

## Monthly Meeting ~ January 9

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

Zoom link:

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

Program: *Forgotten Frontier: Maine & New Hampshire in the 17<sup>th</sup> Century*, with **Professor Emerson (Tad) Baker**. In case you missed his ZOOM presentation for Partnership of Historic Bostons you will have another opportunity to hear this fascinating program and discover who the settlers were in this area; where they came from, and their religious and political leanings



## President's Prattle

by Tracey Graffam-Dickson

Greetings!

To kick off my tenure as the new president of the Eliot Historical Society, I first would like to thank Paul Johnson for his detailed documentation and excellent hand-off of all the information needed to ensure a smooth transition. I am also grateful for Rosanne's time, willingness & interest to take on the role as Secretary. I know she will ensure our monthly meetings are well documented and properly archived, an important task for sure. However, that is not her only job, she is also the writer and designer of our monthly Newsletter, our Facebook Page and provides updates and much of the content to our website. These outreach activities are important to the growth and vitality of our organization and the greater community both here in Eliot and for those members who reside further away. Thank you, Rosanne, for all your efforts!

As I look to the year ahead, I am very excited to think about the many ways we can further the growth and vitality of our organization, through the continued collaborations with our community members and various organizations throughout the Seacoast. Building on the past efforts from so many of you who have worked hard, to maintain & build up our collection of important artifacts, collaborating with the town with the cemetery website and database, working with the surrounding schools to provide educational information to teachers and families and working to document & preserve the historical information, landmarks and structures throughout our town. As part of these efforts, this past fall, we were invited to share our input on the Community Survey as part of the Eliot Comprehensive Plan. In reviewing the published version of the survey, I was so pleased to see that all the relevant questions included a reference to "Historic sites, structures & information". Over the months ahead, I look

forward to working with the town of Eliot to understand how we can improve our outreach and be of service to our community in ways that will encourage the preservation our town’s history.

As part of this effort, I will continue work with Rosanne & Jan and our membership to put in place a monthly program schedule that is of interest to our membership and the greater community. We will also work to evolve our website and online presence to encourage increased participation and work to ensure all the historical pictures, documents and artifacts are securely preserved and easily accessible.

As we look to establish the program & business schedule for the coming months, in January, I would like to use this opportunity to discuss various scheduling options and to hear from all of you on ways we can ensure as many members are able to participate. If you have recommendations on a meeting schedule, location, (online vs in-person) and on program topics, please let me know. I welcome your input anytime! You can email me directly or call me anytime: [tlgraffam@gmail.com](mailto:tlgraffam@gmail.com) 603-498-7375. Thank you for your trust in my abilities in taking us forward through 2023 and beyond. I look forward to serving you and working with you over the year ahead! Sincerely, Tracey

December’s Annual Meeting featured a “Show and Tell” with members sharing a variety of very interesting items, including two beautifully old, framed wedding certificates (Margie & Skip), old Christmas Cards from the Bartlett collection (Julie), book titled “Up Front” written by Bill Malden, photographer, artist, and WWII reporter (Jack); a 1905 Brass plate in the image of Beula Tuttle, whose “beau” had made it for her (Polly); a 1937 newspaper article which talked about the WPA sewing project, for which Jan’s mother, who was a seamstress, taught woman how to sew, and an old popcorn popper (Jan); pictures of Christmas Cactus and African Violet plants, handed down through the family, each of which is over 100 years old (Tracy); an old Third Hill Farm milk bottle, advertisement for Staples Sheep Farm, which sold wool to local businesses and Staples family pictures (Helen Sullivan); Paul family scrapbooks created by Rosanne. Margie Brown provided refreshments, beautifully presented.



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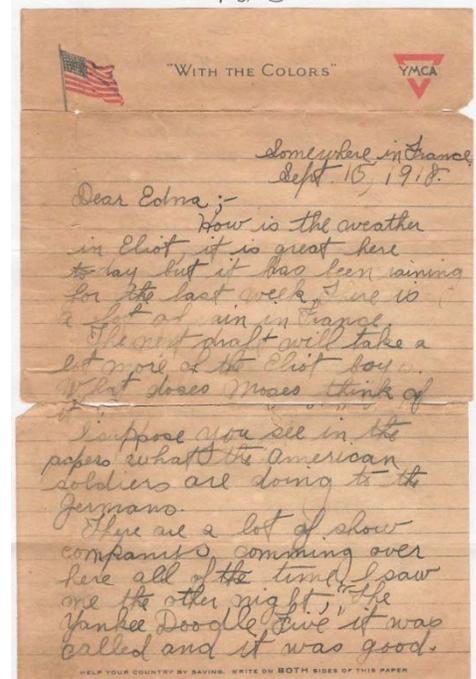
Address: PO BOX 3, Eliot, ME 03903  
Website: [www.eliothistoricalsociety.com](http://www.eliothistoricalsociety.com)  
Phone: 752-0174 (Rosanne)



