



Eddington Historical Society Newsletter

Incorporated February 22, 1811.

Winter Issue, January 2011

CLASSMATES REUNITE



Arlene Adams, 1938

Arlene (Adams) Hamilton called on Katie (Morse) Powers at Katie's Eddington Bend home during one of Arlene's return trips to her native state. Both graduated from Brewer High School in 1938. Arlene, the eldest of three children, grew up on the Adams farm located at 263 Main Road, where her brother Phil still resides. Katie grew up on the corner of the Clewleyville and Main roads, just across the street from where she now lives.



Katie Morse, 1938

During their visit the conversation never lagged as they recalled the days and people of their youth. Unlike today, there was no school bus service; students were responsible for getting to school – and traveling to class was often a challenge, especially in winter.

After graduation their paths diverged: Arlene went to California and became a professor, last working at the University of Long Beach; Katie reared her family in Eddington and for many years worked at Emple's Knitting Mill in Brewer. Now at the age of 90, they still share wonderful recollections of a long-ago time when life was much simpler, and they lived in a community where doors were never locked and neighbors were more involved in each others' everyday lives.



Arlene and Katie visit in Katie's living room, more than 60 years after they were high-school classmates.

TOWN HONORS BELOVED NONAGENARIAN

On June 21, 2010 Katie Powers, who served our town as Ballot Clerk and was a favorite at elections for many years, was honored with a party at the Town Office to celebrate her 90th birthday. She enjoyed visiting with old friends and neighbors from her home town. Her late husband Carl plowed roads for the town for many years, and Katie enjoyed oil painting in her spare time (her work can be seen behind her in the photo above). Katie and Carl had three daughters: Carlene, Patty, and Sue. Carlene is deceased, Patty lives in Orland, and Sue now resides with Katie in her home at The Bend, the last house on the right before you leave Eddington and enter into North Brewer. It is there that Katie has been a fixture of the town for so many years.

The History of Peavey Manufacturing

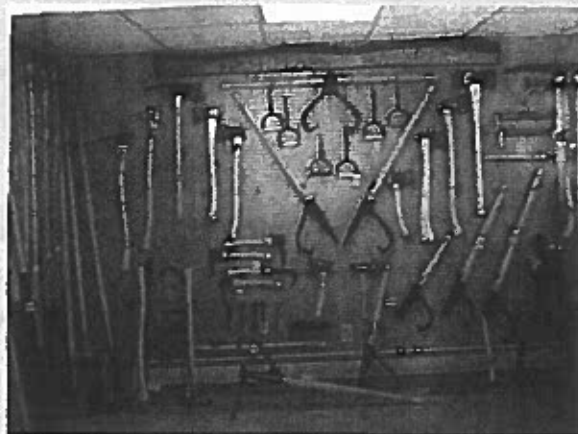
By Debbie Buswell

It was in the spring of 1857 that Joseph Peavey made the first tool to become known as the Peavey. With the first tool began the organization of the Peavey Manufacturing company, which for 152 consecutive years now has been making Peaveys and shipping them with other logging tools throughout the United States and many foreign countries.

