

Eddington Historical Society Quarterly Newsletter

Veterans Memorial Result of Eagle Scout Project by Joshua Baillargeon

overwhelmingly in favor of Joshua pursuing this worthy project. From this point, Joshua spent countless hours calling, contacting and visiting businesses to solicit donations of materials, working out the details on various fundraising activities, and doing research on the specific design he would use for the memorial. Eventually, Joshua decided on a design that was totally unique to this one project. He gathered ideas from numerous memorials that he had viewed both on-line and had visited, and ultimately, the design, to include the sayings he chose is as follows:



should be free ground, all of it, from here to the Pacific ocean...What we're fighting for in the end...we're fighting for each other." The piece to the right of center contains the insignias from the other 3 branches of the service and the inscription "In peace you served as our defender, in battle you served as our protection, and in death as a reminder that liberty is still our greatest strength". The granite itself came from Barre Granite in Vermont. There are also two lights that continuously illuminate the memorial during the hours of darkness. Off to the left of the monument is the freedom garden, which consists of a 25' five pointed star constructed of landscaping bricks. The inside of the freedom garden contains several types of flowers, and in its center stands a 46" life-size bronze battle cross. In its interior are 5 lights that during the hours

In July of 2011 Joshua Tyler Baillargeon, a Life Scout with Troop 21 in Holden, began to ponder what he was going to accomplish for his Eagle Scout Leadership Service Project. After several months of pondering over a multitude of ideas, he told me that he had been doing some research and would like to accomplish a veterans memorial for our town that didn't currently have one. In addition to the veterans memorial, Joshua said that he would also like to incorporate a freedom garden off to one side of the memorial to remember those veterans who paid the ultimate sacrifice for our freedoms. Therefore, in October 2011, Joshua attended an Eddington Town Selectmen's meeting and presented the idea to Russell Smith, the Town Manager and Board of Selectmen. After hearing Joshua's proposal, the town manager, and all members of the board were

The design consists of a 40' circular cement pad with a 30' five pointed raised concrete star in its center. The star is raised 6" higher than that of the circular pad, so it has an eye-catching appearance from a distance. At each of the three upper points of the star are three flag poles, containing the American flag in the center (35' tall), the State of Maine flag (30' tall) to its left and the POW/MIA flag (30' tall) to its right. Each flag pole has its own lighting affixed to the pole. In the center of the cement star sits a 13' long by 1' high granite base, with three separate granite pieces for the memorial. The center piece is 6' high in the center and slopes off to each side like the peak of a house. It also contains the inscription "Eddington Veterans Memorial: To honor all those who served to protect our freedom, may they never be forgotten. The two outer pieces are 4.5' at the inner peak and slope to the outside, reaching a height of 3'. The piece on the left has three of the US military insignia's inscribed, to include a quote from Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain of the 20th Maine that states "We are an army out to set other men free. America



of darkness, light up the battle cross. Off to the side sits a 5' long bench constructed of brick and a wooden seat. Lastly, on separate pieces of granite, which is described below, are two separate brass plaques. On one plaque is a list of donors, which contains the names of the 24 primary sponsors that made the memorial come to fruition. On the other plaque, which is located on a piece of granite and is placed inside the freedom garden, Joshua placed a quote that he wished to say honoring our veterans. The inscription reads "In honor of those who paid the ultimate sacrifice, may these seeds of life keep those memories alive forever" - Joshua Tyler Baillargeon.

Early into Joshua's research he also learned of an old schoolhouse from the 1800's that once was used in our town on Route 46 across from the cemetery. At that location were pieces of the granite foundation. Joshua made contact with the property owner, Bob Catton and asked if he may be willing to donate a couple pieces of granite so it could be incorporated into the memorial. Without reservation, Mr. Catton said that we could have 5 pieces of the granite.

