

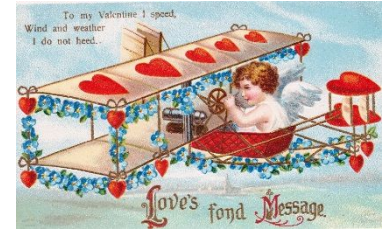
Monthly Meeting ~ February 6

7:00 PM: In person and by ZOOM @ McPherson Hall, First Congregational Church, 1361 State Rd.

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89970965186?pwd=b0JaVFgyOFRnNW11WjRLZFVSRDNLdz09>

Program: ***Books of our Childhood*** The program dovetails with our display at Eliot Elementary School. We invite you to share with us some of the books which you enjoyed as a child. If you have trouble finding that book, please let Jan or Rosanne know or write to us at the EHS website and we will try and find it for your presentation.



President's Prattle

by Tracey Graffam-Dickson

February 2023

Greetings! February is here, the heart of the New England winter. I hope you have remained safe & warm over these past weeks which brought some low temperatures, downed power lines and a good amount of snow. If you're like me, perhaps you're enjoying these winter days with a hot cup of tea and a good book or working on a favorite jigsaw puzzle or find yourself enjoying a good movie snuggled under a cozy warm blanket. Whatever your method is for getting through the Maine winter months, I hope you're able to slow down, unwind & let your body rest. Some refer to this as "Wintering"; like so much in nature, it's our time to slow down.

For many, this time of year is also a time to plan. At our January meeting, we discussed our meeting dates & times and agreed to reduce the business portion of our monthly meeting for two months each quarter and focus on programming and social time together. We agreed to move our business matters to a quarterly business meeting and schedule: March, June, September, and December 2023. We will be sure to send out an agenda and topics to be discussed via email prior to our quarterly business meeting.

In thinking about our areas of focus for 2023, I reacquainted myself with our by-laws and was reminded of our purpose, to "Preserve all historical records and acquisitions, promote points of historical interest; and provide educational programs pertaining to the history of the Town of Eliot, Maine" and we are doing exactly that. And what a great meeting we had in January, starting off with a great program and followed by lots of great discussion and sharing of ideas. We know that with great programming, attendance will grow, and our outreach will increase. In addition, we agreed to upgrade our laptop and technology to not only ensure we have a secure and effective means for digitizing and archiving our historical records, but also to improve our zoom meetings and program presentations for those attending remotely.

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Address: PO BOX 3, ELIOT, ME 03903
Website: www.eliothistoricalsociety.org
Phone: 752-0174 (Rosanne)

In addition to establishing our program schedule, we have made headway in working to expand our collaborations with our neighboring communities, including expanding our educational outreach with the Great Works School in South Berwick. To support these efforts, we are reviewing our annual budget and identifying fundraising ideas to help cover future costs. I have heard from several of you on a number of these topics, with ideas that we can immediately act upon. We are off to a great start! So, please keep these ideas coming and keep an eye for more updates through the newsletter, our website, and our Facebook page. Thank you for your support and we look forward to seeing you at our next meeting in person or via Zoom!

With Kind Regards,

Tracey

At our January meeting, outgoing president Paul Johnson was recognized for his many years of leadership of our Society. Tracey presented him with a card and gift certificates to some of his favorite restaurants. We all extend our heartfelt thanks to Paul and look forward to continue working with him.



Our display at Eliot Elementary School showcases



Favorite Childhood Books.



This very colorful display features books that staff members most enjoyed from their own childhoods. Many are probably very familiar, both as we were children and as our own children were growing up. As part of this the students asked to try and guess whose book each are. It has generated a lot of talk, as students and staff check it out. Before changing out the display, the cards will be turned around to reveal the staff member. We want to especially thank librarians **Meredith Segit** at Eliot Elementary School, librarian assistant **Laurel Sabera** at the William Fogg Library, who helped find and loaned some of the books and to **Deb Scribner** who, expressed interest in joining the display team and helped in putting this one up!



Also in the case are “kindness rocks”.

