

Monthly Meeting ~ May 8

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

Program: **DO YOU KNOW AS MUCH AS A SECOND**

GRADER? We will learn about Eliot Elementary School's "Eliot History" program and find out just what the students are learning and even do one of their activities!

Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89970965186?pwd=b0JaVFgyOFRnNW1WjRLZFVSRDNLdz09>



President's Prattle

by Tracey Graffam-Dickson

Happy May Day!

Rooted in agriculture, the 1st of May, known as May Day, was a celebration of springtime festivities, including May dances, bonfires, and decorating homes and livestock with yellow May flowers. As I write this, the wind is howling and the grass seems to be growing in front of my eyes, thanks to the many inches of rain received last night. This weather reminds me of those springtime proverbs, my grandmother often used to say, "April Showers, bring May Flowers" and "In like a Lion, out like a Lamb".

Growing up in Maine, my grandmother enjoyed many of these wonderful traditions, including attending the May dances, picking May flowers, and planting her vegetable garden. Her life, like so many lives here in

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

JUNE 12 – THE NARCISSUS. In preparation for our trip, on June 21st, to the Seashore Trolley Museum in Kennebunk, we will explore the recollections of SAD #35 teacher Mildred Obrey, which contributed to Jean Flahive's book "Teddy Roosevelt, Millie, and the Elegant Ride". See details of the trip and make your reservation now!

JULY – no meeting

AUGUST – Annual cookout

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New England, was tied close to the land. Along with these well-known proverbs, she often would share her childhood memories & springtime traditions, such as picking dandelion roots and hunting for fiddleheads, both springtime delicacies she enjoyed. I am forever grateful to my grandmother for sharing and passing down these wonderful seasonal traditions and activities. So many have become a part of my own and have given me the much-needed balance to my work life (spent mostly indoors and in front of a computer).

Nearly 100 years have passed since the youth-filled days of my grandmother. Although many things have changed, by passing on her traditions to my generation, a little bit of her past continues to live on. As the Historical Society works to document and preserve historical structures and landmarks, I feel it is also important to celebrate the seasonal traditions with future generations by planting a garden, visiting a working farm, hiking, and foraging on one of the many nearby hiking trails. By teaching the next generation about these traditions and the land and all it has to offer, we might instill a love of the land and a desire to preserve and protect its natural resources. Perhaps through this work, we will all be a little healthier, happier and our generations will be more connected than ever.

As you read through the newsletter, you'll find many upcoming events to do exactly that. I hope you'll take the opportunity to join the students at the EES for their journey through the past, volunteer at the #8 Schoolhouse or participate in the celebration hosted by Aging in Place and share with others your stories and traditions. As always, I thank you for your support and efforts and look forward to seeing you at one of the many upcoming events! ~ Tracey

TO ELIOT HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERS!!

JUNE 7 @ 9am-11am -

Colonial Games & Cookout –
Eliot Elementary School Ballfield.

Join the 2nd grade classes for this intergenerational event. Please let Jan or Rosanne know if you will be/or are thinking of coming so they will know how many to plan for. Rain date: June 8th.

SPECIAL INVITATION

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#8 One-Room Schoolhouse Museum is now open every Saturday from 10-2. Stop by, bring your family and friends. Always looking for volunteers to help greet people. Contact Jan to help.

Our Annual Report to the town and recent Membership Survey are now available on our website:

<https://eliothistoricalsociety.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/ELIOT-HISTORICAL-SOCIETY-ANNUAL-REPORT-2023.pdf>

https://eliothistoricalsociety.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/EHS-Membership-Survey-Results_10APR23.pdf

DID YOU KNOW...

You can find past programs on our website and YouTube channel?

<https://www.youtube.com/@eliothistoricalsociety259>

And some other interesting history information too!

REMINDER – If you haven't paid your yearly dues, they are due in January. As a non-profit organization, members are a major source of financial resources. The work toward preserving the past would not be possible without you. A membership costs \$10.00 Per person per year, \$50.00 per member for a lifetime membership or \$75.00 for a lifetime family membership which includes immediate family and children living at home under the age of 21. Please mail check to our Membership Chairperson: Sylvia Moynihan, 1471 State Road, Eliot, ME 03903

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THE NARCISSUS


“Teddy Roosevelt, Millie and the Elegant Ride”

JUNE 12TH | 7PM

ELIOT CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH MCPHERSON HALL, 1361 STATE ROAD (AND Y&A ZODIUM)



Join us and learn about The Narcissus – the sole surviving high-speed wooden electric trolley from the legendary Portland-Lewiston Interurban (PLI) ...known as the “finest and fastest in all New England”. We will share the recollections of SAD #35 teacher Mildred Obrey whose memories served as a basis for the writing of Jean Flahive’s book “Teddy Roosevelt, Millie and the Elegant Ride”.