Shortly after picking those pieces up, Josh made strong headway into determining a tentative design for the memorial, which was presented to the town manager and selectmen. Additionally, the first fundraiser, which consisted of a spaghetti supper, was well on the way. Many of the items that were needed to make the supper a success were donated, thus making the fundraiser nearly a 100% profit. At its conclusion, Joshua, through the support of the citizens, had raised \$5,200 from the event. Joshua continued his fundraising efforts over the course of the following four months by holding a baked bean supper and a community yard sale. In addition to these fundraisers, the town, at the suggestion of a citizen, sought to place on our town ballot for the town to raise \$5,000 toward the memorial, which passed with ease. At the conclusion of his fundraising efforts in late May, Joshua, along with the town and its citizens, managed to raise nearly \$22,000 dollars. This is nothing short of remarkable for a town of only 3,500 residents.

Soon after the funds were gathered and all of the contractors were in place, the ground breaking began in early June, 2012. Lowes Home Improvements of Brewer, Maine, under the direction of Store Manager Robert Ahern, turned Joshua's Eagle Scout Service Leadership Project into what the store deemed as a "Salute To Hero's" project, allowing them to open up their allowable donations. Not only did Lowes donate nearly \$5,000 worth of products, but they solicited a team of 17 volunteers that came to the memorial site with Joshua, and built the entire freedom garden, along with a bench in which citizens could sit and reflect on their lost loved ones.

Over the course of the next several months, each contractor came in one at a time and did their respective work at the memorial site, each time under the direction of Joshua. For example, during the project, Josh either directly supervised, or assisted in the construction of the freedom garden, the ground work (to include the bringing in of fill gravel), the framing of the memorial, the pouring of the cement, to include the bases for the flag poles. Joshua also assisted in obtaining the donated flag poles from the City of Bangor and painted them in preparation. He also assisted in setting the poles in place as well as prepping the site for the monument itself. Over the summer Joshua spent countless hours at the site, despite having a very hot summer, both during and after the contractors had long left for the day.

Upon completion of the site work, the dedication ceremony was scheduled for September 29th, 2012. There was significant preparation for the dedication itself, as Joshua sent out letters to all veterans in the Town of Eddington, put up bulletin announcements and made the last minute plans to have everything in place. On the day of the ceremony, there were several veterans, both active and retired, who assisted in the raising of the American, State and POW flags. In addition, there were members from the Maine Congressional district in attendance, as well as dignitaries from the Maine Veterans Affairs office and the American Legion, to include a color guard unit from the local Marine Corp Legion Detachment. A gold star mother spoke during the ceremony and assisted in placing the wreath on the monument and the town manager assisted Joshua in the revealing of the monument. It was an emotionally touching event for all in attendance, whether you were a veteran or a member of the community. Since the time of the dedication, Joshua has received his Eagle Scout Award, where he was recognized with a legislative sentiment from Representative David Johnson, received a Good Citizenship Award from the Marine Corps Legion and has been awarded a certificate of accomplishment from the United States Army. In addition, the memorial was featured in the Town of Eddington Bicentennial 2013 Calendar, which features those people and achievements that have made an indelible mark on our community. Despite all of this, Joshua continues to reinforce how his project wouldn't have become a reality if it wasn't for the outpouring of support he received from our and neighboring communities.

Collectively, there were 1500 hours put into this project, and if this project were to be constructed without the financial support from any businesses, it would have cost approximately \$55,000 to build. This project has truly been a life-changing and inspiring endeavor for Joshua, despite the fact he was 14 throughout the life of this project. Currently, as of January 2013, Joshua is a Freshman at Brewer High School in Brewer, Maine and is in the AFROTC program where he is aspiring to become a pilot through the schools pilot program. At this programs completion during his Senior year of high school, he will have obtained his pilot's license. Joshua is also continuing with scouts, where since attaining the rank of Eagle, has assumed duties as Troop Guide for Troop 21 and is a Den Chief for Webelo I scouts in Pack 21. In addition, this month he will be completing all requirements for his first Eagle Palm.