The event took place in Stillwater, Maine, in the heart of a booming logging industry. One day a log drive became hung up on the Stillwater Branch of the famous Penobscot River. Joseph Peavey, who also invented the Peavey Hoist, hay press, wooden screw vice, clapboard machine, shingle machine, undershed water wheel, un-spillable ink well and many other things, lay flat on a bridge overhead watching the men with their improvised pries trying to free the jam. Seeing the unsteadiness of the pries and realizing they needed something different, the idea came to him that he could make a better tool. As the story goes, he jumped up, went back to his blacksmith shop and directed his son Daniel to make a clasp with lips, make holes in the lips for a hook to be inserted and toe rings below the clasp to the bottom of the handle. Finally a pick was driven into the end of the handle. The tool was turned over to river driver William Hale, who pronounced it a great success. Later Joseph Peavey made the first Peavey using a solid socket, in place of the toe rings, with a driven pick. James Henry Peavey, grandson of Joseph, created a more improved tool, which was then called the Bangor or Rafting Peavey. Around 1947 Lee and Ray Delano purchased the Peavey Mfg. Company. At that time they operated a foundry in Oakland and a wood products operation and sawmill in Madison. In July of 1966 the Madison facility burned down and could have easily put Peavey out of business. Dean Delano was managing Peavey at the time and he and Ray decided to move the business to Eddington to see if they could salvage the company. They moved into an old chicken house on Route 9 and began to put the pieces back together. In 1968 they built the first structure on the site where the Peavey mill still stands today. Dean Delano was part owner and manager with wife Val Delano through some very lean years. They eventually put Peavey back on the map, supplying the wood industry with quality products. In 1979 Rodney Buswell Sr. joined Peavey and after three years Dean Delano retired and left Rodney as manager. Over the past thirty years Peavey has developed into a true family business. Rodney's wife Debbie is office manager, sons, Rod Buswell Jr is production manager, Randy Buswell is supervisor over the sawmill/optimizer operations and son-in-law Jeff Gideon handles shipping and maintenance. Daughter Tracey Gideon is the safety supervisor. Some of the employees have been with the company so long they are also like family. For example Tom Beatham has been with Peavey for thirty five years. There are a few that have been with the company for twenty years and more, Harold Towle, John Violette, William Hover, Doug Harmon, and David Finley. The loyalty and hard work are appreciated. Ray Delano, who purchased the company sixty-two years ago, is still active in some of the decision making today. The Peavey Mfg. Company has spent the last 152 years catering to the needs of people dealing with wood. Customers range from the logging industry and furniture manufacturers, to pole line construction tool users and tree arborists. We are in some of the finest white ash and rock maple country anywhere for the production of industrial tool handles, dowels and turnings. By having their own sawmills, dry kilns and turning facilities as well as the in-house metal forging capabilities they have great control over their production. They continue to work at getting better utilization from raw materials. They manufacture poles, dowels and turnings from four or five inches in length all the way up to twenty feet long with as much value added as possible, including varnish and painted finished. The present facility of the Peavey Manufacturing Company is located just five miles downriver from where historical events took place that changed the logging industry forever.



Rodney Buswell



The Company Show Room

The following is an article written on the occasion of Eddington's Centennial in 1911. Who wrote it and where it was published is unknown. How fitting for our Bicentennial in 2011!

Eddington is a fine town whose history goes back to the time of the Revolutionary War, although it was not formally incorporated as a town until February 22 in 1811. Because of deep snows and blocked highways as a rule, the formal celebration of the event was postponed to August 10 of the year 1911, when there was feasting and general rejoicing in East Eddington, the chief village in the town, near the Clifton town line, where the stores, hotels, manufacturing industries and the public hall are situated.

Of the nine towns incorporated in the State of Maine by the Great and General Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in 1811, six of the number were in Penobscot Country – Exeter, Charleston, Garland, Eddington, Carmel, and Corinth – and though Eddington is not the largest or richest among them, it is, perhaps, the most famous, from its historical association, as well as for its perpetuation of a heroic name, the bearer of which performed valiant service for this country during and before the Revolutionary War. According to Varney, Congress, as early as 1785, recommended that a tract of land, now included within the town lines of Eddington, be granted to Jonathan Eddy and “nineteen others” for the sufferings they had endured from British persecution while residing in the province of Nova Scotia, before they were compelled to escape to Maine to save themselves from a violent and cruel death. This escape was made in 1776, very nearly the same date when hundreds of rank Tories from Massachusetts, Maryland, and other American colonies were being ordered or forcibly ejected from this side of the line because of their outspoken sympathies for the cause of King George III.

Colonel Eddy and the “nineteen others,” it seems, were remembered by grants of Maine land from Massachusetts, though land was very cheap in those days, and Eddington seemed far away from Christian civilization. Not only is the town nearer now in these times of state roads and automobiles; but there is promise of it coming still nearer, when the new steam railroad from Brewer to Houlton shall be finished, or when Mr. Graham shall expedite a new trolley line from Bangor to the fishing and outing resorts on the shores of Eddington Pond. Years and years ago Eddington was on the main lines of travel in eastern Maine, it being one of the places of call along the ancient “air-line” stage route from Bangor to Calais, though the hills are far too steep over the “Whale's Back” to make the journey popular at these times.