COME RIDE THE TROLLEY!

Seacoast Trolley Museum Tour & Meet the author Jean Flahive

JUNE 21ST | 9:30AM-2:30PM

SEACOAST TROLLEY MUSEUM, KENNEBUNK, MAINE

Enjoy a guided tour lead by Phil Morse and meet Jean Flahive, Maine Author of the beloved Children’s book “Teddy Roosevelt, Millie and the Elegant Ride”. You’ll have a chance to ride on the Trolley, enjoy the extensive exhibits of restored electric cars of New England and learn about the history of the famous Narcissus and the preservation efforts currently underway. Bring your bag-lunch and join us for lunch break between program events.



RSVP REQUIRED. Register by June 1st.

Program Cost: FREE for Historical Society Members

Non-members shall pay the standard museum entrance fees.

Contact us for more information: info@eliothistoricalsociety.org

ELIOT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

JUNE 21st – Special Visit to the Seashore Trolley Museum

Phil Morse will be our host and guide and we will be his GUESTS.

This special program and tour are FREE for Eliot Historical Society and Old Berwick Historical Society members. If you are bringing a guest the cost will be: 2-under – Free; 3-5 - \$6; 6- 16 - \$11; 17-59 - \$13; 60-up - \$11.

CEMETERY CLEANUP SCHEDULE

Eliot Historical Society has, once again, organized cemetery work days this coming Spring/Summer, to be held on the first Sunday of the month, from 1-3pm. Usually a small group, we hope you will support our work and If you can help or have any questions please give us a call at 207-752-0174.

May 7: Remick Cemetery, off Main Street (setting up a stone); Shapleigh Cemetery on the corner of Governor Hill & State Road and then moving, as time allows, to the nearby Hill and Dependence Shapleigh family cemeteries, on State Road.

June 4: Knight Cemetery, off Beech Road. Re-setting stones. If we have a large crew we’ll also work on the Remick cemetery, near the entrance of Fernald Lane.

July 2: Neall Cemetery, Goodwin Road (off Woodside Meadow Road)- checking the cemetery and removing brush, if necessary

August 6: Hodgdon/Rowe cemetery, 2039 State Road

September 3: Parish Cemetery, River Road

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SCHEDULE, subject to change

- 9:15am Arrive at STM – suggest that we car pool, otherwise will join the group there.
- 9:30am Doors open. As people are admitted and issued tickets, they should gather in the Exhibit Room, while waiting for other members
- 9:50-10:30 Short intro and slide presentation by Phil Morse
- 10:30 Board the trolley (just for members and guests). Ride will include
 - Stop at Morrison Hill Station (an actual 1915 small rural waiting station from West Cumberland, that the Narcissus made stops at until 1933)
 - Disembark and walk to the restoration shop where the Narcissus and eight other trolleys are either receiving general maintenance or are in various degrees of restoration. Members will have a chance to meet staff members working on the Narcissus, hear from them what they are currently doing for work on the Narcissus and they will respond to your questions.

- Noon Return to the Visitor Center. Members and guests can use bathrooms, get their lunches (participants bring their own bag lunch) and depending on weather, we'll have lunch inside in the Exhibit Room or outside. Jean Flahive, the author of the Millie book will be there, she will take a few minutes to chat about the book...answer questions...and books can be purchased. Jean will sign and write a personalized note in their book, if members would like. If members already own a copy of the Millie book, they may bring it to have her sign and add a personal note.

- After lunch there will be additional time to tour exhibit barns where trolleys are on public display...including ASL-100, the 1906 electric locomotive that has connections in Eliot and South Berwick and possibly the PD & Y 108, the 1904 post office/express car that was used by the PD&Y that operated through Eliot and South Berwick; Or members can go for another trolley ride on a different trolley that may be operating that day.

- 2:30 Official end of our visit, but members/guests may stay until closing (4:30)!

INQUIRIES ~ EXPLORING HISTORY

We recently received an inquiry about a house in Eliot, that we hope that our readers may have more information on. The location in 1890 State Road. The tax map says the house was built in 1800, but we've found that that date is often used generically when the real date is not known. It is a duplex and has been rented as such since, at least, the 1950s. In 1942 it was owned by Roland Goodwin. If you have any more information about the house please let us know.



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Anyone have an idea of what this was used for? Hand-forged iron. It was found by Jason Ouellet.