How about those GOOD OLD DAYS which we now recall and tell our grandchildren about. Were they as good as they seem in retrospect? Maybe so, for we had not yet been exposed to the wonders of automatic washers and dryers nor even the wringer type machines at the turn of the century. My sister and I coming home from school would say, "Monday again, pea soup and warmed over baked beans again". We came home for lunch since we lived only a short distance from the school. The more fortunate children who lived further away ate their lunches right there and had time to play games during the noon hour. But if we ate fast we could make it back in time for a game of hailey-bailey over the woodshed. Mother was always wringing the clothes and we had to wait on ourselves and as we grew older we had to wash the dishes. That's one of the reasons why "wash day" always bugged us as youngsters say today.

At that time housewives had the fixed notion that they must wash on Monday and iron on Tuesday. However, in the winter time when the clothes froze the instant they struck the line the ironing had to be postponed. If this happened the half dry articles were brought into the house and strung on every available piece of furniture.

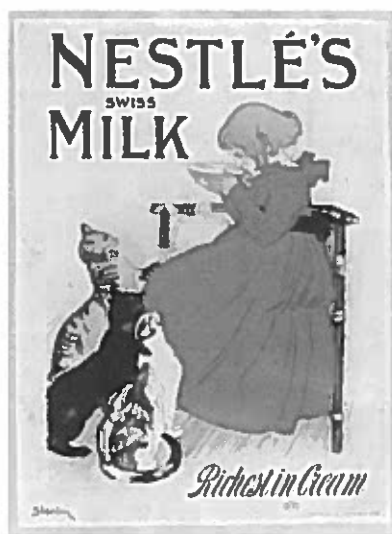
Washing clothes in the olden days was a far cry from the washers and dryers of today when washing and drying are accomplished while we go about other duties and with no cold hands and feet.

As a child I recall father filling the wash boiler (a metal container, oblong in shape, about three feet long and oval in shape and probably two feet or more deep) with cold water. This boiler was always placed on top of the kitchen stove with a good hot fire underneath. All white clothes were boiled in this container. Of course a liberal amount of good old soap (probably yellow Fels Naptha Laundry Soap) was added to the hot water helping to loosen dirt and probably more or less sterilizing the articles as well as helping to whiten them. The bleaches as we know them today were unknown then. After several minutes of vigorous boiling came the problem of removing the hot clothes from the boiler without burning oneself. This was done with the aid of a wooden stick with forked end which Mother used to turn the clothes while they were boiling and would carefully use to lift the clothes out of the hot water and place them in a tub of cool water which Father had set up on a bench near by. By the way, these tubs, one filled with clear water for rinsing the clothes and the other for was also filled with cool water whereupon a scrub board and large piece of laundry soap was used to scrub out any remaining soil spots. At our house there was no hand wringer operated by turning a crank as some of our neighbors had, so all things even the sheets must be done literally by hand. After the rinsing the dresses, shirt waists, aprons, table cloths and napkins must be starched and everything hung out to dry.

If the weather had been fair and clothes dried well Tuesday was started off with sprinkling the starched clothes, rolling them up to let them get thoroughly moistened. Now the real work began. Four or five irons were brought out of the closet and placed on top of the kitchen wood stove with a brisk fire underneath. It took some time for them to heat – the test was to touch the bottom of the iron with a moistened finger, if it sizzled the temperature was right. It took some skill to know when the temperature was just right to press and not hot enough to scorch.

Later, when we three girls were older, we had to do our own ironing – starched petticoats, flounced skirts and shirtwaists – all of which were the style at that time. That was quite a job especially on a hot day but we were at a stage when we MUST look our BEST so we did little complaining.

I never heard mother complain either, but never the less wash day at the turn of the century must have been an ordeal.