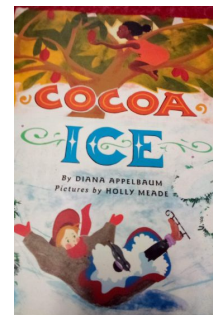
The 3rd grade students painted these rocks as part of “The Kindness Challenge” held throughout the school from mid-January through early February, encouraging acts of kindness. **Jan Cerabona**, offered to work with the students to help them create “kindness rocks”. These are based on a book, that the teachers read to students, *Kindness Rocks* by Sonica Ellis. It is about a little girl, living in a cottage by the edge of the woods, who loves to collect rocks and paint on them messages of kindness showing how, even small acts of kindness can uplift others. **Kiley Chambers** has shared this video link to the story. <https://video.link/w/KOgBd>



In **Ann Shisler's** 2nd grade class she has been making “Sailor Valentines” with her students. “Sailor Valentines” were sentimental gifts made and brought back by sailors to their loved ones between 1830 and 1890. Many had elaborate designs made by using seashells, placed in a hinged octagonal box.

To go along with this they read *Cocoa Ice*, by Diana Appelbaum,

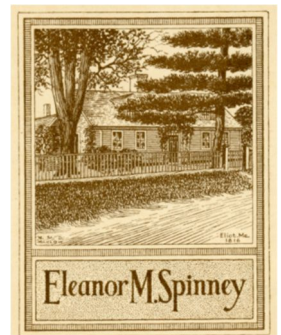
which tells the parallel stories that take place in the late 1880s. One is of a girl in Santo Domingo telling of how cocoa is harvested and the other is that of her counterpart in Maine telling about the harvesting of ice.



Message from the “display team”: Now that we are expanding, putting displays in other locations we could really use more members on our team. Only requires a few hours about every 3 months, during the school year. If you have an interest in helping to put up the display or have ideas for displays and/or items we’d love to hear from you!

Speaking of Cemeteries

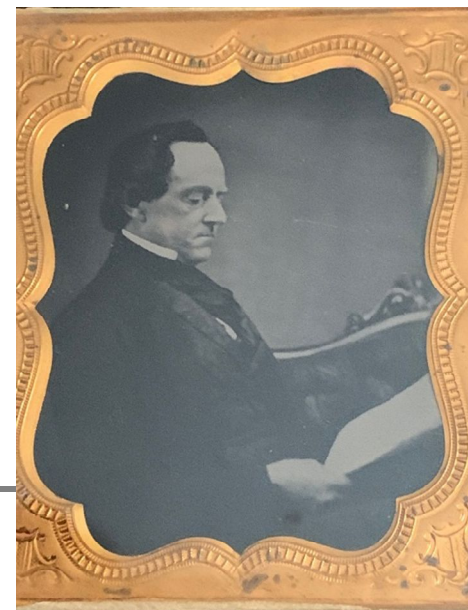
Recently we had an inquiry, through our website, from **Wayne April**, looking for the burial place of **George Rogers**. We were able to supply him with information and pictures of the cemetery, located down by the Baha’i Fellowship House, off Main Street. George Rogers married Mary E. Spinney. George died in 1877 and Mary in 1876. They had a son “Little Franky” who was almost 4 years old when he passed away. The cemetery, at one time, was on part of the lands of Joseph Hammond. Hammond deeded the land to Timothy Spinney, in 1815, who built his house the next year. In the 1930’s Eleanor Spinney lived here and could often be found at Green Acre. Today it is the home of the Ross family at 1011 Main Street. Spinney family members are buried in this cemetery.

