

Eddington

*Historical Society
March 2008*

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Town Office Reports

*A public hearing on the
Town Budget will be
Tuesday, March 18, 2008
At 6 PM at the Town Office*

*Elections for Two Selectmen
and One Schoolboard Member
Will be held on March 24
at the Town Office
Polls open 8AM to 8 PM*

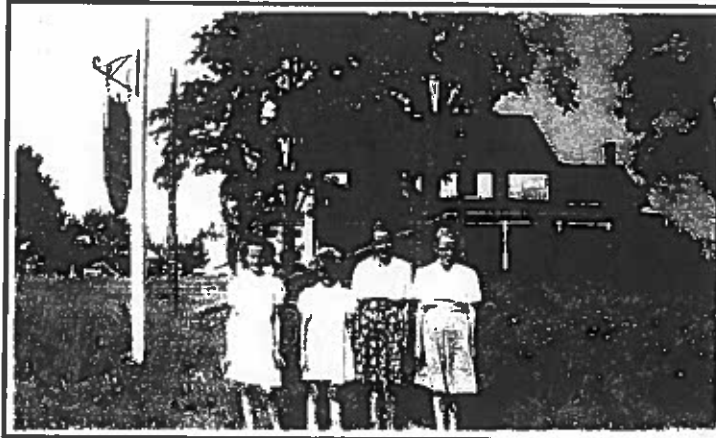
*Town Meeting will be held at the
Eddington Grammer School
Gym March 25 at 7PM*

Now available at the Town Office

*Stickers for 2008 Boat Registration &
Moose Permit applications for 2008
Deadline to mail to Augusta,
or to apply on line is April 1*



Go to page 3



June (Letteney) Connolly, Nancy (Letteney) Glidden, SaraJane (Knox) Smith, Charlene (Knox) Rockwell

Singer Poultry Farm

In 1944 my father and mother, Norman and Charlotte Letteney, move our family from Massachusetts to Eddington Maine. I was 8 years old, and my sister June was 9. We lived on Route 9 in Eddington at a large chicken farm which was known as the *Singer Poultry Farm*. My father ran the farm for Morris Singer.

In the spring the chickens were put out on the range to live. There were chicken shelters all over the field for protection from the weather. June and I had to carry the grain to the feeders. This range, I'm speaking of, covered the land where the Peavey Mill now sits to the land which later was called the Bill and Ruby Hall Farm. The farm was torn down and now there is a modern cape style home belonging to Rodney and Debbie Buswell.



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What Is It?



Go to Page 7 for answer....



Members of The Wood Family

In the winter months all of the chickens were kept in three large barns. June and I helped our Dad feed them. We used coal hods to carry the grain to the troughs. Our winter coats were made of artificial brown fur and the coal hod handles wore off all the fir in the crease of the arms of our coats.



Nancy & June in their fur coats in front of The Blue Hornet. The 1929 Model "A" Ford was blue with orange fenders.

My father, in the summer months, had to sleep out on the front porch to keep an eye and ear out for chicken poachers down on the range. He kept a gun beside him which he would shoot in the air if he heard a commotion going on down in the field.

We walked to the # 3 School and since it was so near home we could go home to lunch. When Mrs. Cole would ring the *Recess Bell* which could be heard all the way down the road, all the children would go running back to school for the afternoon session.

The Letteney sisters and the Knox sisters are standing in front of the farm house and the Singer Poultry Farm sign. The people in the group picture are all members of several generations of the Wood family.

By Nancy Letteney Grant Glidden

Henry Gonyer

A Legend In His Own Time

Henry Gonyer was regarded highly by neighbors and residents of the town as an honest, kind and hard-working man. He was a proud man and was respected by all who knew him. If anyone wanted anything done, they called on him. Any new person coming in town was soon to hear of his many talents and his generosity to his neighbors.