Astonishing Coincidences between Abraham Lincoln and John F. Kennedy

Lincoln was elected in 1860
 Kennedy was elected in 1960
 There are seven letters in each last name
 Both Presidents were slain on Friday
 Both were slain in the presence of their wives
 Both Presidents had legality of elections contested
 Kennedy's secretary Lincoln warned him not to go to Dallas
 Lincoln's secretary Kennedy warned him not to go to the theater
 Both of their successors were named Johnson; Andrew Johnson and Lydon Johnson
 Both served in the U.S. Senate
 Both were southern Democrats
 Booth and Oswald were both southerners favoring unpopular ideas
 Oswald shot Kennedy from a warehouse and hid in a theater
 Booth shot Lincoln in a theater and hid in a warehouse
 Booth and Oswald were both murdered before trial could be arranged
 Lincoln and Kennedy were carried in death on the same caisson



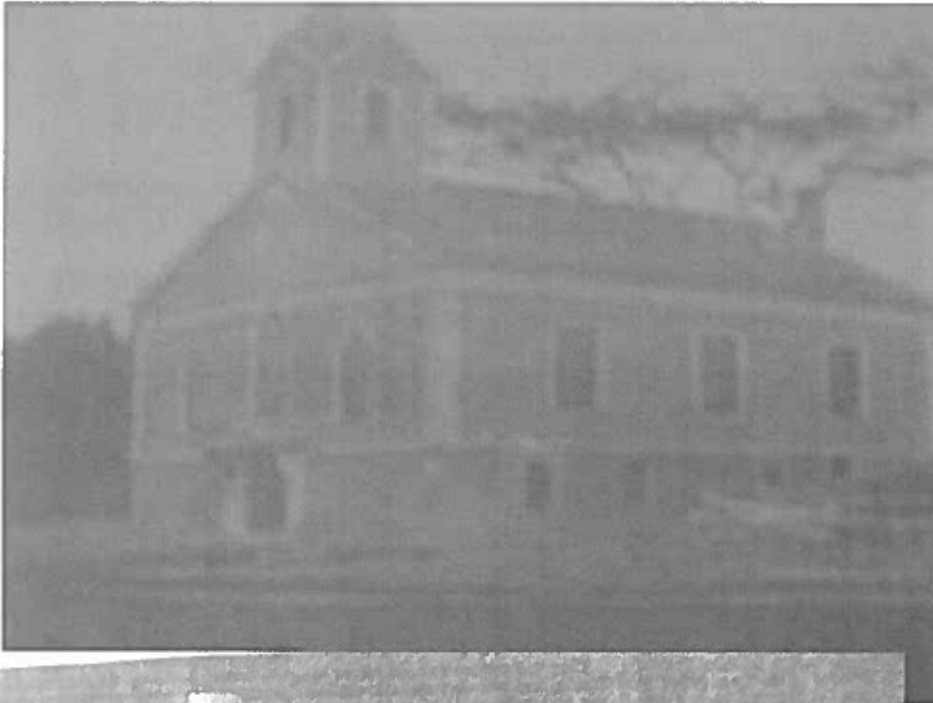
The Blizzard of 1963—Who Remembers? By David Peppard

The blizzard of 1963 is a storm that I can still vividly remember fifty years later. Hold it a minute, I am over fifty years old and I can remember this event? Where does the time go?