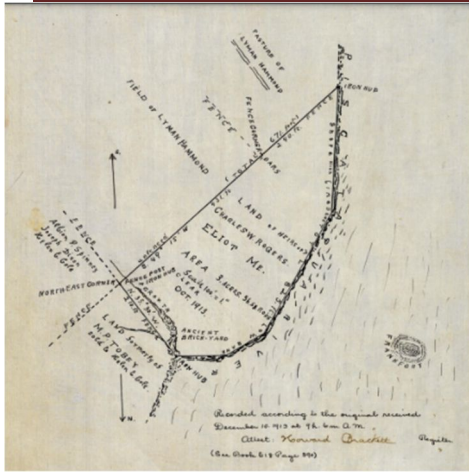


George Rogers (1805-1877) was a prominent brick maker in Portsmouth and Wayne was researching his home in Portsmouth – the Rogers-Hoyt House*. He had recently acquired an ambrotype of George, which he shared with us. It was bought from someone who had acquired it from George Rogers’ grand-daughter, Grace Hoyt, in the early 1970s. She had never married and lived in the family home that George had reportedly built, in 1839, next to his brickworks in Portsmouth. Grace died in 1972 at the age of 98. It is so nice to find new Eliot connections and to have a picture to go with the names of those buried in our oldest cemeteries!

* The George Rogers House is located in what is now a residential area on the north side of Portsmouth's North Mill Pond, facing the former mill pond. It was built on land originally subdivided by Nathaniel Jackson, owner of the Jackson House at the time. Historic New England bought the Rogers house, in 1959, enlarging its holdings around the Jackson house to protect it.


[Editors note: George Rogers had a brother, John Pray Rogers (1803-1843) who married Elizabeth Hammond. He had a brickyard on the





shores of the Piscataqua River near what is now the Eliot Boat Basin, in a place referred to as “the Gutters”. Society member **Wade Eisner** alerted us to this.]

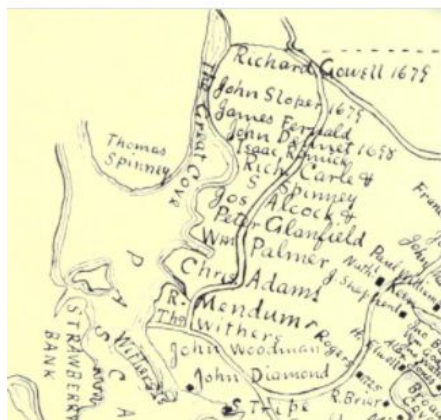
A more involved query came from **Edward Palmer**, who attended our last meeting. Researching his family lines he had reference to a William



Palmer of Kittery and then found that there was a Thomas Palmer being buried in Eliot. He wondered if there might be a relationship between the two; if William's lands were in the area of the cemetery; and might the Hammond cemetery actually be an older Palmer Cemetery.

The remains of Thomas Palmer, who served as a gunner during the Revolutionary war are tucked away in the woods in an ancient cemetery not far from an old path leading from the boat basin toward Fellowship House, Mast Cove Road and, Wisteria Lane. In it, among the dozens of field stones, are newer stones for Palmer and another Revolutionary War Veteran Maj. Joseph Hammond, whose Garrison was located on the grounds of the Boat Basin.

Although Eric and I weren't able to make a connection between William Palmer and Thomas Palmer, we were able to address the questions about where William lived and why Thomas was buried with the Hammond family and, in the process, unearthed some other interesting information.



William Palmer's lands are described in Stackpole's *Old Kittery and Her Families* and also in reference to the lands of Christopher Adams at Palmer's Point, which lay "between the lands of Robert Mendum on the western side and William Palmer on the northern side", with Adams' lands comprising "all between Mendum's Creek and Mast Cove." Those names didn't align with those whom we knew were in our Mast Cove area near the Boat Basin. Stackpole further references three Mast Coves in what are now Kittery and Eliot. Upper Mast Cove is in the Tidy Road area, another, in

Eliot, is in the Boat Basin area, hence the name "Mast Cove Road", and there is a third, also designated "Lower Mast Cove", in what is now Kittery, in the Spinney Creek or Great Cove area. On page 65 was found a map showing the lands of Palmer, Adams, and Mendum which clearly placed William Palmer's lands in what is now Kittery. Eric also found, on the 1856 Kittery map, that there were still Mendum descendants in that same area. Stackpole again references Palmer's lands as being located at "Palmer's Point at what was then Kittery Junction (area where the underpass for the Sarah Mildred Long Bridge is).