He came from Milford to Eddington where he met a girl by the name of Lottie Walcott. They married on Thursday October 20, 1904. They settled in the Gonyer Farm on Route 178 (now called River Road) in Eddington. Henry and Lottie had one son named William Henry Gonyer. Their farm house is now owned by Lawrence Oakes. The land went all the way down past Woznik's. He owned all the land on both sides of the road except the Rand property. He had large fields and gardens.

Henry was a member of the Riverside Grange of North Brewer and the North Brewer Eddington Methodist Church. For many years he was sexton of the Blackman Cemetery. He was always willing to help a neighbor. When Ella Crosby's husband passed away, he made sure that she always had her yearly supply of firewood and plenty of good food on the table.

There wasn't anything he wouldn't tackle. It didn't matter if it took him days, weeks or months, he would not quit until it was done. If anyone in town wanted anything done, they would call on Henry. Fogg's store used to have part of it in Brewer and part of it in Eddington. Brewer was wet and Eddington was dry. The building had to be moved several feet so all of it would be in Brewer and so they could sell beer. Someone said, "Call Henry Gonyer. He will know how to do it." He came, looked at the project, scratched his head and with the help of some of the local men proceeded to move the store to where it presently sits.

He was a tall lanky guy. It was evident when anyone looked at his big hands that he was a hard working man. He was a farmer and a lumberman. For years he cut logs on the Merrill Farm (land where the housing development is located up Comins Lane). On their all round working farm on 178, they raised potatoes,

turnips, cabbage, carrots, beets, and squash and beans for baking.

He did his own blacksmith work. He kept all his equipment clean and neat and always in good running condition.

He cut hay on many of the fields in the town with his horse drawn cutter bar. He cut the hay and by hand he pitched forked it loose in the barns of his neighbors and friends. He used *twitch horses* in the woods and both horses and a tractor in the fields.

He raised his own beef cattle, cows, pigs and hens. He provided his family with fresh vegetables, eggs, fresh milk and cream. Lottie separated the cream and churned the butter. Each season she canned many jars of fruits and vegetables. She made her own preserves from blueberries, raspberries, strawberries and apples. Lottie made the soap. It smelled terrible but worked great.

Each night before retiring, Henry would make oatmeal and let it set on the stove all night. A day on the Gonyer Farm began before daylight when Henry would get up to stoke the wood stoves and tend to the morning chores.

Breakfast at the Gonyer Farm always consisted of oatmeal, meat, such as bacon or ham, fried potatoes, eggs, baked beans, hot biscuits, coffee and cake. Henry definitely had a sweet tooth. After their noon time meal, which Henry called dinner; he would always lay down for a short nap. Then after an afternoon of hard work the family would have supper and they would go to bed early.

Henry Gonyer, a kind and gentle man who was admired by all, passed away February 23, 1966 in Eddington at the age of 81. Several of Henry's and Lottie's grandchildren and great grandchildren still live in the Eddington and Brewer area.

Thanks to Jerri White and her friends for contributing their knowledge for this article.

Norman Kelley *Metropolitan Opera Star*

Metropolitan Opera Star Norman Kelley was the fifth and youngest child of Jennie and John "Jack" Kelley. Born in Eddington on August 27, 1911 he grew up in the Eddington Bend area along with his siblings, Viola, Philip, Thelma, and Howard. During his youth Norman was active in the choir at the "Bend" Church and also in Saint John, New Brunswick where his grandparents resided.

Norman graduated from Brewer High School in the class of 1928, having skipped a grade. At age 16 he was on his way to Gordon College in Boston to study for the ministry when he saw an announcement of auditions being held at the Leland Powers School of the Theater. In he went, and won a scholarship, one of many, which made possible his educational preparation for the concert stage. Norman soon went to California to reside with his aunt's family so he could attend Pasadena Junior College where he starred in "The Student Prince". Norman was scheduled for a screen test but his big break into Hollywood ended when his appendix ruptured the night before his audition. However, he went on to win a scholarship to the Eastman School of Music in New York. In the 1930's he sang on the stage of the Radio City Music Hall and appeared on radio broadcasts of "Voice of Firestone" and also on the "Major Bowes Amateur Hour," where he won second prize, an upright piano. While serving as a captain in the U.S. Army from 1940-46 he appeared on the radio show "Fort Bragg Salutes America." After his stint in the Army he settled in New York and sang as a tenor with the Metropolitan Opera Company.

