



# Eddington Historical Society Newsletter

## WORLD WAR II VETERAN CARROLL G. FRYE

Carroll G. Frye of Eddington, born April 11, 1924 and passed away January 8, 2014, enlisted into the Air Corp in February 1943. He was eighteen years old. The Air Corp was part of the Army. Frye joined as a waste gunner and crew chief of a Boeing B-17G aka, The Flying Fortress. He flew mostly night bombing missions from England to Germany and back again. He flew 25 missions straight over enemy territory without a break. He shot machine guns off a B-17 which had nine machine guns.

On one of these missions his plane suffered shots by enemy fire to the belly of the aircraft. His plane was unable to release the landing gear. Frye's best friend was stuck in the belly gunner position and they could not get to him. They were forced to land the plane. Frye survived that fateful crash landing but lost his best friend. When Frye was not on the plane, he was waste gunner. He made sure the plane was mechanically ready and checked each parachute making sure all buckles and snaps were closed, straps were sewn and tight, and the chutes were properly packed.

Upon his return home, Carroll married his childhood sweetheart, Thelma Spruce. Carroll worked as a salesman for Grand Union Tea Co., a weaver for Old Town Woolen Mill, a salesman for Met Life and New York Life insurance and a boiler engineer at Bangor Mental Health. Carroll's faith was important to him. He was a past member of Bradley Baptist Church and a member of Clifton United Baptist Church. Carroll volunteered many hours as Cub Scout Master, Scouting District Commissioner and at Coles

Museum where he talked to school children about his experiences during World War II.

This information came from Veteran Carroll G. Frye interviews by students at the Coles Museum.



The NCOA WORLD WAR II VETERAN MEDALLION-- Non Commissioned Officers Association for military service signifying HONOR and REMEMBRANCE was presented with dignity and respect to CARROLL G. FRYE who answered the Nation's Clarion Call to Duty in World War II. It reads: Leaving the safety and security of home, family and friends you stood in harms way prepared to risk life to secure world order, preserve and extend those basic freedoms of life. Your service as a Veteran of the Greatest Generation must never be forgotten. The heroic virtues you display under extraordinary circumstances- VALOR-SACRIFICE -FIDELITY- must be known in the hearts of every future generation. I trust this me-

dallion to your keeping, knowing you will share this legacy and know that the American Flag and America's freedom must never be taken for granted.



Carroll G. Frye pictured above with his parents and below in his service uniform.



Thank You for  
Our Freedom!

Memories of Living in Eddington

The Eddington Historical Society hosted a luncheon at the East Eddington Community Church on February 21, 2016. This commemorated the Incorporation of Eddington in February 22, 1811. Eddington was the 184th town in the District of Maine. The town was named after the Revolutionary War Hero Col. Jonathan Eddy. Col. Eddy settled at the Bend on the bank of the Penobscot River. The guests were invited to share their life experiences in Eddington. Some of the following reflections of memories are priceless and bring a smile, a laugh and maybe a tear as we remember people and times in our past.

My name is Kay Mitchell and I am 90 years old. I was born and brought up in Orrington, Maine. Some of my relatives lived in Eddington. My brother and his wife built their home on the Pond Road. My grandfather Cole lived in a home near Route 178. In the summer we came out to Gracie Giles. Her house was on Rt.9 on the right side of the road before you go down to the village. I can remember her kitchen. That house burned in the late 30's. My brother-in-law and sister built an ice boat at my grandfather's home. My sister and I dragged the boat across the road and snow covered field out to the big ice covered Penobscot River.

That was my first ride in that kind of a boat. After my children graduated from high school, Bud and I wanted to build a home in the country. So we looked around and found a spot in Eddington. My husband Bud, my son and neighbor Galen Phillips built the house in 1970. We have enjoyed living here and joining various organizations and clubs. We loved meeting Eddington people. Kay and Bud Mitchell still live in the house they built in Eddington.

Donald Decker remembers: Around 1951 in October A friend and I were going down a dirt road behind the Peppard Farm. We had a canoe in the back of a pick-up truck and wanted to go ducking. We got down to the water and put the canoe in and started towards Holbrook Pond. We saw 5 or 6 ducks coming toward us. We decided that my friend would take the duck on the right and I would take the duck on the left. At the count of 3 we agreed to fire. 1-2-3-BANG-BANG- over went the canoe! We both ended up in the water with our shot guns over our head and water up over the waist. BUT NO DUCKS!



Dorothy Higgins Coulter was born October 28, 1929 in East Eddington and has a long association with the Hall, Grange Hall and later know as Comins Hall. Her first recollections are as a little girl going with her mother to the Ladies Sociables. This was the community group that put on some kind of a program each month, such as a supper, dance, skit or play, or a card playing evening. She began attending dances with her folks and later as a teenager attended dances sponsored by the Grange.

