



Town of Eddington · February 22, 1811

EDDINGTON

Historical Society

NEWSLETTER

FALL 2025

In Memory Of

RICHARD LEE BOWDEN 1938 - 2025

Richard Bowden was the president of Eddington Historical Society for more than a decade. He researched the early history of life and development in the town of Eddington, originally settled as Plantation #10. Richard organized historical programs and events. During Eddington's Bicentennial in 2011, Richard portrayed Col. Jonathan Eddy presenting the early history of Eddy town. Eddington Historical Society members sincerely

appreciate Richard's organization, humility and dedication to our society. Richard played his bagpipes at Eddington's Bicentennial closing ceremony, at the Eddy Monument service by the Penobscot River and at many Wreaths Across America Ceremonies at the Eddington Town Office Veterans Monument. He generously volunteered his time and skills in our community.

were outstanding." Richard was awarded the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Air Force Achievement Medal with two oak leaf clusters and others.

Richard loved to travel having visited England, Scotland, Germany, Italy, Spain and Türkiye, as well as many deployments to military bases though out the USA. After he retired, he and Charlene traveled extensively.



Richard Bowden, 87, passed away on May 9, 2025. He was born on April 27, 1938, son of Donald and Thelma (Perkins) Bowden of Orrington. Richard attended Orrington schools and graduated from Brewer High School class of 1956. He was a life long autodidact. Married in 1960 to Charlene Kelly of Eddington, they spent the next 65 years together and reared three children. Richard was a man of integrity, principle and purpose with immense patience. He approached everything with a can-do attitude. He became a full-time member of the Air National Guard in 1960 and served 42 years, 7 months and 8 days in uniform. In 1998 at mandatory retirement Richard had risen to Chief Master Sargent in charge of aircraft maintenance. He was described as "the smartest and most decent Senior Non-Commissioned Officer to work with. His knowledge, personal integrity and leadership skills



HISTORIC BUILDINGS

By Hilma H. Adams

THE ADAMS FARMHOUSE, AKA THE WILLIAM THOMPSON HOMESTEAD

In 1893 Albion Page purchased the property with all its contents, farm tools and the like. In 1895 Route 9 was south of its present location. It ran behind all the houses from Eddington Bend to Libby's Salvage Yard. Therefore, the Little Cape "The William Thompson Homestead" in the center of the present structure, was moved to be closer to the new Route 9. The front and the back structures were added in preparation for Albion and Eliza (Abbott) Page and their children Cora, Byron, Blanch, James, Margaret and new baby Esther.

At the late 1800 and early 1900 it became a Halfway House for travelers coming from Otis to Bangor to sell their goods. Stagecoach driver, Edward Grover left the Otis Store weekly with items of trade. At the

Halfway House, he would put up his horses for the night, eat supper with the Page family where he shared stories after dinner before retreating up the back stairs to a Cozy Bunk Room. After an early morning breakfast, he took his horses and load of goods to "The Bend", ferried across the Penobscot River and then on to Bangor to the Pickering Square Marketplace. Another coachman, Henry Moore would come from the Rt 9 Townships, stay overnight, go to Bangor and then return at the end of the day. Each week, Eliza prepared pre-cut trousers by stitching them together and making fly button holes on her treadle Singer Sewing machine. When MR Grover returned, he had with him another load of pre-cut trousers for Eliza to assemble. All the while the place was a working farm with horses, cows, chickens, geese etc. Albion Page was a peddler of farm goods. He rode his horse and buggy along established public roads in Eddington and

Clifton to peddle his goods. He also took foot trails to the local Indian encampments to trade. Returning from one of his trips to the Ancestral Indian encampment located several hundred feet east of the new I 395/Route 9 Connector, he declared, "The Indians always choose the best horses".

In 1919 Esther married a WWI Veteran, George "Roland" Adams. Their children, Arlene, George and Philip were born in the parlor of the newly renovated house. It remained a working farm, milk and butter was delivered to local stores in Eddington. Vegetables and fruits were sold alone side the road. Roland worked at Railway Express for several years. Esther, renowned for her monthly noon meals, served the Bangor Hydro meter readers for 42 years. The dining table dressed in linen, had all the fixings of a full-course dinner and was topped off with a delightful dessert. In the early years, Roland was not



just a farmer, he would run his own car to transport Eddington's school children. Owners of the first big yellow school buses, Roland and son Phil, transported the children to the Eddington and Brewer schools. Those were the days when the bus drivers would stop at a store or at his home to treat the children with ice cream or cake.

For a time, all of Roland and Esther's children and grandchildren lived in the farmhouse. Arlene's children, Luanne, Joe and Diane Hamilton, George, a WWII veteran, his wife Sophie and their children Carloyn, Barbara, George JR, Donna and Terry, Phil and Hilma's, children, Philip JR and David.

