

December 5, 2016-- We will be electing our officers for the coming year. If you are not presently a member please see our Membership Chair, Sylvia Moynahan before the meeting to pay your dues. AND join us, after the meeting, for our annual Christmas party and Show 'n Tell. You are invited to bring something old and/or historical to talk about with the group. Refreshments will be served by Carol/Zip Zamarchi and Sylvia Moynahan.

SOCIETY NEWS:



We had a very successful day at the Election polls on November 8th. We greeted old friends and made many new ones. Several people were interested in joining our organization. The selling of our books and the raffle tickets for our newest fundraiser was very successful. I want to thank Denny and Cindy Lentz for helping set up and Margie Brown, Sylvia Moynahan, Helen Goransson, Bob Fisher and Polly McDonough for helping me man the booth. We had a great time!

HOLIDAY FAIR

DECEMBER 3RD at Marshwood High School, 9am-3pm. The Fundraising Committee is looking for baked goods for this very successful event. Please drop off your goodies to the Lentz home on Friday or bring to the school that day. Contact Carol Zamarchi czip@comcast.net, Cindy Lentz mainelentz@comcast.net, Sylvia Moynahan samcgmeliot@myfairpoint.net. or Margie Brown skpmargbrwn@yahoo.com for more information and/or to offer your help that day.

RAFFLE FUNDRAISER

Drawing will be at our December 7th meeting. Tickets are available from members of the Fundraising Committee and will also be available at our table at the Holiday Fair at the High School on December 3rd and at our December 7th meeting. Tickets are \$1 each or 6 for \$5. We have 3 prizes and the tickets can be used for any of the three drawings -

1. A beautifully framed glass sketch of the *Nightingale* by Carol Zamarchi's daughter.
2. Three framed paintings of Eliot scenes donated by artist Maryanne Kennedy.



3. An antique crocheted bedspread donated by Margie Brown.

ANNUAL LUNCHEON: The ladies are in the process of organizing the luncheon, which will be held in December. All ladies and gentlemen are invited! If you would like to attend and get the particulars please contact Cindy at mainelentz@comcast.net.

COLLABORATION WITH OLD BERWICK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Recently I was contacted by Nina Mauer, curator at the Old Berwick Historical Society, to talk about an upcoming exhibit next year (2017) entitled *Forgotten Frontier: Untold Stories of the Piscataqua*. The project will feature eight characters from different cultural groups: African, English, Scottish, French and Native American. In addition to the exhibit there will be walking tours, led by Dr. Tad Baker and Ms. Mauer, with short historical talks, a living history event next summer, a teacher's workshop and a region-wide mobile app to be launched in 2018. One of those featured in the exhibit and on one of the walking tours will be Black Will, the slave of Nicholas Shapleigh, whom I wrote about last month in relation to the new book by Patricia Wall that will be coming out next year about the enslaved peoples of this region during the 16-1800s.

We will be looking through our archives and other research to contribute what we can to the exhibit and I have agreed to accompany one of the walks that will be held in the York Pond area and talk about Black Will. I will share more about this collaboration as information becomes available.

In addition we have been invited to participate in some collaborative efforts. In October Nina extended an invitation to a joint meeting with area historical society representatives to work on collaborative efforts aimed at helping promote our society's offerings by engaging in some joint ventures. Both I and Keith and Toni had planned to attend this meeting but were unable due to illness but Nina and I have since been in touch and we talked about the 3 areas that were suggested by the group for collaboration -

- 1) Trolley Tour: Develop a tour by trolley that would follow the old electric rail line of the Portsmouth, Dover and York Street Railway (later the Atlantic Shore Line). A trolley tour with stops in Kittery, Eliot, and the Berwicks could feature costumed interpreters who join the trolley at various stops as role players.
- 2) School History Fairs: Each organization connects with a local middle school or high school to foster entries for Maine's National History Day competition, held annually in April. Joint training for how to access and work with teachers could be sought by the group.
- 3) Passport: Create a joint passport that would link at all seven history museums. Location, hours, admission, and description for each museum would be listed on a printed passport. Each organization would chip in funds to design, print and distribute the passport, and each organization would promote it to their membership and possibly through schools in June.

Please be thinking about IF and HOW we might collaborate in these efforts!

EHS AT THE ELECTION POLLS

We had a great time meeting and greeting people and interacting with the various organizations also there with us at Election Day.

The VFW, assisted by members of our Police Auxiliary, were distributing their traditional poppies in honor of our veterans

Talked with a lovely woman – Laurianne Hourihan who is an artist specializing in portraits and landscapes. If you would like to see her work you can contact her at 207-748-0862.

Sandy Smith



The William Fogg Library crew were offering an enticing array of baked goods and hearty soups!

The Eliot Festival Day committee was holding a “basket” raffle. If you are interested in purchasing tickets you can call Jerri at 439-9543.



Members of our Fire Department were promoting their house numbering signs and

Shannon Darr and her helpers were offering a petition calling upon the Governor to accept the monies set aside for the State, under the Affordable Care Act, which will expand health insurance coverage to our uninsured. <http://covermainenow.com>



AREA NEWS and EVENTS:

For those of you who were able to attend the talk on “Prisoners of War: Durham and the fate of the Scots in 1650” which was sponsored by the Old Berwick Historical Society at Berwick Academy on November 2nd you were in for a treat. Greeted by the music of the bagpipe we then sat down to a fascinating evening as we learned about the discovery of a mass grave of Scottish soldiers, who were taken prisoner following the Battle of Dunbar in 1650. They were uncovered during a construction project, in 2013, at Durham University in Durham, England. [see picture of area below – red circle]



The skeletons of at least 17 and up to 28 individuals were found with many more assumed to possibly be under other buildings. Dr. Chris Gerrard led us through the methods used to discover, from the bones and the DNA, (there were no artifacts of any other kind there) where they came from, their ages and sex.

The Battle of Dunbar was one of the shortest and most brutal

battles during the 17th century civil wars. Oliver Cromwell who commanded the English Parliamentarian army defeated in less than an hour, the Scottish Covenanting army who supported the claims of Charles II to the Scottish throne.

Following the battle over 4000 Scottish soldiers (which included some Dutch mercenaries) Scottish prisoners were marched 100 miles from the Southeast coast of Scotland to Durham in the Northeast of England. Enroute 1,000 are believed to have died from hunger, dysentery, and exhaustion. Of the remaining 3000, which were imprisoned in Durham Cathedral and Castle it is

believed that 1700 died and were buried in the city, but until the find in 2013 it could not be confirmed.

150 of the prisoners held here were then sent to New England and Virginia and others transported to Ireland and France to be pressed into military service and to also to Barbados. They built new lives in this area and landmarks such as Scotland Bridge, the McIntire Garrison and the place names of Berwick and the Unity Parish, attest to their presence and contributions to our growing country.

Dr. Gerrard and his team were just finishing up their travels to Virginia, Saugus, Mass and here in South Berwick in an effort to learn more about the soldiers and what became of them after being sent overseas, putting a face to these people. He has meet with scores of descendants and invites those interested to become involved in the conversation to commemorate them and further the research into their lives.

For more information check out the website:

<https://www.dur.ac.uk/archaeology/research/projects/europe/pg-skeletons/>

NOVEMBER 15: The William Fogg Library's **Usborne Holiday Book Fair** will be held from 9:00 am- 5:00 pm. Adults and children will be able to choose from hundreds of fun and educational titles. A percentage of the cost of every book purchased is returned back to the library in FREE books. Donations to the library are also encouraged. For any questions, please contact the library at 207-439-9437.

