

The Wood Family

The Eddington Town Office is named in the memory of Frederick Wood for his many years of cheerful service to our town. Beginning in 1949 to 1956 he served as Selectman and he began serving as the town's Treasurer in 1958. He was on the School Committee from 1945 to 1953 and was a School District Trustee from 1956 to 1966.

Fred witnessed many changes in the town's form of government and in the town itself. In his capacity as Town Treasurer he handled the entire check-book, made reports to the State, made monthly deposits, did the payroll, W2 forms, paid all of the bills of the warrant and made all investments for the town.

Fred, who lived on the Davis Road with his wife of over fifty years, Carolyn, enjoyed an active retirement including logging, gardening, hunting and was an avid fisherman and sailor. Among his other talents, Fred made the best maple syrup this side of Vermont. In the evening hours, when most of us are ready to retire, Fred who was nocturnal, created some of his unique and beautiful handiwork, such as hooked rugs, knitted sweaters, socks, hats and mittens. Surely the people who knew him were honored to be his friend and the town is certainly fortunate and grateful to have had his devoted service.

Fred and Carolyn Wood were featured in the 2016 Historical Society Calendar for January.

Eddington Historical Society Newsletter



Frederick and Carolyn Wood

Eddington World War II

Veteran George Fulcher

George Fulcher was born in Toronto Canada on October 16, 1915. He enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Corps on January 5, 1942, serving as a ball turret gunner aboard a B-17 the "Flying Fortress", with the 97th bomb group "Anxious Angel" in North Africa and the 91st bomb group in England. He flew a total of 73 missions, fifty over Africa and twenty-three over Germany. He was honored with several medals including the Air Medal with two Silver Clusters. He was discharged on May 28, 1945 and after three years he reenlisted in the U.S.A.F. at Homestead Air Force Base. From there he transferred to Dow Field Air Force Base in Bangor, Maine. George re-

tired from the U.S.A.F in 1965 and then began another career as a custodian at the University of Maine Orono, retiring again in 1985.



George, now 97, resides in Eddington with his daughter's family. He was honored by the East Eddington Community Church and saluted by retired pilot Colonel Gregory Bassett who also presented him a plaque in honor of his service.

To All Veterans

Thank you for preserving our country's independence and the personal freedoms we enjoy here in America. Without the heroic actions of our men and women in uniform, our land would not be "the land of the free and the home of the brave"



The Grover Homestead in Eddington by Jean Grover Bragg (Nov. 2015)



Nehemiah and Caddie Grover (pictured left) and their six children, Ella, Jane, Clarence, Rexford, Ray and Gladys moved from Amherst to Eddington in 1913. This was a very long trip traveling by horse and wagon. All of their belongings were packed in the wagon along with their children. The wood stove was put on the wagon last at the very back of the wagon so they could stop on their way to cook and eat at noon. Clarence Grover, the oldest boy, walked all the way to Eddington leading the cow. The family arrived at the house long after dark, so they threw the mattresses on the floor and slept for the night. There were many hard times and good times the family experienced as they worked on their farm in Eddington.

In 1943 Ray and his wife Inez, who was called Pat, their daughters, Theodora called Teddy, Rosemary called Jean who was 13, Carolyn and their son Arnold who was 8 years old, moved to the Grover Homestead in Eddington. Here is a description of the old Grover home where Jean grew up.