Speaking of Roland Goodwin ~ Anyone remember his farm stand at the corner of State Road and Cedar Road?

AREA NEWS AND EVENTS

PRESERVATION

Jason Ouellet, the new owner of what was the home of Albert Lord (1846-1931), at 890 Goodwin Road, is in the process of moving a 100+ year old barn that is on the site of what was Clover Farm in Eliot at 771 Main Street. Jason and his wife Chelsea, are no strangers to preserving old structures and bringing them back to “life”. They have been restoring their home, which was more recently the home of our late society member June Goodwin who was the niece of Albert Lord and, in later life, came here to live with her aunt, Annie Hanscom Lord (1893-1986). A middle school science teacher, by day, Jason has been spending his “spare” time to bring this barn to its new home on his property, while he and wife Chelsea continue the restoration work on their home. Surely, this is a labor of love.



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Edward Jones

The barn is being moved to his property to replace his barn that was in such poor condition and falling down, that it had to be taken down. The footprint is nearly the same (minus an inch or two) so it will fit nicely in the vacated space.

While taking down the beams of the barn at 771 Main Street, he noted that there were Roman numerals etched into them, suggesting that they had been milled elsewhere and then re-assembled. Jason found the same markings on the beams of his house and in one location a chalked in marking saying “Our 100 joist.”



saw marks as well. Possibly repairs over the years?

He says that he plans on using what parts of his own barn that he can salvage, as they are similar in construction and materials. Where necessary he will “sister” the beams with stronger kiln-dried oak and using native hemlock (which is what the barn is made of), matching pieces as close as he can for those pieces that have sustained rot and are not usable.

We are hoping to have more pictures to share as the process continues and hoping that Jason and wife Chelsea will come share with us, in the future, this preservation effort as well as that of their house.



He reports that the beams are hand hewn and some of the floor boards are as well but there are also some with sash mill marks and circular





If you have some expertise or help you can offer, we're sure Jason would like to hear from you.

Editor note: Eliot recently passed a Demolition Delay Ordinance that provides for a period of up to 90 days to review structures 100+ years old, slated, by the owner, for demolition, with the goal to find a preservation alternative. In the case of the barn at 771 Main Street, EHS reached out to several farms in Eliot and Jason just happened to be getting ready to replace his dilapidated barn. He and the owner, Chris Glidden, worked out the particulars and the project began.



MAY 20 ~
Eliot Garden Club
Plant Sale at the
Gazebo ~ 9 am to 12 pm

(or until sold out) Always an interesting selection of plants, seedlings, vegetables, flowers, perennials, and our Unique Boutique of garden related items. Proceeds benefit the many plant-based projects the EGC manages and funds throughout the community.



Aging Unbound
Celebration at Hammond
Park ~ 1pm to 3pm Sponsored by
 Eliot's Aging in Place Committee, in
 celebration of *Older American's*
Month.



MAY 29 ~ Memorial Day in Eliot 10AM services at Mount Pleasant -Cemetery conducted by Memorial Post of the American Legion of Eliot. Post Commander ~ Don Hands.

Marshwood High School band will provide music and the final “Taps”; Eliot Police and Eliot Fire Departments will provide the honor guard. There will be no parade this year.



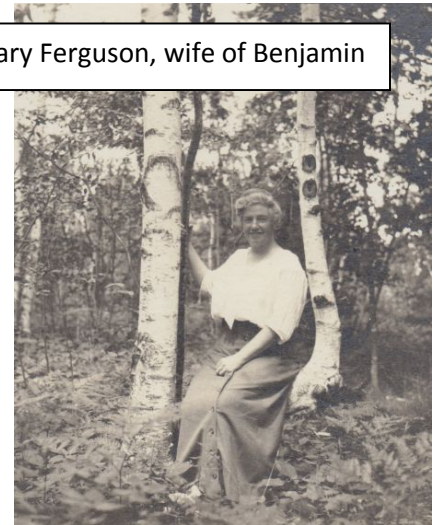
Ferguson - Wylie - Gerrish Family

Editor note: This continuing series explores 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.



