

NEWBURY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Newsletter
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ELIJAH TUTTLE GRACE, Civil War Soldier

Last May, the Newbury Historical Society's research group was delighted to welcome Robin Rockwell of Keene, NH. Robin is the great great grandson of Elijah Tuttle Grace who was born in Lovell, Maine on May 21, 1824. By 1853, Elijah was living in Manchester, NH and had married Arabella Eaton (1816-1896), also of Manchester. The couple was farming in Newbury, NH and had two children born there, Horatio Tuttle Grace (1856) and Elizabeth Eaton Grace (1860) when Elijah made his way to Manchester, NH and mustered into the 10th NH Regiment on Sept. 4, 1862. Robin has shared with us his research, including many letters written by Elijah to his wife during the early part of the Civil War. Some of these are excerpted here.

Elijah Tuttle Grace was assigned to "H" Company and by Sept. 22, 1862 was on his way by train to Arlington, VA. Near Baltimore, MD the train was involved in a collision. One 10th NH Regiment soldier was killed and several suffered injuries. They reached Arlington, VA on Sept. 26 where the 10th NH Regiment joined the Army of the Potomac under General Ambrose E. Burnside.

On Dec. 13, 1862, the Army of the Potomac under General Burnside suffered a catastrophic defeat at Fredericksburg, VA. "We might as well have tried to take hell," a Union soldier is said to have remarked after the battle against Robert E. Lee and Stonewall Jackson. Union losses were reported at 12,653, with Confederate losses at 5,309.

Elijah soldiered on until the Second Battle of Fair Oaks in Virginia on Oct. 27-28, 1864. He was among the 600 prisoners, 61 of whom were from the 10th NH Regiment, taken to Salisbury Confederate Prison in Salisbury, NC. Elijah succumbed to the inhumane conditions in Dec. of 1864 and was buried in a mass grave.

Upon the death of Arabella Grace in 1896, twin gravestones for Arabella and her husband Elijah were erected in the So. Newbury Cemetery. Elijah's stone incorrectly indicates that he died at age 38 in Libby Prison which was at Richmond, VA. Robin's research showed that errors had been made when the headstone was ordered, possibly by a relative who did not have the correct information. His actual date of death is listed as Dec. 9 or 10, 1864 on various documents.

Elijah's Own Words

Sept. 18, 1862: "Dear Wife, I got ninty dollars bounty yesterday and send seventy five dollars to you and want you to pay that west note and then keep the rest so that you will not suffer for anything."

Sept. 19, 1862: "Dear Wife, I got 2 pictures in full uniform and send them to you and I have got a meddle that I send with them that will show that I was in the army and that can draw all bounty and pensions. I have one just like this meddle that I carry with me so that I can be identified if I should fall in battle."



(Elijah Tuttle Grace, continued)

Elijah's Own Words

Sept. 18, 1862: "Dear Wife, I got ninety dollars bounty yesterday and send seventy five dollars to you and want you to pay that west note and then keep the rest so that you will not suffer for anything."

Sept. 19, 1862: "Dear Wife, I got 2 pictures in full uniform and send them to you and I have got a meddle that I send with them that will show that I was in the army and that can draw all bounty and pensions. I have one just like this meddle that I carry with me so that I can be identified if I should fall in battle."

Sept. 25, 1862: "Dear Wife, there was a smash up on the cars when we got within two miles of Baltimore and one man was killed. We lost none of our company."

Sept. 28, 1862: "Dear Wife, I think of home everyday and my family and how you are getting along and how the harvesting gets along and how much grain you get when the thrashing is done and about the plowing and whether that large plow is at home that I left up to the blacksmith shop."

Oct. 2, 1862: "Dear Wife, We left Manchester Sept. 22 and went to Arlington and marched to Washington and laid there that night on the brick sidewalk then took the cars to Fredrick City packed like cattle 40 to 50 in a car and tired almost to death and no rations but hard cracker and cold water. We expect to meet with Stonewall Jackson and we will have a hard battle without any doubt."

Oct. 2, 1862: "Dear Wife, I may not have another chance to write if we go into battle soon but I don't feel the least might daunted to hear of the battle rite at hand feel perfect reconciled to my lot. I think the over ruling power will keep me from harm and turn the bullets the other way."

*Gravestone for
Arabela and Elijah Grace
Erected 1896, South Newbury Cemetery*

Meeting of the Morse Clan at the Old Homestead in South Newbury

(From the September 26, 1902 Argus Spectator)

The children of the late John and Patty Morse have been holding a reunion at the old homestead. Of the thirteen children born there are nine living, ranging in ages from 54 to 78.

There are three sons and six daughters -- Mrs. O.H. Williamson, Mrs. M.J. Brown and B.R. Morse of South Newbury; J.L. Morse of Beverly, Mass.; Mrs. S.M. Durgin, Newbury; A.T. Morse, Minneapolis, Minn.; Mrs. H.M. Muzzey, Concord; Mrs. E.C. Barlow, Lewiston, Me.; and Mrs. Delia F. Todd, Concord. There are now living 21 grandchildren and 35 great-grandchildren.

On the father's side they descend from Anthony Morse, who landed at Newburyport, Mass, in 1630. The men of the family have been given more to professional than to business life. There have been many clergymen and professors, notably Elder Timothy Morse, and their own father, Rev. John Morse; also Prof. S.F.B. Morse, of telegraphic fame.

They are direct descendants on the mother's side, of Daniel Cheney (her grandfather) who, with his three sons, fought in the Revolution. He was the grandson of Hannah Dustin of historical fame, who, with her child, was captured by the Indians. The child was murdered and she made her escape in the night, after taking the lives of her six captors in their sleep. Her monument stands in Penacook, near the spot where the tragedy occurred.



