

## EDDINGTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

### EDDINGTON VIETNAM WAR VETERAN

**Michael P. Dougherty**

Written by Mike Dougherty

I enlisted in the US Air Force in June, 1969. I was sent to Lackland AFB, Texas for six weeks of basic training. I attended weapons specialist training school at Lowry AFB, Aurora, Colorado for 18 weeks. In December 1969 I was assigned to the 48<sup>th</sup> Tactical Fighter Wing (Liberty Wing), RAF Lakenheath, England. I worked in the weapons release shop, gun



shop and on a weapons configuration crew. During the next two years, I was deployed on multiple temporary duty (TDY) assignments throughout Europe as part of NATO and other joint operations. The TDYs lasted from two weeks to several months.

Pictured above left to right: A1C B. Kopshina, A1C B. Gulledge, SSGT M. Dougherty, and A1C C. Reaves.

Military service in Europe was as good as it got. RAF Lakenheath operated three squadrons of F-100 Super Sabers. We spent a lot of time training and maintaining the aircraft guns and weapon release systems. The F-100s were old; built during the 1950's. To my knowledge, a sortie was never missed.

In early 1972, RAF Lakenheath was phasing out the F-100s and transitioning to F-4D/E Phantom II. All maintenance and weapons personnel were being trained on the F-4s. During the same time period, we were preparing the F-100s to be reassigned in the US. In the late spring we were a TFW wing without aircraft.

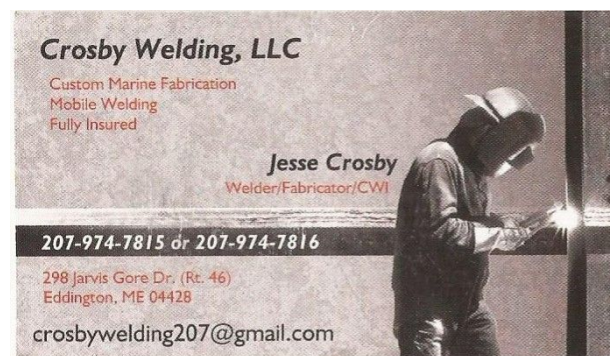
At about that time, President Nixon had ordered a drawdown of permanent troops stationed in Vietnam. Some of them were being replaced with TDY troops from various European units. Starting in May, RAF Lakenheath sent three detachments to bases in Thailand or Okinawa, Japan. I was in the fourth detachment which was sent to the Det. 1, 377<sup>th</sup> ABW, Bien Hoa, Vietnam in August, 1972.

I was assigned as a weapons load crew chief (four man crew). Our mission was to 'quick turn' tactical fighter aircraft. USAF F-4s and A-7s from Thailand would make combat sorties on a target, in-air refuel, and land at Bien Hoa. We would re-arm them with the designated ordinance. They would make a second strike and return from whence they came. The goal was to get them airborne in the least amount of time possible. At Lakenheath, it would take over an hour and a half to load and arm 18 500 pound bombs. At Bien Hoa, we loaded them in about 45 minutes. Some days we would turn as many as 30 aircraft with four weapon load crews.

Bien Hoa came under attack on nine occasions between our arrival and the cease fire. We were hit with from 1 to 64 B122 rockets and/or mortars. There were two sapper attacks and several contacts on the perimeter. During that time two aircraft were destroyed and 26 were damaged. Many men were wounded and one was killed before the cease fire.

All of us, from Lakenheath on TDY to Vietnam, returned home unharmed. Since we were assigned to the 377<sup>th</sup> ABW, we are authorized the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with the Combat Valor device, Vietnam Service Medal with Bronze Service Star, RVN Gallantry Cross Medal with Palm, and the RVN Campaign Medal.

In June of 1973, I received an Honorable Discharge with the rank of Staff Sergeant (E-5).



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The card features a background image of a welder in a dark environment, wearing a protective mask and working on a metal structure.



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The card features two green line-art icons: an excavator on the left and a bulldozer on the right.

## What Can I Do on a Summer's Day Written by Pam Dorr

What can I do on a summer's day?  
Well, I could find my fishing pole  
And hike on down to my favorite lake  
And not even tell a soul!

I'd take a worm from my trusty pail  
And put it on my hook,  
And then I'd cast my pole in the lake  
And catch a fish to cook

What can I do on a summer's day?  
Well, I could take a hike.  
I could climb up a hill somewhere  
Or maybe ride my bike.

As I went along the path, I'd find  
The pine cones as they lay.  
I could pick up and take them home  
For wreaths on a winter's day.