The large two story house had a long L shape on one end of the house. This is where the summer kitchen, pantry and shed were located. The pantry had shelves and a large cooler to keep the cream cold for making 80lbs of butter each week. Every so often the pantry door would open with no visible person there. Caddie would say, "Aunt Lydia is coming or going." Imagine whatever! Now to the shed where the hand dug well was located and everyone had the opportunity to pull water from the well. From the shed you went down two steps and walked on narrow planks to get to the outhouse. Not much time was spent out there. On one side of this walkway was the three-sided woodshed that was open on the front for refilling. From the summer kitchen you went into the main house dining room and winter kitchen which was small and used during the cold months of the year. There was a living room, bed room and a large front hallway with a circular staircase. The back stairway was very crooked, one step turn, step, turn, step, turn all the way up the stairs. In later years this back stairway was taken out by my father and a bathroom was put in. The wall between the large hallway and the living room was taken down to make a larger living room. Upstairs was the dance hall across the front side of the house with two bedrooms on the back side of the house. Two large fireplaces heated the bedrooms and the dance hall. The dance hall was later made into three bedrooms. Downstairs there were fireplaces with mantles in each room. There were five sets of stairs in the house. The circular staircase in the front hall, the back staircase that was crooked, one straight set of stairs in the shed going up to the first attic, circular stairs going from the first attic to the second attic for storing things and the cellar curved stairs. The big chimney had four flues in it. The large wood box in the summer kitchen opened into the woodshed and it was filled from the shed. Father decorated the front hall circular staircase with red ribbon, boughs and poinsettias at Christmas time (pictured above). They always had a Christmas Eve party. The family played music and sang and there was plenty of food for everyone.



Across from the house was a big barn, carriage house, hen house and blacksmith shop. They made 80lbs of butter each week and sold it in Bangor, delivering it house to house. Later, a cooler was put in the shed for selling milk to Latno's Dairy. On the farm they had cows, horses, pigs, chickens and pheasants. Two hundred pheasants were raised for many years by Father for the Penobscot Conservation Club. The Game Wardens put the pheasants out in the woods for bird hunting season. In the early years the stage stopped to change horses every ten miles and Grandfather had a team ready for them. Grandfather and Father were blacksmiths and horses were used for farming. They also had an old truck used for haying. The hay rake was hitched to the back of the truck and this was a two person job. Someone driving the truck and young Jean riding on the rake. There were fields behind the barn and the fifty acre field in back of the house. They used pitch forks to throw the hay on the wagons.

In the barn there was a large hay fork that lifted the hay from the wagon into the hay loft. It was very, very hot in the barn loft, especially if you were using the pitch fork to put the hay away. Lugging water to cows and horses was a never ending job.

Arnold build his home on land in the fifty acre field and his wife Carol and her son and his wife still live there. Jean still lives on the apple orchard land beside the farm with her daughter Ruth's family. The Grover family has a rich history of service and dedication to the Town of Eddington. This was only a part of their beginning life in Eddington. The Grover family is featured in the 2016 Historical Society Calendar for the month of April.

In 1834 Leemon Stockwell built the Leach-Higgins home from bricks that were made in his brickyard. He was the son of Right Stockwell, one of the first settlers in East Eddington Village. The brickyard was located on Route 9 east of the village near the Clifton town line. Bricks sold for \$5.00/thousand back then. The house was built on Route 46 bordering the Blackcap Road.



Leach-Higgins home on Route 46

The Peter Ward house on the corner of Hatcase Pond Road was another house built with these bricks. Many of the chimneys on houses in the village were made of bricks from the Stockwell brickyard.



Peter Ward home on the corner of the Hatcase Pond Road

Previous owners of the Leach-Higgins home and property were Thaddeus Adams and Lawson Woodbury. They were great grandfathers of Verna Leach. In 1870 Elon Comins, Verna's grandfather,

bought the house and property from Elijah Comins. The property was willed to Elon's daughter Alma Comins who married John Albert Leach. Alma and John Albert were Verna's parents. So Verna Leach Higgins was a lifelong resident living in the Leach-Higgins home. John Albert and Alma had four children, Ernest, Wilbur, Ethel, and Verna. This farming family worked hard as did all families in early 1900s.

In the home there were always lamps with chimneys to be cleaned, wicks to be trimmed and bases to be filled every day. Meals had to be prepared on wood fires on the black iron cook stove. The stoves and sinks had to be rubbed daily with a grease cloth to prevent rust. At one end of the first sink there was a pulley wheel with two buckets, which were lowered into a cistern to provide drinking water. This cistern is still in the cellar of the house. At the far end of the second sink there was a pump which brought water for the household use from a well which also is still in the cellar of the house.