Locating the government marker application and looking at the genealogy, Eric was able to discover that the person requesting the marker, in 1938, was Palmer descendant Florence E. Hammond McDaniels of Dover, NH. She had requested both the Joseph Hammond and Thomas Palmer headstones, being a descendant of both. Florence was the 2nd great granddaughter of Thomas Palmer. Thomas Palmer's grand-daughter Mary Pray married Joseph Winn Hammond. It is surmised that Thomas Palmer had come to live with the Hammond family there, perhaps in his old age, resulting in his burial in the Hammond family.

Joseph W. Hammond and Mary Pray's son Lyman Hammond (1828-1918) lived on the family's estate in Eliot. His daughter Mary, married Victor Junkins.

Wade Eisner, who lives in the Victor Junkins house and knows the area very well, perhaps will share with us more about that area which includes part of the Baylands, the Roger's Brickyard, and the old Hammond Garrison.



Ferguson - Wylie - Gerrish Family

Editor note: This series will explore the Ferguson, Wylie, Gerrish family through further research, using the papers brought to us by Warren Walkup. If you have corrections or more information please contact us so that we can gain a more accurate understanding of this family and their lands. Shown will be items from the collection as well as contributions from Helen Sullivan.



The materials that Warren Walkup brought to us, in November, gives a new insight into the family of Timothy Ferguson and his sons Nathan and Benjamin. Included are pages of births and marriages from the family bible, legal papers, letters, broadsides, pictures, almanacs and drawings, including one showing part of their lands and the layout of the Timothy/Benjamin Ferguson cemetery, which Warren and Donna visited.

The Ferguson family in Eliot has its beginning with the arrival and settlement of Daniel Ferguson (d. 1676), who it is believed came from Scotland aboard the ship *Unity*, being one of the many thousands of Scotch soldiers taken prisoner by Cromwell during the Battle of Dunbar (1650) and sent to New England. In 1659 Daniel and wife Mary were recorded as living in what is now Eliot, Maine on land near fellow Scotch soldier William Furbush in the area of Worster Road. [See November 2022 newsletter] Over the years the family acquired lands in other areas of Northeastern Eliot, and elsewhere. Those family members that are part of this discussion lived on Goodwin Road, generally between Ambush Rock Road and Depot Road and in the Depot Road area.

NOTE: Colored highlights denote the cemetery where buried. **BLUE**: land of Sally Sullivan; **RED**: land of Goransson.

I. Daniel Ferguson (d. 1676), wife Mary. Children: Mehitabel, b. 1670; Alexander, b. 1672, m. Elizabeth Gowan; Sarah, b. 1676, m. James Ross; James, b. 1676; Abigail

II. James (1676-1707). Wife Elizabeth Hodsdon (d. 1707). Child: James (1707-1766)

III. James (1707-1766), m. (1729) Patience Downing. Children: James 3d, m. Elizabeth Standley (1724-), Daniel, m. Abigail Frost; Robert; Elizabeth, (d. 1759), m. 1756 John Hill; Dennis (1744-1803) m. 1773, Elizabeth Weymouth; Stephen, m. Shuah Bartlett (b. 1761); William, m. 1781, Miriam Raitt; Sarah, b. 1739, m. 1775, Joseph Forbush; Reuben, b. Abt. 1755, m. Mary Raitt

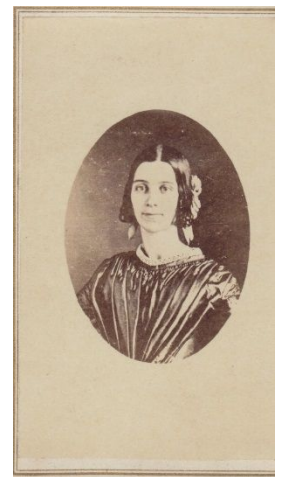
IV. Stephen (1746-1802) wife Shuah Bartlett, m. 1782