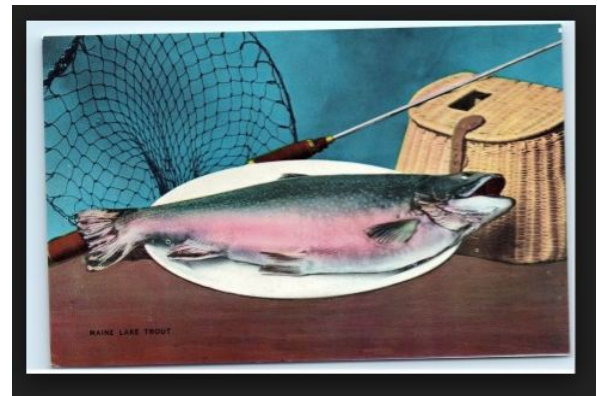
What can I do on a summer's day?  
Maybe take a ride down Route 9  
And see the lupines in the fields  
In a pink and purple line.

I could take some pictures  
Of wild turkeys, birds, and deer,  
And maybe I could spot a hawk  
Or the loons that live so near.

What could I do on a summer's day?  
Well, I could go somewhere to eat,  
Maybe I could go to Spencer's  
And have an ice cream treat.

Or maybe I could go to the Eddington Store  
On Heritage on Nine,  
Or I could stay home for watermelon,  
And that would be just fine.

I could do all these things in the summer,  
Even in the warm summer rain,  
As long as I lived in Eddington  
In the grand State of Maine.



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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Margaret Dougherty

The Eddington Historical Society welcomes four new members. We appreciate their new ideas and support. **Our 2019 Fishing calendar is available for \$10** at the Eddington Town Office, Eddington Town Store or a member of E.H.S. You will enjoy the pictures of your friends and neighbors and their fishing adventures. Maybe you will receive some fishing secrets about catching a “big fish”. This new calendar has business card sponsors from our local area. Please remember to use their services when possible.

E.H.S. successfully completed their August Food and Craft Sale at Sam's Club in Bangor. **Our next sale will be Wednesday, October 10<sup>th</sup> at Sam's Club from 10am to 4pm.** We hope you will visit the food and craft table by the exit door. This will be your last chance to purchase tickets for the Eddington Barn Quilt. Tickets: one for \$5 and five for \$20. Other events are being planned during October and November. Please visit [www.eddingtonme.gov](http://www.eddingtonme.gov), click more, and then select the Eddington Historical Society.



Our next Eddington Historical Society meeting will be Sunday, September 16<sup>th</sup>, 1pm at the Eddington Town office meeting room. Vintage clothing will be displayed. If you have items to display or model, please call Margaret at 843-7402. Please join us to see what life was like during those days.

## Bean Hole Bean Supper held June 23

The EHS hosted a highly successful traditional bean hole bean supper at the Eddington Clifton Civic Center on June 23, 2018. The event was co-led by Margaret Dougherty and Sylvia Decker, and countless volunteers contributed their time and homemade goodies to the event.

We are thrilled to announce that the supper earned us \$721 toward our building fund. We also gratefully received a donation of \$500. Thanks to everyone for supporting the EHS!

## A Recipe Puzzle...how would you make this cake?

### Quick German Coffee Cake

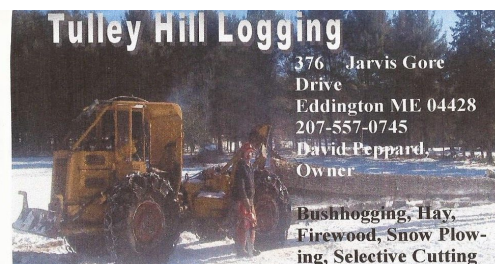
1 c. sweet milk	1 heaping tsp. butter	1
egg	½ tsp. salt	2 tsp. baking
powder	½ c. sugar	flour enough to make a stiff batter

*Sift the baking powder with part of the flour. The egg can be omitted. Cover the top with sugar, cinnamon, and bits of butter. Bake. Very nice hot for breakfast. Can cover the top of this cake with apple or peach slices, be careful to bake without burning.*