Dorothy worked on all sorts of Grange projects which included cooking and helping at fund raising suppers for the Grange, The Community Church, The Volunteer Fire Department, The Boy Scouts and many other groups. She served as chairperson to organize and put on suppers for many years. She also baked beans and pies for the suppers.

Some of her early memories about the suppers included measuring coffee to put in the cloth coffee bags that were put in a large pan of boiling water and boiled on the top of the old iron stove. After the coffee was taste tested and approved to be done, the coffee bags were removed and emptied to be used again when needed. She also helped carry big milk cans of water for suppers as there was no running water at the hall.

Dorothy was Matron of the Juvenile Grange for many years and taught Vacation Bible School at the hall. She was one of the original group that started BINGO in the spring of 1984 to raise money for hall maintenance and improvements. BINGO was the major financial support for accumulating funds. A typical bingo day for Dorothy and a few other workers began at 3pm and ended with clean up at 9:30pm. She often got food ready for sale, called numbers for three hours, wrote checks, sold sealed tickets and opened and closed the hall.

When asked why she continued to work so hard for the hall? Dorothy replied, that ever since I was a little girl, the hall and all the activities have been an important part of my life. I just want to see the hall continue be a useful place in this community.



Above is pictured one of the old coffee crocks used for making coffee at the Grange Hall.

Below is pictured one of the coffee bags used to make the coffee in the giant crocks



## Wreaths Across America

On December 12, 2015 the Town of Eddington participated in the Wreaths Across America Day to Honor Veterans at the Eddington Veteran's Memorial Monument. Wreaths across America is a wonderful program that works to Remember our Heroes, Honor Their Service and Teach the Value of Freedom. It is a national nonprofit organization founded in 2007 to continue and expand the annual wreath-laying ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery. The effort began in 1992 by Maine Businessman, Morrill Worcester, owner of Worcester Wreath, when he made more wreaths than he could sell. Worcester Wreath provided us with 42 wreaths along with flags representing the Branches of the Service to be placed on each wreath. Thank you to John Clark and Charles Knowlen for picking up Eddington Wreaths and flags when they picked up Holden's. We also need to thank Kiley Funeral Home, Birmingham Funeral Home and Brookings Smith Funeral Home for loaning us stands for the wreaths. When the wreaths were picked up they were all out of stands for us.

Charles B. Knowlen LTC (ret) opened the Wreath Dedication Ceremony in Eddington and spoke to honor our veterans and their families. The Marine Corp Color Guard was part of the our Ceremony, along with Richard Bowden on his bagpipes. Mr. Knowlen introduced Veteran's from Eddington who came forward and placed a wreath for each of the six branches of the service and POW's and MIA's at our Veteran's Monument. The following Veterans honored a branch of the Service: Scott Baillargeon, David Johnson, Dick Tuck, George Fulcher, Rudolph Lorez, Michael Shepherd and Charles Knowlen placed the POW/MIA Wreath. After the Ceremony, Charles Knowlen, Margaret and Louis Dougherty and Denise and Michael Knowles placed seven wreaths at each of the five cemeteries in Town. Each cemetery had a wreath with a United States Flag and a Flag for a Branch of the Service. (except the Settlers Cemetery which received one wreath with the seven flags.)



My great uncle Paul G. Ford's research of this family history next takes us through the rest of the 1600s where we see the Fords moving up through Massachusettes.

One William Ford and his brother John are named as founders of the town of Duxbury, Massachusettes some ten years before it's incorporation. William's name next appears in the town of Marshfield where he operated a grist mill. He married Anna years earlier and resided at Havelly Beach. He moved once more back to Duxbury where his name appears in the town records as one of those "able to bear arms." William Ford was in the service when hostilities broke out between colonists and King Phillip. William died at the advanced age of 88, just one-hundred years after his grandmother, the "Widow Martha" and his father, William, had arrived in Plymouth.

John Ford was the eldest son of William. It is known that he bought land in Kittery, Maine from one Hugh Crockett in 1703. At this time John was a resident of Dover, New Hampshire. As we see the Fords over time were working their way north and east into "Maine".

John Ford III and Mary Goodwin, both of Kittery, filed their marriage intentions in July of 1731, settling in Berwick, Maine and had five children, all boys.

In the State House in Boston, Paul Ford, third son of John III, name appears in 1758 on the muster rolls of the York County "Maine" Company commanded by Captain Icabod Goodwin of Berwick. Paul participated in the bloody battle of Fort Ticonderoga or Carillon as it was called by the French, July 5 – 12, 1758. Approximately two thousand men were lost in this unsuccessful campaign against the French. After Paul's initial enlistment was up we find him and his brother John IV (referred to as Jonathan from Barwick, Berwick Maine) as privates in Captain James Saywood's "Company of Foot", thuxtant document status that privates received 36s per month and 14s were charged for beer. This document is dated at Boston May 16, 1762.