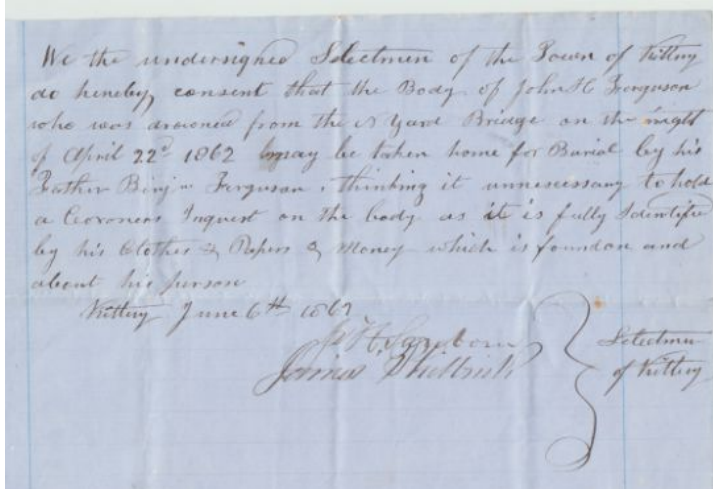
Benjamin and Mary (Piper) Ferguson had 6 children - Sarah Jane, who married William Staples and died, a widow, in 1897; Bertha Fostina (1852-1853), John H. (1834-1862), Mary Elizabeth (1835-1920), Owen (1841-1879), and Frances (1846-1932), who married William C. Wylie.

Mary Ferguson, wife of Benjamin



John H. Ferguson (1834-1863) married Sarah L. Laroe (1821-1902) and had three children: Fostina (1858-1880) Benjamin Franklin (1859-1935)

and Minnie (b. 1863). John H. Ferguson was drowned at the Navy Yard Bridge on the night of April 22, 1867. In the papers is a very poignant letter from the selectmen of Kittery to the family, letting them know that they saw no need for a formal inquest into John’s death and that they were releasing the body and the family could come and



retrieve it. At the time he was living in Eliot and the census lists his occupation as shoe manufacturer. Their home was near Rosemary Corner. Sometime after her husband's death, Sarah and her daughters Fostina and Minnie and son Benjamin F. moved to Rollinsford, NH, where Fostina, by the age of 12, was working in the Cotton Mills. Fostina died of consumption at the age of 22. Her body was brought back to lay with her father in the Ferguson Cemetery in Eliot. There is an unsubstantiated claim that she is buried beside her mother in South Berwick's Portland Street Cemetery, in an unmarked grave. John's widow did not dispose of the property until 1875 when she sold to her sister-in-law Frances Wylie. It adjoined the property and would later become part of the property of Charles Boynton and later of Sylvester Bartlett and C. Edward Bartlett, Jr.

Owen Ferguson (1841-1879) died at the age of 38. No marriage or children have been found. His estate included a house, barn and outbuildings with a house field of 7 acres, a field of 4 acres with a little hill adjoining comprised of 3 acres, a 6-acre pasture, a 2-acre woodlot on Great Hill and a 1-acre woodlot on Third Hill.

Mary Elizabeth (1835-1920) was born October 10, 1835 in Eliot Maine and married Charles Marcus Boynton of Concord NH, in 1867. She and Charles had one son Charles Everett Boynton and a daughter Annie W. They lived in Concord, NH, before coming to live in the home of Mary's sister, Frances, on Goodwin Road in their later years. She died in Eliot Oct 28, 1920. For those of you who might recall some of the names of others shown in the 1900 census as living with Mary Boynton, there were Lonzo E. Rowe (34) who is described as their nephew and Marjorie G. Fernald, (7), their niece. It's likely that Lonzo and Marjorie were visiting the Boynton home at the time the census taker arrived, unless there is a marriage connection that we are not aware of. Marjorie was the daughter of William Linwood Fernald and Lillian A. Brooks (she married Maynard F. Douglas) and Alonzo E. Rowe, was born in Brewer, Maine, the son of Eli Rowe and worked in the family brickyards on River Road. In 1879 Frances and her sister Sarah J. Staples (William), along with their spouses mortgaged the homestead property, consisting of 27 acres, to their brother-in-law Charles Boynton of Concord, NH [Book 370, Page 257]. In 1883 the property, along with another piece formerly belonging to John H. Ferguson, was sold to Sylvester Bartlett. It became the later home of C. Edward Bartlett, Jr. and his wife. The Boynton house is on the right in this picture and the Wylie home is on the left.