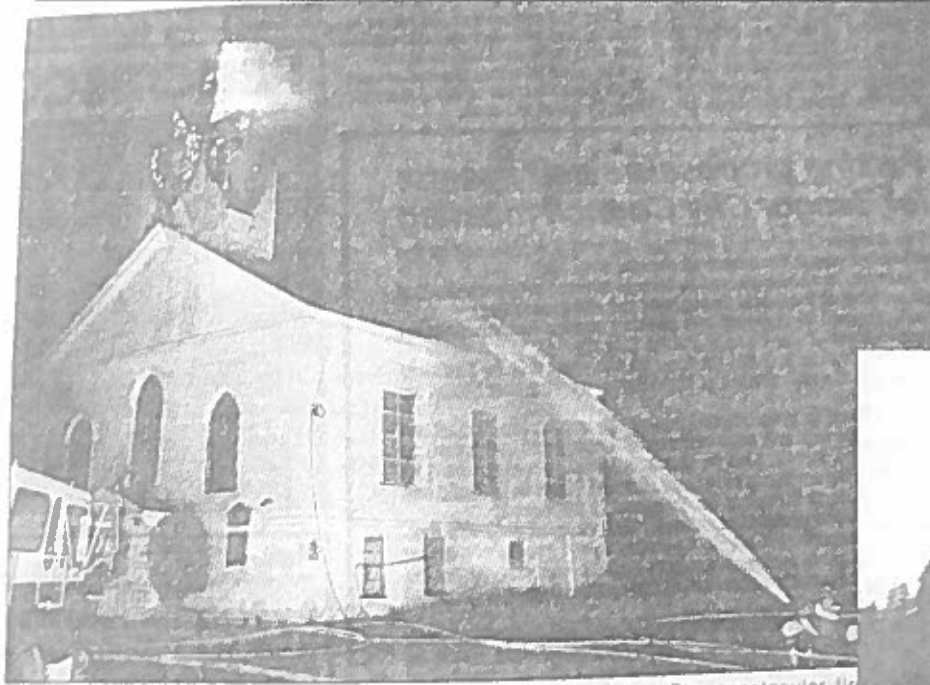
In early January 1963, I was eleven years old and in the back seat of my parents 1961 Chevrolet car. The family was on it's way home from visiting our grandparents for Christmas in Lexington Massachusetts. The trip from Portland to Bangor was somewhat stressful but Dad steered the Chevy through it. Hitting Route 1A in Brewer was a relief only to find six plus inches of snow. Dad steered carefully through until we reached the intersection of 1A and 46. I can remember Dad's hesitation as he looked at the unplowed Route 46. After a long pause he put the car in gear and decided to go for it. The road, Route 46, had twelve plus inches of snow or more on the roadway. I can remember the car spinning and churning it's way up over Kidder Hill. As we reached the top by the Mountainy Pond Road Dad let out a big sigh of relief and said I can make it from here. The car plowed forward with snow flying up over the hood onto the windshield. Reaching the Comins farm Dad stopped so he could clean the hood and windshield off. There was six to 12 inches of snow piled up on the hood. Dad's decision to stop at the Comins' was that if we couldn't make it any further he knew they would take us in. While cleaning the car off Ernest Comins came trudging out and gave Dad a hand. He suggested we stay there but Dad said he was going to try and make it to the house. Back in the car, Dad headed for the house. It was impossible to see where the road was because of the heavy snow and the wind blowing the snow in all directions. Up over the hill we went, spinning and churning, by the Glass Farm, now the Morrison Farm and down the home stretch. Finally the car came to a stop at the end of our driveway. The snow bank across the driveway was three plus feet tall. Dad told my brother Josh to climb the snow bank and make his way to the barn. Once he reached the barn he was told to bring back a couple of shovels. Away Josh went and a few minutes later he was back with two shovels. Dad, Josh and I took turns shoveling a hole into the driveway so that we could get the car off the road. After a concerted effort a hole in the snow bank and driveway big enough to get the car off the road was made. The next task was to shovel a path to the barn so Mom and my sisters could reach the house. Finally we were home. The snow ended a day and a half after we had reached home. There were drifts around the house and in front of the barn that were eight to ten feet high. Five days after the snow stopped two large bulldozers came up the road with a plow truck following. It was the first vehicles we had seen since getting home. When they were done clearing the road in front of the house the snow bank along the road was ten to twelve feet high. The next day, Ernest Comins came down the road with his John Deere bulldozer and plowed the yard. As an eleven year old this was a snowstorm that you would never forget.