We recently received an inquiry, though the town hall, from Fred DeVoe of New Briton, CT. In his mother Madeleine (Nickerson) DeVoe's papers was a letter from Leon Goodwin to Mrs. Edna Paul Fogg, Eliot, Maine. It was written, in 1918, while he was serving in France during WWI. In the letter, Leon asks about the weather back home in Eliot and said it had been raining for a week in France, in fact it rained a lot in France! He mused that there didn't seem to be much wood in the country because "all of the homes are made of stone and cement and a few of brick" and the brush that might be thrown away at home was burned. Women were doing all the farm work and taking on other jobs, usually done by men, including motormen and conductors on streetcars. He tells about when they were hiking from one town to the next and were sitting resting, an old woman came by with a much bigger pack than they were lugging. Embarrassed, they quickly got up and moved on. Leon noted that rather than wooden or wire fences there were hedges or piled dirt and he certainly didn't think the blackberries there tasted like those at home. He said there were a lot of show companies coming there and it was great that he could see shows and not have to pay; mentioning going to see "Yankee Doodle Five". Leon ends the letter with a story told by a YMCA woman who had just come back from the front where the Americans were. There was an American soldier who saw a woman standing at the foot of a hill, which was under heavy fire. He asked her why she did not go back out of range. She said that her little baby girl was up in the house, half way up the hill. The soldier, although risking his life, said he would get her. When he got back, safely, he asked the woman, 'Why in the H-- didn't the baby want to come with him!'. The mother told the soldier that there was a little woolly dog up that there that the girl wanted to take with her. The soldier started back to the house saying 'well, if that is all, I'll go back and get him' and so back he went and returned with the dog a little later.

Madeleine was born in 1915 in Monticello, Maine and lived most of her life in Littleton, Maine. She was only 3 years old, when the letter was written, and it was a mystery as to why she would have the letter. Doing a little research, I found that its sender, Leon Elbridge Goodwin (1897-1978) was born to Elbridge A. Goodwin and Caroline Lulu Perkins and lived here, in Eliot, on Brixham Road.

Edna Paul Fogg (1880-1941) lived just around the corner, on Depot Road, and was a school teacher at the #3 District schoolhouse on Brixham Road (later called the Maj.



Frost School), where Leon would have gone to school. She was also my great-aunt! So, Leon was writing to his former school teacher!

Leon's siblings were Earle Goodwin (1899-1989); Rachael, who married Arthur H. Duckers, and lived in what became Edward Vetter's house on State Road; and Roland A. Goodwin (1905-1990).

Leon enlisted in May of 1918 and served as a Private in Company D, 309<sup>th</sup> Infantry, serving overseas in the Defensive sector at St. Mihiel and Meuse-Argonne, France, involved in two very consequential battles ending the war. The Battle of Saint-Mihiel was a major battle fought from 12-15 September 1918 involving American Expeditionary Forces and 110,000 French troops under the command of Gen. John J. Pershing, against German positions. The Meuse-Argonne offensive was a major part of the final Allied offensive of WWI that stretched along the entire Western Front. Fought September 26, 1918 until the Armistice of November 11, 1918 – 47 days.

We can only surmise how Madeleine ended up with the letter. Perhaps when Leon was living in Monticello, he met family members, or Madeleine was visiting there, Littleton was not too far away either; or perhaps Leon met her or her while Leon was working for the government as a border crossing, custom's official.

Leon married 17 April 1920 and with his wife Helen lived in several places including Bangor, Amity and Monticello and finally Houlton, Maine, where he and his wife and son/daughter-law are buried. We will probably never know how the DeVoe family ending up with a letter between two Eliot born people, but it was fun to learn about the two families. – Rosanne NOTE: If our readers have any additional information about these people please let me know.

**I**t was a very memorable day for the children and staff of Eliot Elementary School and our community as we welcomed the Wreaths Across America caravan with a special ceremony. As it came through Eliot via 236, Depot Road and State Road, the caravan was greeted by the students and staff at Marshwood Middle School, and those gathered on at the intersections and at the Elementary School, along with the citizens of our town, with large smiles and flags waving. At the ceremony



following, Principal Dr.

Harrison gave the welcome. Presenting the colors were the honor guard composed of the USMC and National Marine Corp Division, VFW Eliot, Kittery All-American Post 9394 and American Legion Post 188, followed by students from Marshwood High School

singing the National Anthem and the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students of Eliot Elementary, led by Mrs. Cerabona, signing the Pledge of Allegiance. Shown was a video featuring present third grade students speaking about "What is a Patriot", followed by second-grade students, led by their music teacher Mrs. Armatige, singing the *Wreaths Across America Song*. Second grade students



then built wreaths, and as they did, explained the meaning behind each of the sections of greens that go into making up each wreath. Executive Director of the Wreaths Across America organization, Karen Worcester, addressed those present, followed by the retiring of the colors. To end the ceremony a rifle salute was given, outside, across the street.

The visit of Wreaths Across America with followed, on Saturday, December 17<sup>th</sup> with residents and family members, from near and far,



gathering at the Mount Pleasant & Brooks Cemeteries to place Remembrance Wreaths on the graves of our country's fallen heroes. There were over 700 wreaths that were sponsored. Vehicles, unloaded boxes of the wreaths, as they traveled through the cemetery where volunteers waited to place at the gravestones, while saying the name of the veteran. Thank you to all who were able to participate.



