

**Monthly Meeting: February 12** 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>

## February Program:

From the Archives:



A look at some of the letters, valentines and notable artifacts, in our collection and yours. Come share some of your family favorites!



## President's Prattle

by Tracey Graffam-Dickson

As I sit and gaze out the window, the snow is lightly falling and the hearty birds of winter, scamper around looking for seeds and enjoying the suet block left out for them; I find myself reading about the "Great Snowstorm of 1717" and imagine what a 30-foot snow drift might look like. Certainly, growing up in Maine in 70s we had some memorable snowstorms, including the Storm of '78 which left Maine and most of New England buried in snow for weeks before being shoveled out.

Thanks to Sidney Perley and Thomas Wickman, you can read about the snowstorm of 1717 on the [New England Historical Society's website](#): "Great Snow of 1717. REMEMBERING THE GREAT SNOW OF 1717 IN NEW ENGLAND 'Never such a snow in the memory of man'". How fortunate we are for the writers, archivists and researchers who have taken time to share this story of our past and keep us connected through these winter days.

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**Edward Jones**

Tackling snowstorms last Sunday, we have lightweight strong shovels, buckets of salt, personal snow blowers, not to mention highly efficient snowplows; I can't imagine what it must have been like 1717 with so few tools available to dig out from under the many feet of snow. Thinking about this, I get excited about one of the many initiatives we have planned for 2024, the Snow Roller project, where we will be working to repair and preserve a 100+ year old snow roller the society received. We hope to have this on display here in town when it's finished. I can think of no better way connect our community with our New England history.



To learn more about this and the many other initiatives we have this year, I hope you will join us on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month. You can also check out our website. If you find our website interesting and you value our efforts and initiatives, we hope you'll consider making a small donation to support our efforts. Thank you for your support and Winter Well!

~ Tracey

Our December meeting "Show and Tell" featured quite a nice selection of interesting items and many involving craft work and artwork, of some type including a pen and ink drawing; Native American basketry; artifact bottle from Puddle Dock in Portsmouth; sign from the Library and framed postage stamps of 1974; handmade scrapbook of family memorabilia; watercolor of Ft. McClary, Kittery, Point; piece of beautiful tatting work done in 19<sup>th</sup> century; model of the Congregational Church made by Charlie Remick; patterns used by girls in the 1800s; story of Isabel Remick, Eliot schoolteacher; book by Virginia Woods Bellamy – Number Knitting; an old basket pie carrier...



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# Looking for Information!

**A**t our January meeting **Kelly Vaughn** shared with us the story of Virginia Woods Bellamy, her life, friends and the development of a unique method of knitting called “Number Knitting”. Now rare and out of print, “**Number Knitting: The New All Way Stretch Method**” was published in 1952. This revolutionary method of knitting design, “based on squares and triangles and their tributary units”, did away with traditional measurements in favor of geometrical principles. She lived in Eliot on the Lanier property, River Road, in the 1940s, her daughter graduated from Eliot High School in 1948 and throughout the book mentions Eliot and area residents, including Mrs. Sidney (Elizabeth) Lanier whom she named one of her patterns after and Mildred Obrey, her daughter’s teacher. Kelly is hoping to find out more about the people who are mentioned in Bellamy’s book. She’s also trying to track down copies of knitting pamphlets containing Virginia’s patterns that were published in the 1930s-1950s. The video of her presentation will soon be up on our website.

Please take a look at the list (partial). If anyone has any information, she would be most appreciative if you would contact her with any information you might have, related to Virginia Woods Bellamy’s life and the people in her life.

**Website:** <https://knitswag.com/kelly@knitswag.com>

**Address:** PO Box 14, Kipling, NC 27543

**Email:** [kelly@knitswag.com](mailto:kelly@knitswag.com)

**YouTube channel:** <https://www.youtube.com/@KnitSwag/streams>

**Timeline/Virginia’s life:** <https://www.timetoast.com/timelines/virginia-6e831661-a119-47cd-a9c4-4513a4aeb5bf>

Maynard Douglas Mailman

Doris Calcutt Eliot

Marilyn Spinney, Eliot

Mrs. Henry Obrey, Teacher

Florence Hamilton

Mary Demerec, Director Kennebunk Brick Store Museum

Constance Small, Eliot

Thelma Mandeville, Eliot

Florence Simmonds, Eliot

Douglas Armsden, photographer

Margaret Lanier

Christopher Alvord

Rosamond Thaxter, Kittery

Alice Tuttle, Eliot

Evelyn Ross, Dover, NH

Marian Stubbs, South Berwick

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**J**an Cerabona set up the Society’s “interim” display at Eliot Elementary School, inviting students and staff to identify some locations around Eliot. The pictures and the hidden hawks have prompted much discussion.



