

The Governing Board may be interested in the following recent activities involving our archives: At the end of this report, I also have two questions for your consideration.

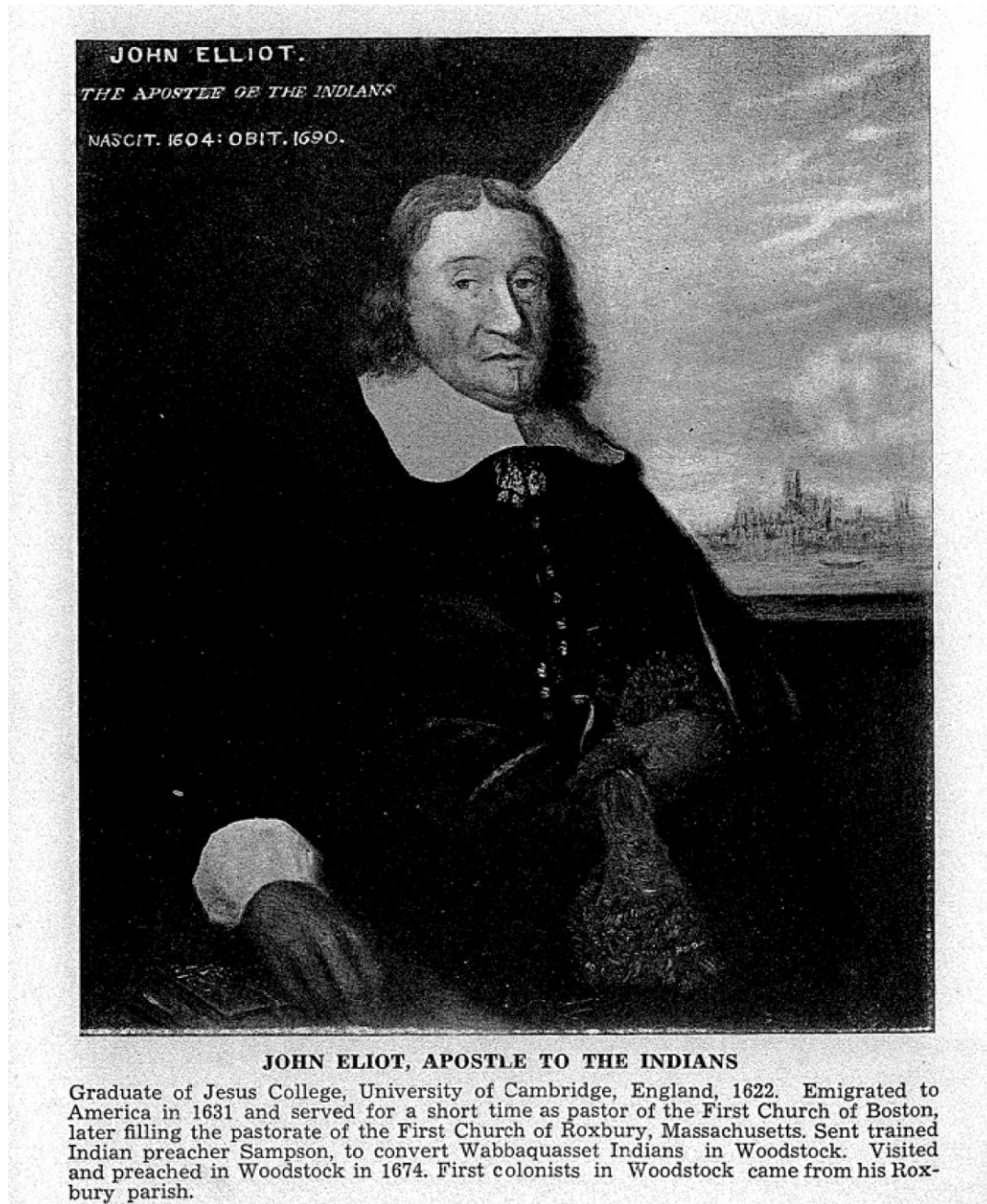
- In her research for her Witness Stone Project on Dinah Fellows, Donna Dufresne found meeting records of our church from 1776. (You may remember that the very earliest records of our church are not in our archives.) The few excerpts she found relate to Rev. Abiel Leonard's requests to serve as chaplain in the Continental Army. I printed those excerpts and transcribed them, and they are now in Box 1, file #17750520.
- Some years ago, Warren Rosenlund made a comprehensive map and directory of the cemetery. That binder is held in the pastor's office. I learned recently that Tom Chase had made a digital copy of it, and he kindly forwarded that to me. That digital record is now in our archives on a thumb drive labelled Box 400, file #20180430. (The thumb drive is kept in one of the two drawers in the fire-proof cabinet in the archives closet.)
- I acquired the two-volume book by J. Frederick Kelly entitled "Early Connecticut Meetinghouses," published in 1948. These volumes contain a comprehensive description of all meetinghouses in Connecticut constructed prior to 1830. It's fascinating. The interior of our meetinghouse is described and pictured prior to its renovation in the 1960's, reflecting, therefore, the dark Victorian interior with stained glass windows. That description is not flattering! The books are in Box 108.
- Last Sunday, I received a letter from John E. Throop, Jr., currently an inmate at the Western Illinois Correctional Center in Mr. Sterling, Illinois. He sent a small donation to the church with a request for information about his ancestor, Rev. Amos Throop. Rev. Throop was the second minister of our church, and I found short bits about his ministry both in Rev. Pierre DuPont Vuilleumier's history of our church published in 1839, and in Maggie Tourtellotte's history from 1976. It turns out that Paul Lee had received a request for information about Rev. Throop in 2011 from the executive director of the Rhode Island Medical Society. Paul performed considerable research, which is in our archives in Box 42, file #20110802. Of interest, Rev. Throop's son, Dr. Amos Throop, became the first president of the Rhode Island Medical Society, so there are more complete records, and two distinguished portraits, about him. I copied some of this for John, and wished him well.

Two questions:

- Maggie Tourtellotte's "A History of the First Congregational Church," published in 1976, is an extraordinarily comprehensive and important record. It's a small booklet, and we have but one copy in our archives – Box 8, file #19760600. Does anyone know if there might be another copy somewhere, so that we could have at least two on file? (I will endeavor to scan and digitize the copy we have soon.)
- The portrait of John Eliot that hangs in our library (with Eliot's name mistakenly spelled with two "l's") is very dark. I happened to see a picture of that portrait on the inside front cover of Rev. Vuilleumier's history of our church, published in 1839. That picture is much brighter, showing considerable more detail in the painting. To me, the difference between the picture then and the portrait now suggests that a professional cleaning of the

portrait would improve its visual impact considerably. Would the Governing Board consider investigating and funding such a project?

Here's a scanned print of the picture, but the quality is much poorer than the picture itself –



Respectfully submitted, 23 May 2025
Bruce Lyman, Archivist