

Londergan wins award for Long Journey Home

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By Jennifer Robert

Quaboag Current Reporter

Local historical fiction author Ed Londergan has done it again; his second book in a three-part series that centers around the Quaboag Plantation has won an award from the New England Book Festival, an honorable mention in the regional literature category. In 2013, *The Devil's Elbow*, Londergan's first book won an honorable mention in the young adult category of the same contest.

"The New England Book Festival is an annual competition for writers," Londergan said. "I submitted *The Long Journey Home* in the regional literature category because the story takes place in Massachusetts, New York and Canada." According to Londergan, works can be submitted for many categories including non-fiction, fiction, biography/autobiography, children's books, young adult, how-to, cookbooks, science fiction, photography/art, poetry, gay literature, regional literature, and spiritual. Submitted works are judged by a panel of industry experts on general excellence and the author's passion for telling a good story, and the potential of the work to reach a wider audience.

The Long Journey Home picks up on the story of Jack Parker, who readers were introduced to in the first book, and tells of his capture and escape and the trek back home to his wife and son. Londergan says that this book follows Jack and his wife through the remainder of their lives.

"If you don't cry when you read the

last two chapters you are dead," he said. "It is a real tear jerker. My editor said that she had to put it down for a bit and go back to it." Londergan spoke of how *The Devil's Elbow*, surprisingly, grew a great audience from the young adult crowd and that this second book is likely to continue to keep their attention.

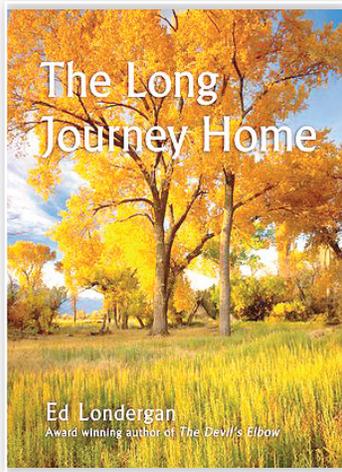
"It's a clean book but there is some violence of course," he said. "Indian attacks are bloody. I didn't exaggerate it but I didn't play it down either. The times that Jack Parker lived in were not easy times and the story

reflects that." Londergan said that he is working on the third and final book in the series presently, and that it will continue the story of the Parkers in a present day setting, with a retired college professor inheriting a farmhouse in West Brookfield and finding Jack's journal form the 1600's. After the final book in the trio, what will be next for Londergan?

"I don't even know how many people have read this and said that it would make a great movie," he said. "You never know!"

Londergan will be honored for his 2014 NEBF award at a dinner to be held on Jan 24 in Boston at the Omni House. In addition, award winners are eligible for inclusion in a Table of Honor, which offers a permanent link to the achievement and a sales opportunity. Copies of *The Long Journey Home* can be purchased on Amazon.com, at Salem Cross Inn in West Brookfield or directly from Londergan via email at ed.londergan@gmail.com.

Londergan will be at the Warren Public Library on Tuesday, Feb. 3 from 5 to 7 p.m. to discuss and sign copies of his newly-published book.



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Ed Londergan and his new book.