Roland's brother, Earl, a WWI Veteran, for 70 years after the war ended, lived and worked on the farm cutting pulp, haying and gardening along with three generations of the Adams family.

In 1979 Phil, a WWII veteran, and his wife Hilma took over the farm. They modernized the farmhouse with new kitchens, baths, flooring, windows, doors, decks, electrical upgrades, etc. and made it into apartments, but it still held the essence of rich history within its walls. They brought in their sons, Philip JR, his wife Kim and their three children, Ashley, Philip III, Alexandra, and David, his wife Kim and their two boys Brian and Andrew. The farmhouse resonated with laughter as grandchildren filled the rooms, exploring the vast fields and woods, creating their own adventures with family and friends.

In 1999 the farmhouse found new owners when Mike and Diane Rimm purchased it. As they continuing to make home improvements, the sound of merriment is heard as their grandchildren roam the property.

The spirit of family living lingers on. Memories of countless gatherings in every corner of the home is now a memory of family, hard work, and love, reminding those who entered that every brick held a part of the past.

FUNDRAISER FUN!



EHS FALL BAZAAR September 13



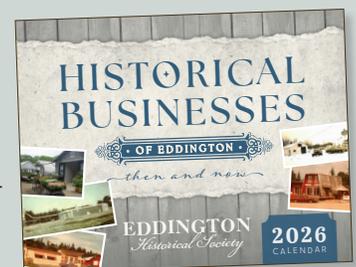
EHS GOLF TOURNAMENT

September 27



NOW AVAILABLE!

The Eddington Historical Society's 2026 calendar *Historical Businesses of Eddington: Then & Now* is here! Pick up your copy for \$10 at the Eddington Town Office and EHS events. Get yours today!



A Town

By Pam Dorr

A land full of beauty—pine trees and small streams,
A land just waiting to fulfill a man's dreams,
But this land must be nourished and work must abound
In order to mold raw nature into a town.

A man must be willing to sacrifice all
So that his sons can grow up to be tall
In a wilderness of bear and deer,
In a new home with nothing to fear.

This man must also be willing to share
And give part of his land to others who care.
Each of these people will be willing to do
Whatever it takes to see their dream through.

Most men will have a talent in a special trade,
And together they'll share the things that they've made.
There will be bakers and builders and farmers and more.
Some of these men will open a store

They will make tools and sell them to others in need.
Folks will buy produce, their families to feed.
Later they will construct many roads
And truckers will begin to carry great loads.

Before you know it, the land from long ago
Has become a place to live and to grow
So thank you to everyone who helps in their way
To make a little town into what it is today!

EAST EDDINGTON COMMUNITY CHURCH PIPE ORGAN

This information was received from Stanley J. Johnson in 1990 for the Eddington Church's 100th Anniversary.

Stanley tells about the pipe organ in the East Eddington Community Church. More than 75 years ago Stanley's Aunt Edna Johnson told him about the purchase in 1891 of the pipe organ from the Universalist Church in Old Town. Edna's father David B. Johnson, Stanley's grandfather, hauled the organ from Old Town to East Eddington in an open body sled called a "pung". They traveled by way of Davis Road which at that time intersected with present day Rt. 178, just south of Eddington-Bradley town line. This was the shortest route between Eddington and Bradley.

The organ was set up in the church with the wooden pump handle extended from the side towards the pulpit. The handle was near the back edge of the organ at a height suitable for operation by a child seated in a small chair. The pump handle, chair and child were all hidden by a curtain about 5 feet high going from the front of the organ to the back wall of the church. When the