Norman was acclaimed as a singer who could act and an actor who could sing, reportedly a rarity in the operatic world. He put great enthusiasm into his roles, learning all the minute details that made the difference between a competent performance and a remarkable one. In Menotti's opera "The Consul," Norman played the role of the conjurer. To prepare for the role he went to a professional magician to learn the particulars of the trade, and soon was using the sleight-of-hand that allowed him to make a flower appear out of nowhere, or pull a coin from behind your ear. Despite his skill, though, there were comical mishaps. In Europe he magically produced white doves that flew out over the audience and then returned. At a performance in France, one of the doves perched on the hat of a lady theater-goer and wouldn't come back. After that he tethered his winged assistants with strings to keep them in line. Katie Morse Powers, still a resident of the Bend area, remembers Norman as the director of a little play at the North Brewer-Eddington Church in which she appeared and that he was exacting to the very last detail, even buying her a pair of shoes to match her outfit.

Norman married Maria Paradiso, another opera singer, in 1942 and that union produced two sons, John and Paul Kelley who currently reside in Maryland.



Norman and father, Jack Kelley (1942)

In 1956 Norman was honored as a "Son of Maine" on Maine Day and was fêted at a local parade, where he was the marshal. This was only one of his several visits back to his home state. Many summers he could be found at Lucerne Lake giving voice lessons to summer people. As stated in the Bangor Daily News on November 22, 1957 Norman was brought back by popular demand by the Bangor Junior Chamber of Commerce to give a repeat performance of his concert earlier that year in June. Norman was accompanied as usual by his pianist, Elsa Fiedler, sister to the Boston Pops Orchestra leader, Arthur Fielder.

After circling the globe entertaining for many years Norman settled in Easton, Massachusetts to be close to his older sister, Thelma. There he spent his remaining time cooking and gardening at his little "farm" until he passed away on September 4, 2006.

On December 9, 2007 Norman's memory was honored by his colleagues of the New England Opera Club at the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston. A large portrait of Norman in his role of Boris Gudenov painted by renowned artist Ann Hughes hangs in the Conservatory's lobby.

Norman is buried in the family plot at the North Brewer-Eddington Cemetery, North Brewer, Maine.

By Charlene (Kelley) Bowden

Corner of 46

A village is a rural settlement, a crossroads, with a collection of houses and people. In England a Village has a church but no market. For years, East Eddington has been called a Village. It has houses, people and a church. *Corner of 46* used to have Al's where you could get most anything and a Wicked Good Pizza. Today, we have *The TradeWinds* where you can get almost anything, a Wicked Good Pizza, a Wicked Good Cup of Coffee and *So Much More*

Al's Store 1950's



TradeWinds 2008



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Eddington Historical Calendar Report

During 2007 members of the Historical Society gathered up old pictures from the citizens of the town. A committee was chosen to make a calendar for 2008. The objective was to put a historical picture on each month. The pictures were to be of Eddington landmarks and/or of people of the town of Eddington.

Carlene Harmon was elected as chairman and Charlene Bowden, Lou Higgins, Angela Byther, Pam Dorr and Kay Mitchell were on the committee. After hours of viewing many pictures, twelve were chosen for the first calendar.

If the calendar is picked up, the cost is \$10 each. If one is to be mailed, the cost is \$12. To date 184 have been sold. There are several more available. *To Purchase one, see top part of last page for details*

Meetings, Membership & Officers

Dues: Yearly dues \$5
Life Membership \$25

Send name, address & telephone number to:

Lou Higgins
76 Jarvis Gore Drive
Eddington, ME 04428

Meetings are held the second
Sunday of the month at
the Municipal Building at 1 p.m.