Paul, John IV and brother Deacon Robert purchased land in Berwick from Richard Cutts. Brother Miles purchased land in Lyman, Maine. Brother Caleb had a farm on Bauneg Beg Hill in what is now North Berwick. At least three of these five brothers were Revolutionary War Veterans. Miles served three years, 1777 – 1780 and Deacon Robert was a member of the Continental Army in 1777. Paul was a private in the Seacoast defense which was one of the first organized bodies established as a defense measurer for the colony. Enlistments in this organization were among the first of the war. It is not known for sure if Jonathan (John IV) and Caleb served in the war, however, Jonathan received his baptism of fire in the French and Indian War 1758. As we can now see the Fords over the past one hundred-forty years or so to this point were amongst the "first comers" and fighters for the independence of our great country. (to be continued)



The Ford House as it sits today on Route 9 in East Eddington Village across from the church.

## Town Announcements

The Town of Eddington is very fortunate to have a beautiful Veteran's Monument, thanks to Eagle Scout Josh Baillargeon and his family. Several people have purchased Memorial Bricks to be placed at the Monument. We have had to find a new company to purchase the Bricks from and can happily say that we have found someone. We have ordered a couple Bricks from them and are very pleased. If you would like to honor past or current Veterans, you can purchase Memorial Bricks through the Eddington Town Office. The 4" x 8" bricks are \$50.00 and the 8" x 8" bricks are \$75.00. This price includes any clip art or Military Insignia you would like placed on the brick. Stop by the Office or give us a call at 843-5233 and we will mail you an order form. Hopefully this Spring or Summer we will have a Committee for the Monument and it will work on a design and have the Stones placed at the Monument.

The Eddington Town Office is in the process of forming a Veteran's Monument Committee. This Committee would oversee the Monument and its upkeep, work to design an area for placement of the Memorial Bricks, maintain and place the Remembrance Flags that are displayed along the main roads in town during the Summer, and help to organize events during Veteran's Day, Wreath's Across America, Independence Day Flag Day and other important days throughout the year. If you are interested in being part of this committee, please call the Eddington Town Office at 843-5233 or email us at [eddingtoninfo@roadrunner.com](mailto:eddingtoninfo@roadrunner.com)

The Eddington Town Office has created an email list of people that would like to receive notifications about upcoming meetings, trash and recycle schedules, events around town, etc. If you would like to be added to this list, please email us at [eddingtoninfo@roadrunner.com](mailto:eddingtoninfo@roadrunner.com). Also, check out our Website at Eddington Maine.gov and our Facebook Page, Eddington Maine for informational postings.

### Eddington Historical Society Mission Statement

The Eddington Historical Society exists to collect, preserve and make accessible any items of historical significance to the town of Eddington and surrounding areas.

To accomplish the Society's mission effectively, we are committed to:

- Retaining existing members and attracting new members.
- Maintaining open communication with other entities as appropriate.
- Collecting, preserving and making accessible any materials of historical significance.
- Stimulating interest in the Town's past.
- Undertaking the preservation of historic buildings, monuments and markers.





**Mother and Daughter Tea Party Fundraiser**



**Date:** Sunday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2016

**Time:** 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

**Where:** Cornhus Hall, Main Road, East Eddington

Bring your mother, daughter, grandmother, aunt, niece, friend or babysitter to celebrate with the favorite women in your life.

- ❖ Serving hot tea, iced tea, lemonade and assorted tea cakes and goodies
- ❖ Entertainment will be special music

Suggested donation of \$10.00/adults and \$5.00/children 12 and under

Please wear your favorite party dress, hats, and gloves (optional)

Photos will be taken at this event.

All proceeds will benefit the Eddington Historical Society.

**PLEASE CALL MARGARET FOR RESERVATIONS TO THIS GREAT EVENT. SHE MAY BE REACHED AT 207-843-7402.**

EDDINGTON TOWN OFFICE  
906 MAIN ROAD  
EDDINGTON, ME 04428

**INSIDE THIS ISSUE:**

Cover Page: World War II Veteran: Carroll G. Frye	
Memories of Living in Eddington	2
Memories by Dorothy Higgins Coulter	3
Wreaths Across America	4
The Ford Family History	5
Town Announcements EHS Mission Statement	6
President's Message	7

**MEETINGS**

- Meetings are held the second Monday 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:
- Margaret Dougherty, President
- Denise Knowles, Secretary,
- Lou Higgins, Treasurer
- Theresa Peppard, Newsletter Editor