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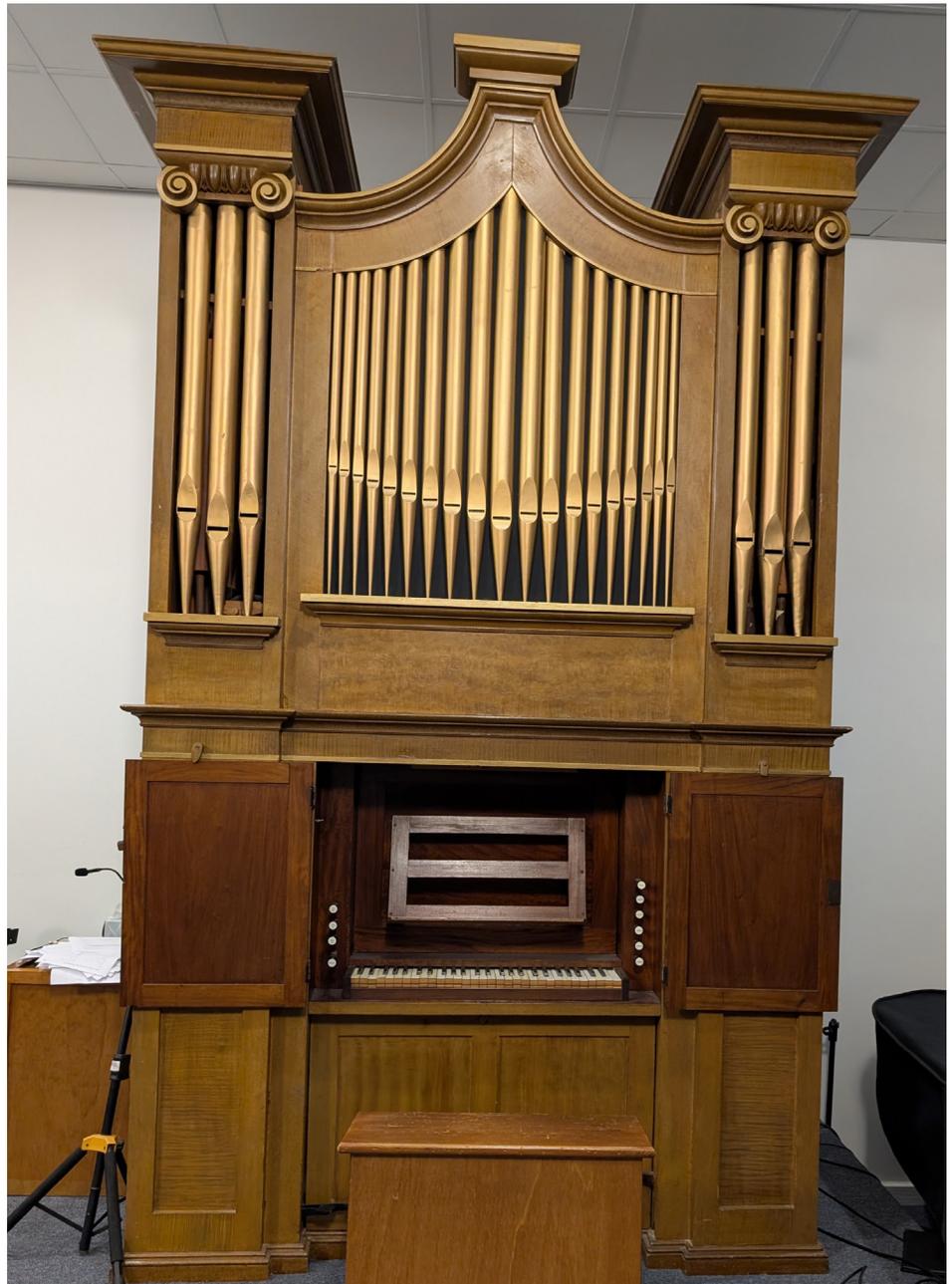
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organist entered the platform to take her place, the child followed her and went behind the curtain. Before the sermon the Organist moved back to sit in the front pew and the child sat in the pew behind her. In Stanley's day the child was a boy but in later years boys and girls took their turn pumping the organ.

Stanley was told about the early days when George Stevens did not go back to his seat but remained cooped up for a long time during the sermon. When the organist started the final hymn, no sound came from the organ. Upon looking behind the curtain to find the trouble, she found Georgie sound asleep.

The first boy Stanley remembers pumping the organ was Aubrey Comins. Aubury held the job for several years then Stanley was the organ boy. The job paid twenty-five cents per Sunday. That was princely pay considering that a man working ten hours a day in the mill was only paid \$1.25 at that time. However with family persuasion Stanley's money was returned to pay the minister's stipend.

During Stanley's days as organ boy, his cousin Inez Merrill was organist. In later years Clara Jackson was organist, and her son Seth Jackson was organ boy. In 1950 the organ was converted to electricity and the organ pumper became extinct.



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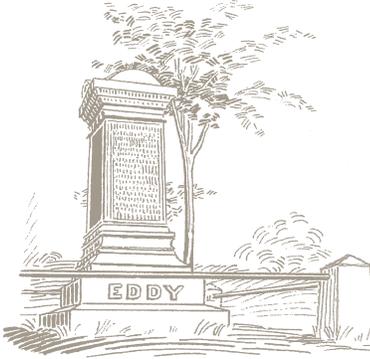
 Annuals, Perennials,
 & Vegetable Plants 

The Eddington Historical Society newsletter is designed & printed by
FULL CIRCLE
 printing solutions
 265 Water Street • Ellsworth, ME • (207) 667-5227

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Eddington Town Office
906 Main Road • Eddington, ME 04428



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JOIN THE EDDINGTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY!

Our members are the backbone of our town, preserving history and supporting events. We meet at the Town Office on the 3rd Sunday of each month at 1 p.m. – join us!

Eddington Historical Society

PIE SALE

TUESDAY
NOVEMBER 25

4:00–5:30 p.m. (Or until sold out!)
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To pre-order, call Margaret D. at (207) 843-7402
(Accepting pre-orders until Friday, November 21st)