**Speaking of Cemeteries**

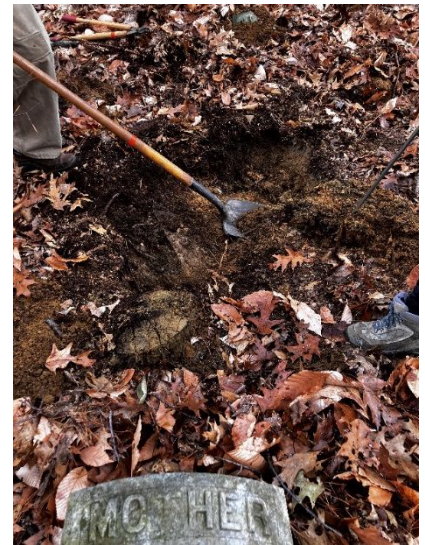
**W**e would like to thank students **Catelin Jussaume** and **Fiona Segit** who helped a resident with the cleaning of her cemetery last October. They had a combined 11 hours of community service. Job well done! The resident is VERY happy.



**I**n December, Julie and Paul Johnson and I took a trip over to a “newly discovered” cemetery off 236. It was new to us but not to Scott Ferreira, owner of Natural Care and Wellness Center, at 6 Seeley Lane, who had known about it for quite some time and had mention it to Paul one day. The three of us hunted around for quite some time, looking for a stone with the name “Elizabeth” on it. Thankfully, Scott was dropping off his trash and came over and showed us right where it was. (If truth be told, Julie actually surmised we were looking in the wrong spot based on a break in the stonewall that certainly looked to her that it was a way into a cemetery area.) She was right!



While we were looking at the stone, the neighbor across the street asked if we were looking for a cemetery. She was well aware of it, having grown up playing in it



and mentioned she thought it had at least 13 stones. So many people knew about it but not John E. Frost, who “wrote the book” on Eliot’s cemeteries and certainly not us! The stone was that of Elizabeth Crayton (Creighton). We did some prodding and digging around what looked like gravestones, but were only fieldstones. We did find what appear to be two more footstones. We left the probing for



another day to attempt when the weather turns warmer.

Researching the lands through deeds, census and vital records, leads me to believe that Elizabeth Crayton/Creighton (1779-1863) is the same woman who was mentioned in the papers that were given to us relating to the Ferguson - Wylie - Gerrish family. If anyone has any further information on this cemetery, please let us know.

*NOTES: The land, where the cemetery is located was part of the "James W. Emery farm". His parents were Joshua and Sarah (Ham) Emery and census shows James living in the same house with*

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them before they died. Joshua/James Emery owned at least 11 other adjoining parcels (if not more). In the 1850 census, Supply Martin (born 1807) and family, including his mother Elizabeth Creighton were living with Joshua Emery, in addition it showed Elizabeth as owning her own piece of property. In 1870 census it appears that the Martins are living in their own home, with the only adults living in the house being Supply Martin's widow Mary and sons Hamilton and Thomas Martin.

The Martin land is mentioned in a 1944 deed for the cemetery property that we visited. It was comprised of 3 parcels. One of those parcels, it says, is bound, "...Ely by Hanscom Road, Sly by land of the heirs of **Hamilton Martin and Edward Langley** and Wly by the railroad right of way". [Book 1010, Page 111]

Hamilton (1852-1926), the son of Supply/Mary (Stone) Martin was a blacksmith, his daughter was born here and, by 1900, had moved to CT, where he died and is buried. It could very well be that she was buried on her own land and makes you wonder who the others buried here are. Her son Thomas and husband? Can't wait to get back out there in the Spring! - Rosanne M. Adams

## Abraham C. Dixon

By Steve Sanborn

One of my Great-Great-Great Grandfathers was Abraham (Abram) Dixon. The son of Peter and Elizabeth (Remick) Dixon, he was born about 1804 in the middle parish of Kittery, which later became the town of Eliot. He married Statira Spinney on November 20, 1825 in the Congregational Church. They had 8 children together: James, Edwin, Peter, Hiram, Sarah, Francis, Estella, and Evelyn.