The Higgins Homestead during the blizzard of 1963—pictures submitted by Lou Higgins



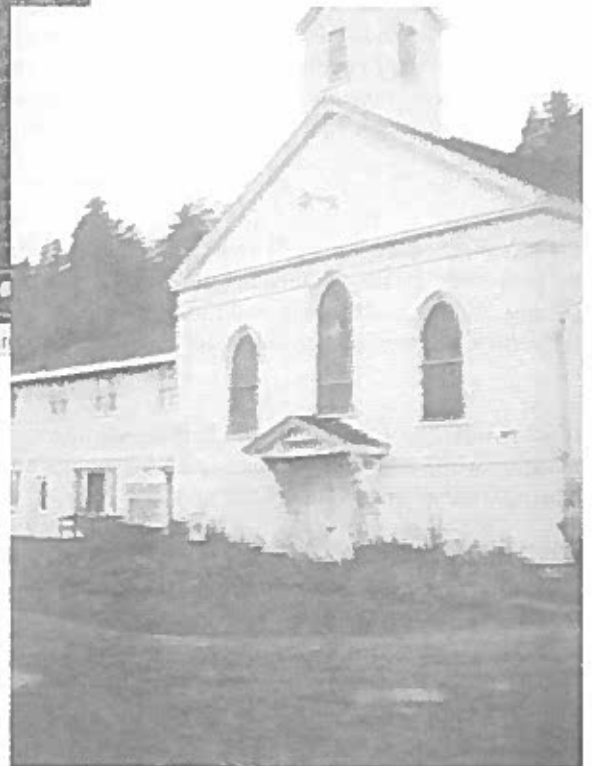


North Brewer-Eddington Methodist Church in 1916



A fire in 1987 destroyed the steeple and most of the back wall of the North Brewer-Eddington United Methodist Church at Eddington Bend. The spectacular fire could be seen across the river at Eastern Maine Medical Center. (NEWS photo by Michael York)

North Brewer-Eddington Methodist Church in 2007



T O W N I N F O R M A T I O N I T E M S

Don't forget to check out the Town website at eddingtomaine.gov, the Cable TV Channel 7 and Eddington Maine Facebook Page for notices and Town information.

Single Stream Recycling has had a great response from residents of Eddington. The increased list of items accepted and that they don't all need to be sorted any more is very popular. If residents find that their regular recycling bins are just not big enough to handle their increased recycling, they can use a regular trashcan.

Rather than have to buy a specific container marked for recycling, they can use a regular can and stop by the Town Office for "Recycle" Stickers. They are free to residents. The Company that picks up our recycling suggests that you place two stickers on each can, front and back, so that it will be visible from the road and thus eliminate any confusion with your regular trash. There are also papers listing the items now accepted available at the Town Office or online at eddingtomaine.gov.

Single Sort Recycling Update

Our Single Sort Recycling Program is going very well. We compliment all of the residents that have been faithful recyclers and those who started recycling with this program. We wanted to clarify a few questions from some of our recyclers:

Yes: Paper Milk and Juice Cartons (emptied) – Pizza Boxes (remove wax paper and food) – Window Envelopes - Plastic Shopping Bags (Only bags, #2 & #4, it helps if all the plastic bags are put inside one bag, but it currently is not required. They sometimes get caught on the conveyor when sorted.)

No: Styrofoam, Bread Bags, Ziploc Bags, Bag that comes over a case of water, Used Paper Plates, Cups or Paper Towels.

The 2013 Dog Registration Tags are in. You have until January 31, 2013 to register your dog before the state imposes a late fee. It is \$6.00 for a spayed or neutered dog and \$11.00 if not. You will need to show proof of a current rabies shot and if spayed or neutered. If the dog has been registered in Eddington before, we may have some of the information.

The Town Office has talked about possibly creating an email list to send out notices and other information by email. If you would like to be added to their emailing list, please send your email address, name and address to eddingtoninfo@roadrunner.com. We will hopefully have it up and running soon. The Town Office has also converted the Eddington Bicentennial Facebook Page to Eddington Maine. If you are on Facebook, send us a friend request as we will be posting some notices there also.

If you cannot make it to the Town Office during their business hours of 7:30 am to 4:00 pm Monday through Friday, you can reregister your vehicle, snowmobile, atv and boat online as long as you have registered them before. You can also purchase your hunting, fishing, archery and other Inland Fisheries and Wildlife licenses on line. You should go to maine.gov, Top Services, and either motor for vehicle registrations or IF&W for their licenses and registrations.