On the map of Maine, Eddington lies on the east bank of Penobscot River reaching from Brewer to Bradley, something in the form of a hoop-segment or a new moon, which is nearly 10 miles long, and seldom more than three miles in width. The soil is a deep and fertile loam with gravel making outcroppings near the hills. All the crops that can be grown in the latitude of Bangor flourish abundantly in their season, as scores of prosperous Eddington farmers can testify. There are two Methodist societies at “The Bend” with a permanent pastor, and a fine Universalist edifice overlooking the busy village near Eddington Pond where services are held regularly during the summers.

The *Maine Register* marks both of these churches as “vacant;” the mistake is one which does not give the town credit for the piety it really possesses.

It is believed that the former sons and daughters of Eddington will join with the regular residents in doing honor to the patriotism and self-sacrifice of Colonel Jonathan Eddy and his nineteen associates who endured abuse, reviling blows and many hardships, because they were loyal to the cause of the Colonies, and since it is now all too late to greet them in person, let their brave deeds which were honored by Congress more than a century ago, be rehearsed fondly and with reverence, until Eddington children shall grow up to respect the name and pay tribute to the acts of a brave and honorable gentleman, who forsook all his worldly possessions for the sake of establishing human liberty.

(Source Unknown)

Grandma Blackman

*Death of Aged Eddington Woman
Born in Corinth in 1817*

Obituary from the *Bangor Daily Commercial/Telegraph*.
1912:

At the ripe old age of 94 years, there passed away in Eddington February 20th, Mrs. Sylvia Knapp Campbell, widow of the late John Wesley Blackman. She being the youngest child of Robert and Mary Campbell, who were among the first settlers of the town of Corinth, where she was born October 25, 1817. Her oldest brother being the first white child born in that township.

She was honored with the gold headed cane represented in the sketch by the Boston paper as being the oldest citizen in the town of Eddington.

She was married to Mr. Blackman in Corinth March 16, 1837, by Rev. Thomas C. Watson, and seven children were born to them, three of whom have passed through the pearly gates: Horace died in far distant Honolulu; Bradley at the old homestead; and little Eddy drowned many years ago. Four are still living: Almon of Langley, Wash.; Charles of Everett, Wash.; Ithiel of Lincoln Centre; and Mrs. Ella Gray of Everett, Wash.

They came to Greenbush on the Penobscot river and "kept tavern" in "the old Campbell house," so called, afterwards moving to Eddington, where she had lived for over 60 years, working for her family with untiring energy, spinning, weaving and making the cloth into garments for her family's use.

Being very skillful with the needle, her home was filled with beautiful pieces of needle work, many of which were made after her 90th birthday, also knitting many pairs of stockings within the last few months. Her life has spanned nearly a century in which there has been the most astounding progress in every avenue of human activity.

She was a woman of keen sympathy, possessing an active mind, energy and decision of will, with a generous heart and many who were in need of aid, remember her quick response and cheerful smiling face, always accompanied by a kindly word and her home was conducted with open hospitality. For many years she was a regular attendant at Northport campground where she spent many happy hours in her little "home by the sea," as she called it. "Grandma Blackman" will be greatly missed not only by her family but by a wide circle of friends in the community in which she lived so many years. A good and true woman has gone to her reward.



