

**Bickford Photographic Album**  
**Early 1900s**  
**Eldridge Photographic Album**  
**Summer of 1913 and 1914**



Bickford Album: Found in Collection

Eldridge Album: Donated by Mr. and Mrs. Roy Eldridge

Chosen by Susan Chandler

Current PHA Board Member, Former Vice-President. Museum Management and Marketing.

While searching PHA records for last year's exhibit, I found these wonderful photo albums from the early years of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Both albums depict a last glimpse of the "old Peacham," before 20<sup>th</sup> century modernization came to town. This was an idyllic, unhurried time, just before World War I. There was no electricity, few cars, time for picnics, walks, summer outings, and adventures with family and friends. These albums also show us the village and land around Peacham with muddy, coarse roads, clear cut hills and wide-open spaces. Some of the landmarks still exist today; others are long gone.

The Eldridge Album has little history. It was donated by Mr. and Mrs. Roy Eldridge from NH, and the donation paperwork said that her mother had ties to Peacham. After much research, I learned that the album likely came from Roy and Jean Margaret Campbell Eldridge. Mrs. Eldridge's family came from Winchester, Massachusetts, a wealthy suburb of Boston. The family spent summers in Peacham.

The Bickford Album was compiled by a local family. Their daughters, Flora and Mary Bickford, lived on Penny Street. Their family had been here for many decades. The sisters were well-to-do, educated, self-assured young women, who ventured out on their own around Peacham. Both sisters never married, were active in the community, and beloved in Peacham.