Plans to Preserve Friendship House and South Newbury Union Church

The South Newbury Union Church (SNUC) is steward of two buildings which are significant to Newbury's history. The church, located on a knoll off Village Road near Sutton Road, was built in 1831 and foreshadowed the Greek Revival period in New England architecture. Friendship House, adjacent to the Church, was built as District School #5 in 1854, replacing an older building deemed inadequate for young scholars of South Newbury Village. At that time, South Newbury Village was the center of town activity and population. It is the last district schoolhouse in Newbury not to have become a private residence destroyed or repurposed.

Both the Church and Friendship House have experienced the ravages of time and deterioration. They require expensive repairs and improvements and do not comply with current building codes. Jim Bruss and Bruce Soper exhaustively documented the problems in both structures, prioritizing the more critical repairs. The SNUC Executive Board has hired consultant David Williams for a feasibility study. His conclusions will inform a capital campaign to save these two examples Newbury's architectural history.

James Garvin, a well-known NH architectural historian, compiled detailed histories and structural descriptions of both buildings. His comprehensive reports are available on the South Newbury Union Church website: <http://www.southnewburyunionchurch.org/>. Copies were provided to the Historical Society and the Town.

SNUC Historic Preservation subcommittee members, Joyce Laporte, Judy Laporte, Marilyn Soper, and Maralyn Doyle, are drafting applications to list the buildings on the NH Historic Register and have them included on the 2016 New Hampshire Preservation Alliance's "Seven to Save" list.

Every aspect of the plans for the two buildings will be fully consistent with the best preservation practices. The South Newbury Union Church, with the support of the community, will ensure that these buildings are preserved and available for use by generations to come.

Maralyn Doyle
Member SNUC Historical Subcommittee and
Newbury Historical Society

President's Message

The good news is that we have a good base of financial and moral support in our membership. The bad news is that it is getting increasingly difficult to find people who are willing to put in time and effort for the Society. The Society's board of nine directors now has three vacancies that we have been unable to fill.

If the trend continues, it is less likely that we will be able to communicate with the community and more likely that we will become an isolated club of a few researchers trying to find history. Many years ago, the Society hit a low spot before being regenerated. I would not like to go through that again.

Please come forward to help and talk to others about helping. It is important to the fabric of the community to have a functioning historical society that can communicate the past to the present. At a minimum, we need three people to sit on the board and give a few hours a year to the Society.

Bill Weiler

NHS Annual Meeting and Program Sunday, August 14, 2016, 2:00 PM Center Meeting House

Following a brief business meeting, Paul Wainwright will present a New Hampshire Humanities Council sponsored program entitled

New England Colonial Meetinghouses.

His artistic photography and love of history have been long-standing interests, but he was captured by physics in high school and eventually wound up getting a Ph.D in it from Yale. He worked for many years at Bell Labs, with photography being a continuing avocation. Since 2001 he has been pursuing his love of photography fulltime and finds that he is especially drawn to photograph historic structures in very personal and constructive ways. New England's colonial meetinghouses embody an important yet little known chapter in American history. Built mostly with tax money they served as both places of worship and places for town meetings, and were the centers of life in colonial New England communities. Using photographs of the few surviving mint condition meetinghouses as illustrations, Paul Wainwright tells the story of the society that built and used them and the lasting impact they have had on American culture.

Refreshments will be served following the program which is co-sponsored by the Meeting House.



Newbury Historical Society
P. O. Box 176
Newbury, NH 03255

NHS Dates/Events

Newbury Town Office unless otherwise noted

Annual Meeting and Program: August 14, 2016

New England Colonial Meetinghouses
Presented by Paul Wainwright
Center Meeting House, 2:00 PM

Board Meetings, 7:00 PM, Town Office
Second Thursday of Sept., Nov., Jan, March & May

Newbury Historical Society Board of Directors

Term expires June, 2016;

Paula Falkowski, Gay Sheary, 1 Vacancy

Term expires June, 2017:

Ashley Geddes, 2 Vacancies

Term expires June, 2018:

Deane Geddes, Margie Weiler, Bill Weiler

E-mail: info@newburyhistorical.org

Website: www.newburyhistorical.org

Center Meeting House

June Speaker Series: *The Spirits of New Hampshire*
Meeting House, 4:00 PM, free and open to all

Refreshments will follow each program

June 4: **Rum**, Ron Vars, Sea Hagg Distillery

June 11: **Wine**, Eric Wiswall, Haunting Whisper Vineyard

June 18: **Beer**, Glenn Knoblock, NH Humanities Council
Program: *An Informal History of Beer in the Granite State from Colonial Times to the Present*

June 25: **Hard Cider**, Louisa Spencer, Poverty Lane
Orchards and Farnum Hill Cider

Visit www.centermeetinghouse.org for more information

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History Committee

The Newbury History Committee has been quite active over the past year. We continue to perform "Chain of Titles" on various early homes & buildings throughout Newbury as well as surveying cellar holes, researching our early citizens and collecting memorabilia.

A member of one of Newbury's prominent early families has visited our group to share photos stories and interesting data on the BLODGETT family. Other citizens of our town have opened up their historic homes for our group to tour.

A group travels to Merrimack County Registry of Deeds on a monthly basis to work on various research projects. This trip is often accompanied by a short stop at a local historical site.

Recently the group joined forces to collate each of the various tools we use when performing research on people and property. This summary has become valuable assistance for new folks joining our group.

One of our more interesting field trips was to Fishersfield Park and visiting the cellar hole from the Charles Colburn family. The old stone walls, foundations and sheep pens are clearly visible even though decades have passed since any buildings stood there!

We meet the second Tuesday of each month from 9:30 to 11 AM at the Town Office complex. All are welcome! Bring your old photos, stories, objects or just yourselves!

Deane Geddes 763 5104