The Late Mrs. Sylvia (Campbell) Blackman



Above: The Blackman Homestead at 599 Riverside Drive. This is the home that Warren and Diane Gardner rescued from neglect. Warren was a talented carpenter and brick mason who passed away in October of 2010. Warren is buried in the Blackman Cemetery just across the road from the home he so lovingly restored. *rest; you*

*Gone and the world to go on as before;
Gone, with a smile from the old homestead door.
Dear faithful heart, to come back no more,
O sad nevermore.
Home is not home, mother's not there;
Dark is her room, empty her chair;
Angels have taken her out from our care,
Lifted her over life's stair.
Sleep, mother, sleep, with your hand
on your breast;
Poor weary hands, they needed their
Well have we loved you, but God loved*

By Bruce Bowden

In the mid-1700's our town was still a wilderness, largely unpopulated, with only an occasional native Indian group traversing the area to hunt or fish. Pristine forests of tall pines met the waters of the Penobscot River, and as European settlers streamed into North America, they were taken aback by this seemingly endless resource, unseen in Europe; over the preceding centuries the forests of Europe were largely denuded, used as fuel by nobility and commoner alike. Lumber and fuel were valuable commodities, and arable land was largely controlled by the aristocracy. The dense forests of Maine and the virgin soils here promised lumber, agriculture, and prosperity for those industrious enough to make use of them, and settlers began to move away from densely populated areas such as Boston and Cape Cod – and headed for the frontier in the wilds of Maine to seek their fortunes.

When the Revolutionary War broke out, our British masters recognized the great strategic and economic importance of this area. Timber from our forests was readily available for shipbuilding; ships were vital to commerce – and prosperity. The British navy, at the time the world's largest, also recognized the serious challenge that a Colonial navy could present, and in June 1779 a British fleet sailed into Castine, at the mouth of Penobscot Bay, and laid earthworks to make Fort George and control shipping on the Penobscot River. Despite assurances that colonists who gave them no trouble would themselves remain untroubled, British forces habitually struck terror in the hearts of the locals, especially women and children, and inhabitants were compelled to take an oath of allegiance to the King – or leave their homes. Colonists were regularly robbed of their cattle and other property – anything the British forces decided they needed or wanted for their troops. (These actions later gave rise to the Fourth Amendment in our Constitution, prohibiting unreasonable search and seizure.) Thus oppressed, entire families fled upriver.

As noted, Eddington, first referenced in Colonial-era documents as Township No. 10 and located at the head of tide of the Penobscot River, was largely unpopulated. One of the first settlers was James Nichols, born in Londonderry, Ireland, in 1741. Having established a homestead here, he refused to take an oath of allegiance to George III, and British troops burned his home. Since early homes of that era were crude cabins cut from local timber, James Nichols was undeterred; he remained, and rebuilt. He married a local woman, Hannah Mary Mann, and they raised a large family.

With independence in 1783 the number of settlers to this area increased, and local Penobscot tribesmen became increasingly concerned for their ancestral hunting lands; they were promised protected use of their land in gratitude for their loyalty to the Colonies during the Revolution: Protected territory was six miles in width, extending from head of tide in the river to as far as the tribe claimed. The natives claimed this area as hunting grounds for their own exclusive use and pleasure.

After the Revolution, Colonel Jonathan Eddy and 19 others were granted land as compensation for military service: 9000 acres on the east bank of the Penobscot. Colonel Eddy brought his family here in March of 1784. As more settlers arrived in Eddy Town, encroachment onto the Penobscots' hunting grounds increased, and the Indians appealed to the Massachusetts General Council for relief from the offending parties. A commission was appointed in March of 1785 by the Massachusetts government to negotiate with the chiefs of the Penobscot Tribe and set the boundaries of their land.

A treaty was signed in 1796 wherein the Penobscots agreed to cede all rights to territory stretching from Nichol's Rock (located in the river in back of what is now Riverside Grange, near the town line) to 30 miles upriver, except Indian Island and all islands in the river above it. In exchange they received 150 yards of blue woolens, 400 pounds of shot, 100 pounds of powder, 100 bushels of corn, 13 bushels of salt, 36 hats and a barrel of rum. In addition, a supply of 300 bushels of Indian corn, 50 pounds of powder, 200 pounds of shot and 75 yards of blue woolen "fit for garments," were to be delivered annually at the mouth of the Kenduskeag River.

Civilization, as some perceived it, had come to our area.