President Richard Bowden
Vice President: Carlene Harmon
Secretary: Denise Knowles
Treasurer: Lou Higgins
Newsletter: Hilma H. Adams

Additional Copies of the
Eddington Historical Society Newsletter
Is Available On
www.adams-re.com

Just Click On  The Eddy Monument

Become a Life Member today by sending \$25.00 to
Lou Higgins at above address.

Entertainment

A Night

Of Humor With Tim Sample

Saturday, March 22, 2008

Eddington Clifton Civic Center

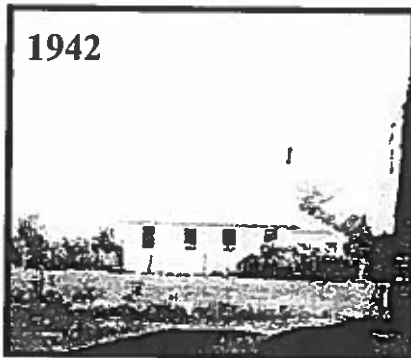
Show begins at 7 PM



#3 School, Then And Now



Row #1: Bub Knox, Row #2: Eveyln Tripp, Raymond Tripp, A. McSaulic, Rosaline McDonald, Unknown McDonald, Minnie Colson, Glenwood Sinclair, Doris Knox Row #3: Mary White, Carl Bickmore, Eugene Boynton, Wilbur Libby, Leroy McDonald, Ruth Bickmore, Roland Sinclair, Ora McDonald, Phil Adams Row #4: Leon Colson, Barbara Rankin, Stanley Greenacre, Gardner Tibbits, Irene McDonald

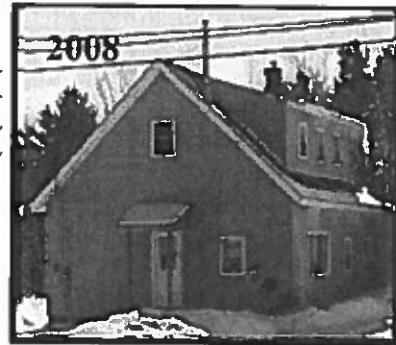


1942

Do You Have a Story to Tell

If you would like to have a story about Eddington folks, a neighbor, or about your home, and have it published in a future issue, put the details down on paper and send it to:

*Hilma Adams
Eddington Historical Newsletter
186 State Street, Bangor, ME 04401
or e-mail to
philma@roadrunner.com
Under subject put historical newsletter.*



2008

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A Business Card space, 2 X 3-1/2 will be available next issue for \$80. If you would like to advertise and support The Eddington Historical Society, Call Hilma at 990-3929 Or e-mail philma@roadrunner.com



1918
 Evangeline Knox

Life in The Ole School House

By Irvin Smith

I was two years old when my parents bought The Ole School House in 1956. They purchased it through Frederick Wood, who was the Treasurer for the Town of Eddington at that time. They paid \$750 which, at that time, was a lot of money. Our dad completely remodeled the inside of the building and soon gave it a warm cozy atmosphere that we called home. I had one younger brother at the time, but due to the long cold winters, dad being laid off from work and nothing else to do, I soon had four brothers.

I think our parents felt, by living in The Ole School House, it would keep us boys in a "learning" atmosphere all the time and how could they go wrong, right? Wrong!

Early on, the first four of us shared a bedroom upstairs with very little heat. In those days you thought nothing of living with little heat in the bedroom. We did, however, each have an electric blanket on our beds that helped take the edge off.

At times, this sleeping arrangement was a little stressful, but we got along pretty darn good most of the time. It wasn't until later that our fifth brother showed up on the scene. By this time, dad had put a dormer on the roof and added two more bedrooms to the upstairs making things roomier.