V. Nathan (1787-1872) - Anna [Goodwin] (1798-1881). Children: **Elisha G. Ferguson** (1819-1899) m. **Sally M. Hanscom** (1820-1896), Ch: Martha J. (1849-1920) m. Clifford J. Trefethen (1839-1921); **Stephen** (1821-1897) m. Almira J. (Phillips) Seavey (1826-1901); **Anna Jane** (1822-1840); **Sarah H.** (1823-1814) m. (3) Jefferson Raitt (1824-1875); **Joshua** (1825-1901); **Nathan** (1827-1828); **Thomas G.** (1829-1852) died at Battle Creek, Michigan; **Shuah S.** (1831-1893) m. Loring Libby; **Mary H. (Hannah)** (1834-1913) m. Leonard Felker; **Marian** (1835-1836); **Elizabeth H.** (1838-1905); **Nathan** (1840-1840); **Albert Irving** (1842-1927)

V. Timothy m. Sarah Paul.

VI. Timothy (1776-1844) & Elizabeth Damerell (1793-1830). Children: Mary Jane (1804 -1824); **Sarah Jane** (1808-1827; **John** (1811-1846) m. Mary — Ch: **Ellen F.** (1842-1847) [believed wrongly listed under John H., stone was misread]; **Elizabeth** (1813-1883) m. Nathan Libby Goodwin, Ch: Elizabeth A (1842-1883) m. Flavius J. Paul; **Timothy** (1816-1857); **Moses** (1818 - 1844); **Lucy Ann** (1821-) m. — Lord Ch: Lucy, James; **Sylvester** (1825-); **Adeline** (1827-1847)

VII. Benjamin F. (1807-1863) & **Mary C. Piper** (1811-1889)



Lucy Ann Lord, sister of Benjamin

Nathan Ferguson home, later of son Albert I. Ferguson



Shuah's parents at Sturgeon Creek*, where his son Nathan and wife Anna would also live. Stephen, with his son Nathan (1787-1872), Nathan's wife Anna Goodwin (1798-1881), and members of Nathan's family are buried in a Ferguson cemetery on Stephen's homestead lands, now owned by Historical Society member Sally Sullivan.

Stephen Ferguson (1746-1802) was 4th generation from Daniel Ferguson, the immigrant. He served as a private in the Fourth Foot Company of the town's militia in July of 1762 and on April 29, 1776 was commissioned First Lieutenant but refused to serve; instead taking a position as a private in Captain Samuel Leighton's company of the Thirtieth Regiment of the US Colonies, having enlisted on May 3, 1775. He was probably discharged December 31, 1775. Stephen married Shuah Bartlett on March 28, 1782 and came to build a house near the home of



[*Note: this Bartlett family owned the lands that are now part of the Goransson's Bondgarden Farm]



The location of the homes of Nathan (1787-1872), his son Elisha (1820-1899), nephew Benjamin (1806-1863) the son of his brother Timothy, and that of one "M. Ferguson," who has yet to be indentified, can be seen on the 1856 map. To be continued....

Area News and Events



Updating Eliot's Comprehensive Plan is an on-going process, so make yourself heard!



Saturday, February 11
NOON – 4 PM
GIVE WARMTH EVENT

Activities will benefit the YCCAC Hope Fund for Eliot Residents

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Address: PO BOX 3, Eliot, ME 03903
Website: www.eliothistoricalsociety.org
Phone: 752-0174 (Rosanne)



IN SUPPORT OF THE YCCAC Hope Fund for Eliot Residents
Saturday February 11th noon - 4
@ Eliot Skate Rink/Fire Dept/Dixon Park Area

Gather with friends at the Eliot Skate Rink, join for some outdoor winter fun & games, enjoy some warm soup & baked treats at the Fire Station & connect with neighbors and first responders.

Homemade Soups & Baked Treats
Join in the Fire Station for some games, delicious soups & baked goods and "pay what you can" by donation and 100% of proceeds will go directly to the YCCAC HOPE Fund for Eliot Residents.

Winter Fun
Join for ice skating, snowman making, sledding, Pond Hockey Kids vs First Responders, Fire pit & S'mores, Hot Cocoa & much more!

Kids Winter Outer Gear Swap/Drive
Donate any kids winter outer gear & also take what you need. (quantity & quality of gear such as boots, snow pants, jackets, gloves & hats)

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