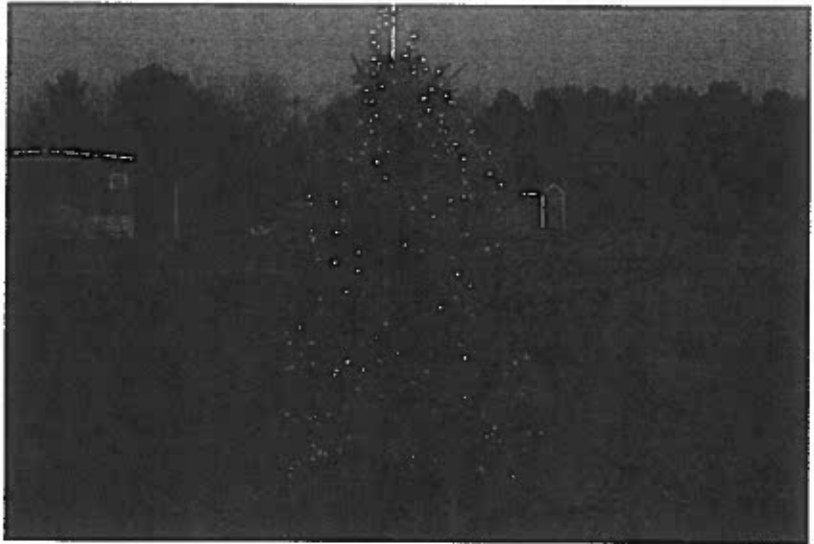
Verna had fond memories of skating on the frog pond in back of their home, picnics on Blackcap and going visiting or to meetings. Her family was involved in all activities going on in the East Eddington village. As soon as she was old enough, she became a member of the East Eddington Grange. This was an important event which finally came after waiting forever as a little girl to be old enough to participate in Grange meetings. There was a span of thirteen years between Verna and her oldest brother Ernest and seven years between Verna and her sister Ethel. Therefore, they were all in school for years before she was old enough to attend school. Her brother Ernest graduated from Eddington Free High School and went to the University of Maine.

The high school was discontinued in June 1908 which meant her brother Wilbur did not graduate. They all attended the village school which still stands next to Comins Hall in the village. The year Verna started School, 1908, the school changed from grades one through nine to Kindergarten through eighth. This made Verna happy because she could go to school a year earlier.

Verna trudged to school in the morning and in the custom of the day walked home for lunch and back to school for the afternoon session every day. At the end of seventh grade, Verna, Mason Shaw and Francis Kelly traveled by jitney to schoolhouse #3. This school building still stands opposite the present day Eddington Elementary School. As students of grade seven, they could take the State examination. Once this examination was successfully completed it was not necessary to attend grade eight. This proved to be the end of Verna's formal education as she was needed at home to help care for her mother and run the house. In 1925 she married Roscoe Higgins at her home. During that same year her house was wired for electricity. Verna's father, John Albert Leach, continued to live with them and their two children were born and raised there. Harold was born in 1926 and Dorothy in 1929. John Albert passed away in 1946. Harold, a graduate of the University of Maine and his wife Alice Lou Brown Higgins have lived and brought up their four children, Deborah, Timothy, Katherine and Frank, at the family dwelling. Lou Higgins still lives at the Leach-Higgins home. The Leach family is featured in the Eddington Historical Society 2016 Calendar in May and November.

E d d i n g t o n C h r i s t m a s T r e e L i g h t i n g 2 0 1 5

Sunday, December 6, 2015 at 4 p.m. Eddington families and friends gathered at the Town Office to light the Christmas Tree. A welcome was given by Historical Society President Margaret Dougherty. Everyone attending sang "Joy to the World". The tree by the Veterans Monument was planted in 2011 for the Eddington Bicentennial celebration. It was given by Jim and Julie Hayes in memory of Brooks and Mary Mills, who were Eddington tree farmers for many years.



Retired Lt. Col. Charles Knowlen did the official lighting of the tree. He said a few words about how privileged we are to have this monument honoring our veterans. The flags were half-staff and we observed a moment of silence for the California shooting victims. The outdoor service ended with singing "Silent Night". Everyone was invited inside for refreshments and the closing.