Photos: Deb Cram & Janice Cerabona



**Eliot Connects reports that over 427 Winter Care Kits were distributed to over 22 organizations throughout our**

**community** including our Marshwood Schools, Adult Ed and Eliot Kids PLAY, Footprints Food Pantry, York County Community Action Corporation and York Hospital Community Health, Baran Place, Meals on Wheels, as well as kits to the Eliot Police Department, to hand out as needed and the William Fogg Library, for residents to pick up. They will do another round of spring/summer CARE Kits in early April, so start collecting now! **We have heard that, January 28, they will be hosting a fundraising event to aid with heating costs, at the Eliot Skating Rink, be on lookout for more information.**



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John F. Hill Grange # 393 members making their kits.

**Jennifer Hunter**, York River Wild and Scenic Study Coordinator reports that **York River was designated into the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System as a partnership Wild and Scenic River.** The designation authorization was included in the omnibus government spending bill that was just approved by Congress. This long-awaited and well-earned distinction will help York River watershed communities continue to protect, enjoy, and benefit from our healthy coastal river system now and into the future.



**A** Christmas Eve fire has destroyed the home of an



Eliot mother and her two daughters. The fire appears to have gutted one side of the house forcing Allison Lyn Boyd and her two children to seek shelter in the home of a caring neighbor. Even as firefighters from several communities were battling the flames, our State Representative, **Michelle Meyer** was organizing help for the family. Using her Facebook page

**Eliot Strong** she announced that she would be at the Eliot Commons on Christmas Day (10am) to accept clothing, and other items, along with gifts and monetary donations to help the family. Within minutes, on Christmas Day, the parking lot was full and when all was said and done there were 4 vehicles filled with items generously donated by the citizens of our community and over \$5000 in cash and gift cards.

Deepest thanks to Fire Chief Jay Muzeroll, our firefighters, and those from other communities who risked their lives on one of the coldest of nights.

Michelle writes *We have had an overwhelming response with 4 truckloads of donated clothing, wrapped gifts, and more than \$5,000 in cash and gift cards. This community is so incredibly kind and generous I simply do not have the words to thank you on behalf of this mom and her daughters. We are sorting the clothing now and it is clear we will not need any more clothing including coats. So much from so many. ❤️🙏* If you would like to donate money to help these folks get back on their feet and have a PayPal account: log in, here is mom Allison's contact info to input and donate [Allyboyd@mac.com](mailto:Allyboyd@mac.com) Thank you. This community is absolutely filled with kind and loving people who show up for one another. I am proud to live among you. ❤️ [Editor Note:

The home, at 207 Frost Hill Road, is one of Eliot's oldest and iconic symbols as it sits at the crest of Frost Hill, near another historic site "Frost Garrisons". Known to older locals as the "Drake House", it was the home of the Maurice Drake family. Philip Drake, who passed away several years ago and was the organist at the East Eliot Methodist Church, grew up there. Originally it is believed to be ....



## Comprehensive Plan Survey

Eliot residents have received a mailing with information as to how you can give your thoughts concerning our community's future. The **Comprehensive Plan** guides our community's growth and quality of life for the next 10 to 15 years. It covers many important topics, such as transportation, land use, natural resources, housing, town services, and economic development. The **Comprehensive Plan** informs zoning, which shapes the type and quality of development in the community. An updated Comprehensive Plan will also help us apply for certain grants. You can fill out the form online, through this link <https://new.maptionnaire.com/q/2io9f2t494t4> Paper copies are also available at the Town Hall (1333 State Rd.) and Fogg Library (116 Old Rd.). For those who need additional assistance, such as a paper copy to be mailed, call 439-1813 ext. 109; email [ktackett@eliotme.org](mailto:ktackett@eliotme.org); or email Eliot Connects at [eliotconnects@gmail.com](mailto:eliotconnects@gmail.com) if you need a survey dropped off or help filling it out.



The Acton-Shapleigh Historical Society has begun their in-person meetings and even more importantly, for those of us who don't wish to travel to night meetings, has video-taped their programs and put on YouTube. Their program ***The Ghost of Shapleigh Plains*** is now available to view. You can follow this

link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=frxrqLTfw0Y&list=PLhTTABB8okShDixkLO0VcO7V3QqZKnrR6> Intro - Several Maine towns hold mysterious and ghoulish legends and lore. Shapleigh's tale goes back over 200 years. It involves a pastor, an innkeeper, a belated young man and a ghost, and has been passed down orally for so long that times, names and locations have been convoluted. Steve Huntress, born and raised in Shapleigh is the presenter.

**At our Annual meeting in December, new officers were elected. We want to thank all those who have and are serving, in various capacities, to keep the Historical Society moving forward. Our Officers and Board of Directors for 2023 are:**

President: Tracey Graffam-Dickson  
 Vice President: Paul Johnson  
 Secretary: Rosanne Adams-Fisher  
 Treasurer: Kathy Runey

Board of Directors:  
 Eric Christian (2022-2024)  
 Jack McDonough (2023-2025)  
 Kathy Runey (2021-2023)