Early History of the Eddington-Clifton Civic Center
by Margaret McKinney

In November 1875 a group of 43 farmers organized the East Eddington Farmer's Club. The farmers gathered to discuss better farming practices. In 1878 they sponsored the first East Eddington Agricultural Fair. The hall was built in 1879 and incorporated as the East Eddington Public Hall Co. This building served as the social and cultural center of the area for 122 years.

In April 1983 the hall was deeded to a new organization named the Eddington-Clifton Civic Center. The purpose of the new organization was to maintain and manage the property for the benefit of the people in the area. Shortly after the transfer of the property, the building was named Comins Hall in honor of the Comins family who were active in the state, county and town government for four generations.

The Eddington-Clifton Civic Center is the organization that owns and manages the use of Comins Hall. Comins Hall is a valuable community asset. It is being used by a variety of community and local groups, such as the Grange, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, 4-H, Weight Watchers, Plant and Pray Garden Club, Historical Society, Snowmobile Club, ATV Club, Bingo, Eddington Town meetings and voting, church services, anniversaries, birthday parties, retirement parties, weddings and receptions, reunions, suppers, yard sales, food sales, craft fairs and plays. In the last year the hall was used 153 days for community activities. It is the only large meeting place in Eddington and Clifton. It is used for private functions by residents for a modest fee. This hall is an active community center for both towns.

I have a historical interest in Comins Hall as it is named in memory of my ancestors. Members of the Comins family were leaders in the community, town, county and state government for almost two centuries. My great grandfather, Jerome Harris Comins, was active in forming the Farmer's Club which built the hall in 1829. My grandfather, J. Herbert Comins, was treasurer of the Public Hall Co. for 48 years. My parents, Leon and Alma Comins Williams were active in the reorganization of the present Eddington-Clifton Civic Center. My brother, Melvin Williams and sister, Ruth Perry, were past presidents of the ECCC. I have been the building manager for Comins Hall for six years. This hall is a historical landmark. It still stands straight and square for over 130 years. This building is a proud symbol of our community, heritage and spirit.

A Sketch of the History of Comins Hall

1879—Built by the East Eddington Farmers Club. Owned and managed by the East Eddington Public Hall Co. Supported primarily by bean suppers, volunteer labor and donations. R. Leon Williams once commented that "the beans served over the years would make a pile as large as the hall"! The Grange met regularly at the hall and did a lot of the up keep. Boy Scouts and others helped too.

1982—CRISIS!! Out of money. Roof leaking. Property taxed for first time in it's history! Building not up to state fire and safety codes.

1983—A few members of the old hall company and other interested residents in Eddington and Clifton decide to form a new corporation and seek tax exempt status to encourage large donations. Leo Loiselle obtained tax exempt status. New corporation named THE EDDINGTON-CLIFTON CIVIC CENTER CORP. Printed fund raising brochure. Agreed to name building for \$10,000; auditorium for \$5,000; dining hall \$2,500. Donation received! Named building Comins Hall in honor of the Comins family—leaders in Eddington, Penobscot County and the State for more than three generations. (see plaque on the corridor wall).

1984 Bingo licensed to earn money. Unpaid, dedicated volunteers work several hours each Wednesday evening to manage the games ad food service.

1986—Historical Society donated \$5000 to name the auditorium in honor of Mason Shaw and family for their many years service to the community.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY EDDINGTON

February 22, 2011 will mark the 200th anniversary of incorporation for the Town of Eddington. A Bicentennial Committee is working on raising funds, creating a celebration budget, and organizing plans for a yearlong celebration throughout the Town.

The Committee has organized several fundraisers already. In June they held the first ever "Sell Your Stuff" yard sale at the Town Office, raising money by selling spaces and refreshments. In September it was selling refreshments at the Comins Hall Yard Sale and in November a Hunter's Luncheon at Comins Hall. The committee designed and has available for purchase t-shirts, hats and canvas bags commemorating the Bicentennial. They can be purchased at the Town Office. The next fundraiser will be a raffle. Tickets will be on sale starting in late January and will be sold until the drawing on April 19th. Many great prizes have been donated. A second raffle is planned with tickets on sale from April to July with the drawing on July 22nd. Another possible fund raiser may be an antique car show during the summer.