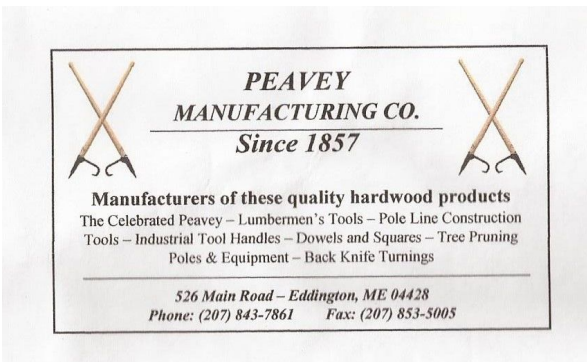
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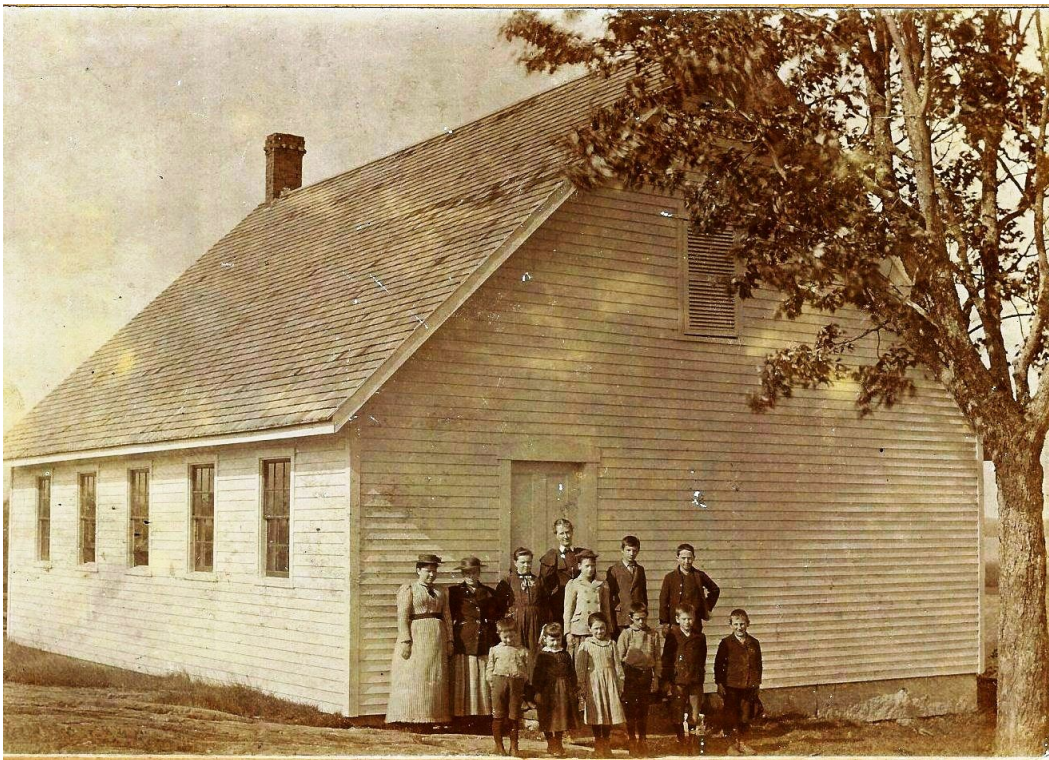
## District No. 7. Wm. B. Ward, Agent.

*Summer Term. Miss Annella L. Ward.*

We think this school worthy of praise. The order in the school-room, the attendance, and improvement were commendable. Number of scholars in the District 28; attending school 13; average 11; length of term 8 weeks.

*Winter Term. Mr. E. B. Comins.*

Under the efficient management of Mr. Comins the school maintained its reputation as one of the best schools in town. The usual good success of this school is largely due to the interest manifested in the school by the parents. Number of scholars attending school 20; average 17; length of term 59 days.



Pictured Top: Portion of March 1871 school report for School House #7.

Pictured Bottom: School House # 7, formerly across the road from Pine Tree Cemetery on Rt. 46.

## BARNS OF EDDINGTON EMBROIDERED QUILT

Drawing will be held in October! Don't miss out!

Twelve Panel Quilt hand-made by Gina Miller.

Each panel is based on the barns featured in the 2018 EHS Calendar.



Tickets for "BARNS OF EDDINGTON EMBROIDERED QUILT" can still be purchased at all meetings or from E.H.S. members. 1 ticket for \$5.00 or 5 tickets for \$20.00 This quilt displays the twelve Eddington barns from E.H.S. 2018 calendar.



Eddington Historical Society  
Eddington Town Office  
906 Main Rd  
Eddington, ME 04428

**Upcoming Events...**

**Next EHS meeting at the  
Eddington Town Office**

Sun, October 21 at 1pm

**EHS Fundraiser at Sam's Club in Bangor**

Wed, October 10 from 10am to 4pm

**Quilt Raffle**

Winning raffle ticket will be drawn in October!  
Buy your tickets soon at the Town Office!



*Vintage children's school book illustration "All Around Us" 1946*