In 1839, Abram was drafted into Company E of the Eliot militia, to serve in the Aroostook War. Fortunately, the War was resolved soon thereafter, and Abram was never called into service.

Abraham had business dealings in Portsmouth, and at the time of his death was well known there as a lobster dealer. While living on Dixon Point, he would regularly row across the Piscataqua, always watchful of the part of the river known as "Boiling Rock."

On April 19, 1842, the Dover Enquirer, reported (as cited from the Portsmouth Journal):

*On Friday, last week, Mr. Abraham C. Dixon, accompanied by Mr. Oliver Spinney and Mr. Charles Cole, came from Elliot [sic] to Portsmouth in a wherry and after procuring a gallon of rum, to be used in ploughing, left the north-end about noon to return. After passing Portsmouth Bridge, by mismanagement, occasioned by the use of liquor, the boat upset, and one of the party, Charles Cole, drowned. The person who sold the liquor, in the eyes of the community must be viewed as accessory to his death.*

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Abraham used the moniker “Boiling Rock” to write editorials in the local newspapers. For over twenty years, he regularly contributed a word game to the New Hampshire Gazette called “Charades”, where the example is a short poem or verse of a poem, which is missing two individual words (“FIRST” and “SECOND”) and a compound word (“WHOLE”) of those two words. A respondent would then answer in verse, including the missing words. I have reprinted a Charade and the published response (Answers are in CAPITAL letters):

For the Gazette and Union.

A CHARADE.

At the dawning morn of creation my **FIRST** disappear'd,  
 When light had spread over the earth,  
 Ere the land or the sea from chaos appeared,  
 Or one living creature had birth.  
 My **NEXT** is a *part* that intercepts light,  
 Where the weary ones oft stop to rest,  
 And quaff from their goblet (the poor and elite,)  
 They think themselves singularly blest—  
 My *whole* is a medicinal herb,  
 Or else a botanical tree,  
 Used an aching complaint to disturb,  
 And the limbs from its grasp to set free.

BOILING-ROCK.

For the Gazette and Union.

ANSWER TO THE CHARADE IN OUR LAST.

When darkness spread over the deep,  
 And God's own mandate caused the light,  
 Chaos aroused from torpid sleep,  
 Form'd two divisions, day and **NIGHT**—  
 A willow by the running brook,  
 Affords a cool delicious **SHADE**,  
 Where pedestrian cons his book,  
 And city bells do promenade.  
 In botany a plant is named,  
 'Tis to the taste bitter and sweet.  
 The **NIGHT SHADE** for its virtues famed,  
 To still keen pain and court sound sleep.      B. R.

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Abraham died on January 25, 1859. He is buried with his wife, who died in 1868, at the Dixon Street Cemetery.

Editor: Steve has sent along a Charade for our readers to try and decipher. When you figure it out let us know! Answer in next newsletter.

**A CHARADE.**

As a hermit one night in his cave was reclining,  
 The gay scenes of youth came flush to his mind,  
 Well he knew that my *first* round his heart had been twi-  
 ning  
 In anguish and sorrow to fate he's resigned.  
 The robin, thrush, black-bird, the magpie and linnnet,  
 Aspire to my *next* from morning till night  
 Each vies with the other as tho' they would win it;  
 A source of enjoyment that's crowned with delight,  
 Young Henry expresses my *whole* to fair Mary,  
 Plain Susan, bright Peggy and rosy cheeked Kate,  
 One smiles on him gently, one says, no, I'll tarry  
 Before I will make such a gew-gaw my mate.  
BOILING ROCK.

Miss Jennie Ham of South Berwick has been engaged to teach the spring term of school in district No. 8, Eliot. The committee appointed by the residents of the district to make estimates on the cost of a new building, or to repair the old one, have reported in favor of the latter, and it has been decided to modernize the old house and furnish the inside with modern seats and desks, after the summer term of school has ended.

1889  
 Newspaper clipping -  
 #8 District School