Retired Lt. Col. Charles Knowlen gave a brief explanation of his military service and the meaning of the symbols displayed at our Veterans Monument and Memory Garden. We were encouraged in the importance of honoring our veterans and proper flag etiquette at our cemeteries. With deep gratitude the Eddington Historical Society thanks Chuck Knowlen for participating at the Town Christmas Tree lighting event.

Little snip-it from an old newspaper:

Dad's Britches

When dad has worn his trousers out they pass to brother John, then mother trims them round and William puts them on. When William's legs too long have grown, the trousers fail to hide them, so Walter claims them for his own and hides himself inside 'em. Next Sam's fat legs they close invest and when they won't stretch tighter, they're turned and shortened up for me, the writer. Ma works them into caps and rugs, when I have burst the stitches. At doomsday we shall see, perhaps, the last of dad's old britches.

The Fords of East Eddington Maine

By Sam Ford

Three hundred and ninety four years ago, almost to the day, the Fortune dropped anchor in Provincetown Harbor (November 19th, 1621)

Immediately upon disembarking, Martha Ford gave birth to a healthy baby girl. Also with the "Widow Martha Ford" was John and his brother William. These Fords were to originally have been passengers on the Mayflower's sister ship Speedwell but it having set out three times was finally given up and it's passengers were divided with some being sent with the Mayflower and the remainder set ashore to await the next ship to set out. So one year after the arrival of the Mayflower the progenators of the Ford family landed on the shores of the new world at what was then Plymouth Plantation. And so it began.....(to be continued)

The Ford family is featured in the Eddington Historical Society 2016 calendar for August.



Four Generations of the Ford family at Dr. Leonard Harris Ford's 91st birthday. Leonard H. Ford IV, Leonard H. Ford III and Leonard H. Ford Jr..

Dr. Leonard H Ford, was on the staff at EMGH in Bangor a number of years and practitioner in Eddington and Bangor, retiring in 1965. The 1899 University of Maine graduate and 1906 graduate of Bowdoin Medical School has delivered three generations of babies in many Eddington families.

The Maine Register of 1856 listed the following businesses in Eddington:

Blacksmiths	Josiah Beard (village) Daniel Curtis (bend)
Boots & Shoes	L.S. Mills (village) Thomas Wiswell (bend)
Carpenters	E.M. Cousins Joshua Peakes
Carriage Builders	Jacob Muzzy
Tailor	G.H. Parsons
Country Stores	L.S. Mills (village) Thomas Wiswell (bend) C.G. Thompson (bend)
Painters	W.H.Y. Johnson Emery Ward (village)
Cooper Shop-barrels	C.F. Baker (bend)
Cobbler Shop—shoes	George Marsh (village)

Roots in the Soil—from the writings of Elijah Comins

Land is the only permanent thing in the world. All other substance decomposes and returns to the land, thus enriching the soil, which produces the sustenance of all life. A piece of land on one acre square today will be the same size a million years from now while all around it will return to dust.

Everything living, whatever it may be—man, animal, fowl, fish, tree or grass, owes it's life to land. Every substance on earth comes from the soil. A house built of lumber, brick or stone put together with nails or mortar and finished with wood or metal is made with material from the soil.

The source of every flower, every piece of fabric, every sheaf of grain, every flash of electricity that lights our homes and drives our machinery is traced to the soil. Every blade of grass that supports animal life, like the horse and mule which are used to till the soil and the dairy cow which supplies us with milk and butter, owes its life to the soil. Every kind of food eaten at every meal comes from the soil.

Stones will crumble to dust, buildings will burn to ashes, seed time and harvest come in their season, one generation passes and another follows and only land remains permanent. Anyone who owns land realizes the feeling of security, independence and contentment that comes when you own your home and the land you cultivate.

Land is the most valuable of all material things. The family with land need never go hungry. The factory may shut down and business firms may fail. The money may be worthless but the man with land can always grow something to eat.

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Growing Up in Maine—an excerpt from *Ada Marsh Henderson*

During six years (total of eight) of living at the Peabodys, I went home to visit my family during most school vacations. I traveled via the mail stage for about fifty cents from Bangor to East Eddington.