It is in violation of the Eddington Parking Ordinance and Maine Statute 29-A, 2069 to park a vehicle in or upon a public way so as to interfere with snow removal between November 1 and April 1 from 12:00 midnight and 7:00 am. The vehicle will be towed at the expense of its owner. The owner may also be fined up to \$100.00.

The Eddington Historical Society has produced another Calendar and they are available at the Town Office. They are \$10.00 each or \$12.00 if you would like one mailed to you.

Hopefully many of you have enjoyed the Calendars produced by the Eddington Historical Society. We need more pictures to add to our file for future calendars.

If you have any old pictures of people, homes or businesses in Eddington, please contact one of our members, or call Richard Bowden at 989-5792, or call the Town Office at 843-5233.

We can make arrangements to copy your picture and get the original right back to you.

The Maine Property Tax & Rent Refund "Circuitbreaker" Applications are available (for refunds of property tax assessed or rent paid during 2011). You can apply for your refund online at www.maine.gov/revenue or booklets & applications may be downloaded at www.maine.gov/revenue/forms/homepage.html. If you would like a booklet mailed to you, call 207-624-7894 or write to Maine Revenue Services, PO Box 9107, Augusta, ME 04332-9107. For General Information go to www.maine.gov/revenue and click on Tax Relief or call 207-626-8475. They must be filed with the state by May 31, 2013.

Burn Permits are issued at the Fire Department or the Town Office (if there is no one available in the Fire Dept.) during regular business hours.

After hours and on the weekends, contact:
Eddington Fire Department 843-5251

The Clifton Library, located in the Clifton Town Office Building, is opened from 1:30 pm to 7:00 pm each Wednesday. Stop by and check them out and enjoy a good book.

Veteran's Monumental Bricks

"Anyone that is interested in placing a brick at the new Eddington's Veterans Monument in honor of a past or present Veteran, can purchase a brick and have it engraved. Examples of the bricks, more information and the order forms are available at the Town Office. You can get a 4" x 8" Brick for \$30 or a 8" x 8" Brick for \$55, plus any Clipart (\$5 each) or Service Logos (\$25 each)



A Fond Memory by Kay Mitchell

When I was a kid, I went to my grandmother's farm house on Route 178 (Bradley Road) in Eddington. My sister and her husband lived there at that time. He built an ice boat. We helped him cross the road and crossed the snow covered field with it, down to the ice covered Penobscot River. I had a chance to ride in it while he sailed it up and down the river. It was about 73 years ago. It sure was fun.

Memories...a Valuable Treasure

At the Historical Society meeting in March of 2012, the members listened to a tape from many years ago when the Historical Society hosted an event and invited long time residents to come and share their stories about growing up in Eddington. Everyone enjoyed listening to the stories so much we thought it would be a great idea if we could host a similar event and ask residents to come and share their memories for future generations. The same evening we would ask people to bring in old pictures from around town to share for future calendars and newsletters. We would have a computer available so that we could scan the pictures right into the computer and give them back to the owner that night. So jot down any memories you would like to share, dig out those old pictures and watch for notices for the memory sharing event.

The Eddington Historical Society is a registered 501 (c) (3) non-profit entity; all contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Beat eggs thoroughly, add the milk. Then pour on to the flour and baking powder sifted together. Beat thoroughly with a wooden spoon. Cut chicken into thin slices or take the small scraps and sprinkle with salt. Dip them into the batter and fry in hot fat.

- 2 eggs
- 1/2 cup milk
- 1 teaspoon of Baking Powder
- 1 cup of flour

Chicken Fritters

EDDINGTON TOWN OFFICE
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MEETINGS

- Meetings are usually held the third Thursday of each month at 6:30 PM at the Town Office. You should check with the Town Office to confirm the meeting is being held.
- Dues are \$10/year or \$50 for a life membership. Officers are:
- Richard Bowden, Pres.
- Rob Dorr, Vice-Pres.
- Denise Knowles, Secretary.
- Lou Higgins, Treasurer

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