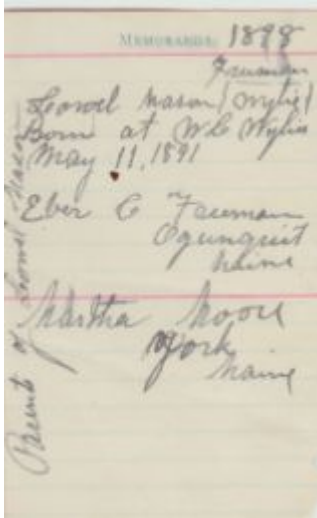
Frances Adeline (1846-1932), from whose side of the family the papers in our collection came from, married William C. Wylie. She is often referred to as “Addie.” William Curtis Wylie was born in Loudon, NH, the son of Reuben Wylie of Dover, NH and Maria (Ann M.) Felker of Strafford, NH. Reuben was a carpenter at the Navy Yard where he is most noted for his diving work when, on August 16, 1864, he tested out experimental diving gear in the lower harbor in search of an anchor lost by the USS Colorado. Wylie was an old-time diver and had worked at raising the ships sunk off Sebastopol in the Crimean War. It was a suit of canvas covering the body except for the head which was protected by a long globe-shaped copper armor, with a tube leading to the inside to supply fresh air. He and Ann Maria were living in Barnstead, NH at the time of their marriage on Nov. 1, 1837.

Anna and Reuben Wylie divorced on March 31, 1857 and she remarried ----Frost (we believe Nathaniel Frost). In the collection is a tin box belonging to Anna. Anna died on June 20, 1878 and is buried in Pine Hill Cemetery, Dover, NH. She names granddaughter Mary Maria Wylie in the will (1876) and names her son William as executor, leaving him all her real and personal property.

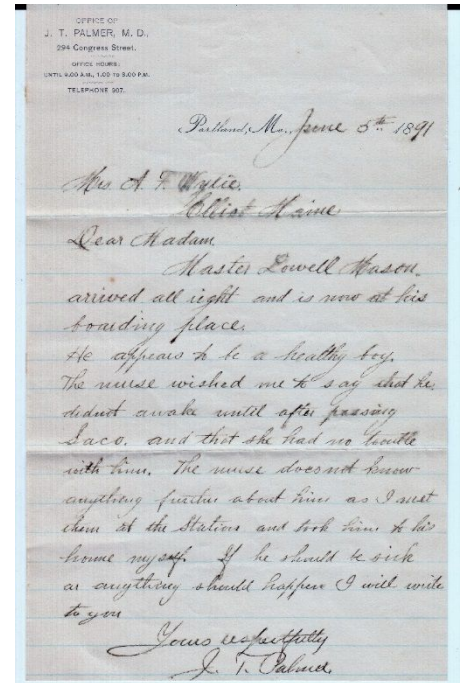


Frances and William Wylie had two children Mary Maria (1866-1953), who married Willard Gerrish and Lowell Mason (1891-1943) who was born May 11, 1891 and registered for WWI service in 1917 and enlisted in the Navy in 1918. He is described as being tall, of medium build with black hair and hazel eyes. He was inducted in Kennebunk, York Co. No. 2 on Jan. 31, 1918; served as Private 1st Class Aug. 23, 1918; attended Mil Aero in Cambridge Mass until Sept. 19, 1918; and then served in the Medical Corps until his honorable discharge on Dec. 31, 1918. He had no overseas service. Lowell M. Wylie died of coronary arteriosclerosis on April 19, 1943 in Hartford, Vermont, while living in Loudon, New Hampshire. He is buried in the Long Island National Cemetery at East Farmingdale, NY. His wife Dorothy (King) died in 1990.

A note and letter, in the collection say that Lowell was an adopted son. The letter, written June 5, 1891 by J.T. Palmer, MD of Portland, Maine to Frances Wylie says “Dear Madam, Master Lowell Mason arrived all right and is now at his boarding place. He appears to be a healthy boy. The nurse wished me to say that he didn’t awake until after passing Saco and that she had no trouble with him. The nurse does not know anything further about him as I met them at the Station and took him to his home myself. If he should be sick or anything should happen, I will write to you.” A note says that Lowell was born at the home of William C. Wylie on May 11, 1891 and his parents were Eben C. Freeman of



Ogunquit and Martha (Moore) of York, Maine. There are also some letters from Eben Freeman to the Wylies (1891, 1894) that mention hoping for a visit but say nothing about the boy. In doing some research a Martha Moore connected with an Eben C. Freeman were not found but there was reference to one Eben C. Freeman (1837-1897) the son of Edward and Mehitable Freeman of York, Maine who married Adaline Sawyer (1867) in Dover NH [mc]. He and Adaline had no children. Interestingly he did have an older brother Lowell M. Both were Civil War Veterans. Did he name his son after his brother?? *To be continued.....*



Our President Tracey sends along this link to a really interesting and informative article or “blog” about dating homes. It talks about the different periods and styles and gives tips on how to research the age of your home. Great resource!

<http://historichomescapecod.blogspot.com/2018/09/dating-your-historic-home.html?m=1>

