first of his family to settle in Eliot. He was a noted genealogist and historian, preparing many of the genealogical manuscripts of area families that we use today. He had two brothers Joseph and John. Joseph's house was the house, across the street and to the left of the home at 117 Old Road. It was inherited by Joseph F. Kennard. John's estate (and the site of the first home built by Daniel Fogg) was inherited by Dr. J.L.M Willis. William Fogg was Eliot's first postmaster and the town's first Post Office was established here in 1824 and was located in the ell of this house. Rev. Augustine Caldwell had a print shop here and printed the OLD ELIOT publication here from 1897 to 1909. Today, this ell houses the Fogg book collection and is named the "Worster Wing" in honor of past librarian Juliet Worster. The ell was destroyed by fire in 2000 and rebuilt.