It was always nice to return home and to see my family and East Eddington friends. One of my friends was Gracie Day, the telephone operator. The telephone switchboard was located in her home on the Main Road in the village. Gracie was a friend to everyone and very well informed about all of the doings of the town folk. Her interest was benevolent; she did much which would be considered social work today. While in Eddington she gave me little jobs to do so that I could earn a little badly needed money. She taught my sister, Charlotte, how to operate the switchboard. Some money for Charlotte.

In the meantime my father had been given a job to develop a woodlot in the Burnt Pond area—a bit beyond the Boy Scout Camp which nestled in the foothills of Black Cap Mountain.

Harold Higgins and his sister Dorothy used to like to hike into Burnt Pond with Charlotte and myself. It was quite an adventure. We had to slide down very steep ledges. Weather permitting, we would swim in Burnt Pond where the water was as clear as crystal and was populated with many boulders and rocks, among which we would swim.

Dr. MacDougal had given us a wonderful Labrador Retriever. He was named Jock. Jock also liked to join us for a hike. To travel to Burnt Pond we had to hike by and through the Boy Scout Camp located on Fitts Pond. In winter, the Fitts Pond ledges were covered with frozen snow and ice. To our dismay, Jock used to like to slide down those treacherous ledges. He curled one hind leg behind and somehow managed to use it as a brake to stop before he fell off the edge to a twelve foot drop.

Peavey Manufacturing Company (article in the 2015 Paper Talks Magazine— Greater Bangor Edition)

Teamwork is what it took to position logs on the river drives from many years ago. The Peavey was invented in 1857 by Stillwater resident Joseph Peavey, a man who had invented the Peavey hoist (for pulling stumps and hoisting gates at dams), the first hay press, the first wooden screw vice, the first clapboard water wheel and the unspillable inkwell. Today, the Peavey Manufacturing Company claims longevity of 158 years, operating along Route 9 in Eddington.



Rodney G. Buswell, Sr. began working for Peavey Manufacturing in 1979. Son, Rodney G. Buswell, Jr. began in 1988 with Randy D. Buswell joining the family business in 1997. Son-in-law Jeffrey R. Gideon has been with the company since 1998. The Buswell family began acquiring stock in the firm in the mid-1980s and have been full owners since 2010.



Right: Men working with a "Peavey"

Left: The "Standard Peavey" today



President's Message by Margaret Dougherty

Eddington Historical Society members are the backbone of our town. Whether volunteering at our events, helping with projects or being a resource in reporting the history of our town, our members compose a strong organization. The Eddington Historical Society meets at the Town Office on the second Monday of each month at 6:30p.m. I hope you will join us at our meetings.

There are many ways you can support the Historical Society.

- _____ Annual Membership is \$10.00
- _____ Life Membership is \$50.00
- _____ Donation
- _____ Gift in Memory or Honor of _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone/Email: _____

This page can be mailed with your contribution to:

Eddington Historical Society
 c/o Denise Knowles
 Eddington Town Office
 906 Main Road
 Eddington, Maine 04428

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

*****Please Note*****

Due to the increased cost of printing and postage, future newsletters will only be sent to memberships currently paid up to date through 2016. Thank you.

Frozen Pudding

From Six Cooks and a Freezer copyrighted 1902

2 1/2 cups milk
 1/8 teaspoonful of salt
 1 cup of heavy cream
 1/4 cup of brandy
 1 cup of sugar
 2 eggs
 1/4 cup of rum
 1 cup of candied fruit (cut in small pieces)

Make a custard of the first four ingredients; cool, add cream and rum, then freeze. Gill a brick mould with alternate layers of the cream and fruit which has been allowed to stand in brandy over night. Pack in salt and ice, and let stand two hours. Cherries, pineapples, pears and apricots may be used.

**Just in Time for
 Christmas Gifts!!!**

Eddington Historical Society
 Eddington Families
 2016 Calendars are
 Available at the Town
 Store and the Eddington
 Town Office.
 Cost is \$12.00

EDDINGTON TOWN OFFICE
 906 MAIN ROAD
 EDDINGTON, ME 04428

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

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