The kickoff event will be an anniversary celebration on the actual date of incorporation February 22nd. An evening of town history through music, speeches, displays, the premier of a skit marking the incorporation ceremony (written by late Historical Society member Susan McGinley), and ending with birthday cake and beverages will be enjoyed by everyone. The event will be held at Comins Hall, the oldest public hall still standing in our town, from 6:45 pm to 8:00 pm.

There are also plans to hold an event in the early summer at a location to feature Eddington's ties to the Penobscot River. There will be a Flag Day Ceremony on June 14, 2011. Another possible activity throughout the warm days is a historic tour of the town's cemeteries.

The biggest event will take place the weekend of July 22nd with plans for a parade, dance, historical displays, old fashioned games, fireman's muster, town picnic or barbecue and more. Please come and be part of another chapter of Eddington's history. Watch for notices in the Weekly, on the Town of Eddington Website and the Time Warner Cable Municipal Access Channel 7 for further information of events throughout the year.

If you are interested in helping on the Committee or if you belong to an organization that would like to participate in the festivities, please contact the Town Office or one of the following members of the Committee: Margaret McKinney, Pat Wilking, Susan Dunham-Shane, Ralph Russell, Richard & Charlene Bowden, Denise Knowles and Therese Anderson. They would appreciate your ideas and input. We want to make sure that we include everyone who wants to take part in the celebration.

Eddington is a beautiful and special town to live in and we want to do it proud by giving it the birthday party it deserves!

CONTRIBUTORS

A big THANK YOU to the following businesses for their contributions to the raffle and the Bicentennial Celebration:

Atlantic Communications Inc,	Higgins Logging and Lumber
Northeast Restaurant Equipment Inc	J G Faulkner Inc
Heritage Tackle and Gear	Bangor Hydro Electric
Peavey Manufacturing	Created Design Graphics
Tradewinds Variety	Eastern Maine Services

Anyone who would like to make a contribution can either drop it off at the Town Office or mail it to 906 Main Road, Eddington, ME 04428. If you would like to make other arrangements, please call Denise at 843-5233. All contributions will be greatly appreciated and will be noted in advertisements for the events.

*****Reminders*****

- The Historical Society would greatly appreciate any old pictures or written historical information. The Historical Society will scan pictures or written materials so those who have such items may retain them if they wish.
- Make sure your membership is current so you will continue to receive your quarterly newsletter.
- Calendars are still available at the Town Office and will be available at upcoming BiCentinnial events. The cost is \$10.00 each.

In addition, according to Maine Statute 29-A, 2396 a person may not place and allow to remain on a public way snow or slush that has not accumulated there naturally. Flowing snow on to or across a right-of-way is prohibited — and the offender may be fined. 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.

WINTER PARKING REMINDERS

License your dog(s) by January 31, 2011 to avoid any late fees. All dogs over the age of six months are required by state law to be licensed and to wear their license tag. Dog licenses can be obtained at the Town Office. Cost is \$6.00 or \$11.00. Please bring your dog(s) most recent Rabies vaccination certification.

DOG REGISTRATIONS

The annual Town Meeting will take place on Tuesday, March 22, 2011 at 7:00 pm at the Eddington Elementary School.

Voting for the two Selectmen and two School Board Member positions will take place on Monday, March 21, 2011 from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm in the meeting room of the Town Office.

Nomination papers for Selectmen and School Board Members are available at the Town Office. They must be turned in to the Town Office by the end of the day February 4, 2011.

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

The Eddington Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on Thursday, January 27th and Thursday, February 10th, 2011 at 6:30 pm on the Wind Energy Facility Ordinance at the Municipal Building, 906 Main Road. All citizens are invited to attend and give comment for or against said Ordinance. Copies available at the Eddington Town Office and at www.eddingtonmaine.gov

WIND ENERGY FACILITY ORDINANCE, LARGE- AND SMALL-SCALE

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

EDDINGTON TOWN OFFICE
906 MAIN ROAD
EDDINGTON, ME 04428

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U.S. POSTAGE PAID
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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