Our dad worked on different construction projects throughout the county and was away from home a lot. Now, without dad around, us boys soon learned how easy it was to push mother's "buttons." We also learned real quickly the buttons to stay away from as well. It was during these times that dad was away, I truly believe because we were living in an old school house, that mother had to take on the personality of the "Ole School Teacher" and boy did we learn quick.

It was later in life, when Mom and Dad were thinking about retiring, and spending winters in Florida, that they deeded The Ole School House over to our little brother. He started his family here and after living here for a few years they decided to build a new home and "The Ole School House" was sold to its current owners who, again, gave it a complete makeover. And so, life goes on at Eddington's oldest learning center, The Ole School House.

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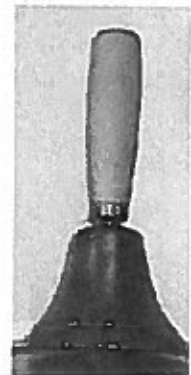


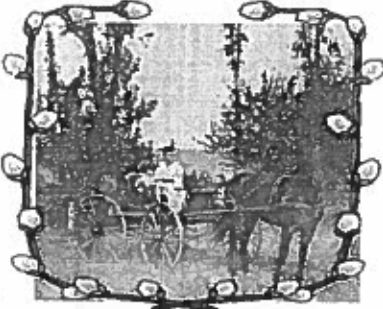
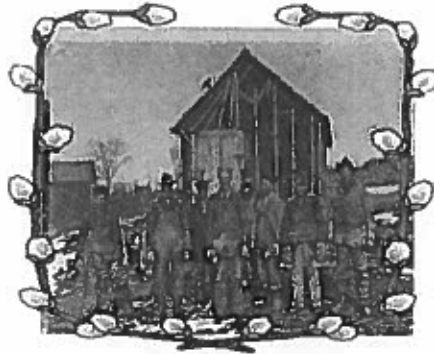
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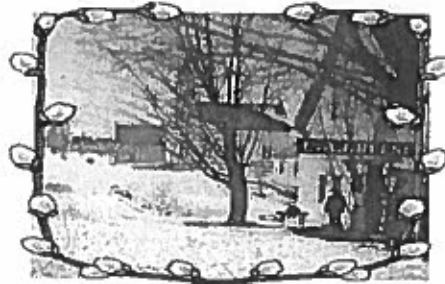
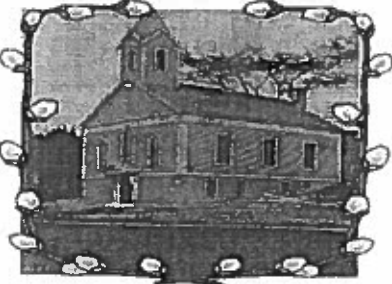
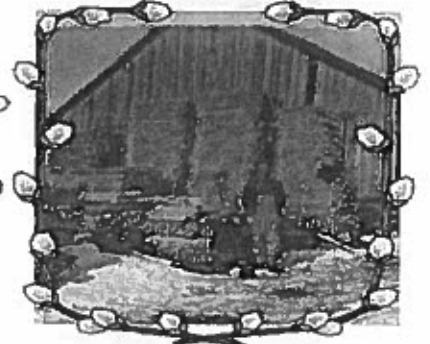
What Is It?

It is the Recess Bell for the #3 School House. It has been hidden away for many years in the partitions of the old school house building. Many thanks to Ron Michaud, the new owner of the property, for this generous gift from the past. And many thanks to Toy Maker, Larry Babcock, former resident of Eddington Bend, for polishing it and for the new handle.





**You May Buy Copies Of
The Historical Calendar By Call-
ing Kay Mitchell 207-843-5542 Or
You May Purchase Them At The
Town Meeting On March 25th**



**Eddington Historical Society
F. A. Wood Municipal Building
906 Main Street
Eddington, ME 04428**

**Town Meeting
March 25
See Page 1**