

**September 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting – 7:00pm at the John F. Hill**

**Grange** – Please note the change to the second Monday of the month due to the holiday! **Special event at 6:00PM before our meeting: Ann Shisler will open the Elementary School so that we can take a “live” look at the *Eliot Stories Project* mural that was created by the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade students!** Following our short business meeting beginning at 7PM, author Patricia Wall will join us to speak about her new book *Lives of Consequence: Blacks in Early Kittery & Berwick in the Massachusetts Province of Maine*. This newly published history of the slaves and slave owners in our towns offers new insight into our town and area’s early history. Published by the Portsmouth Marine Society Press. Books will be available for sale. Refreshments will be served by Skip and Margie Brown and Ruth Drake Benedict



Patricia Wall with “Molly’s Table,” once owned by Molly Miles an enslaved woman from Kittery, Maine who died here in Eliot at the Alms House in 1827, at the age of 107. (photo courtesy of David J. Murray, ClearEyePhoto.com)

**News and Area Events –**

ON SCREEN @ THE MUSIC HALL LOFT

**The Art of Appledore and Celia Thaxter's Garden**

Thursday August 17<sup>th</sup> – 7:00PM

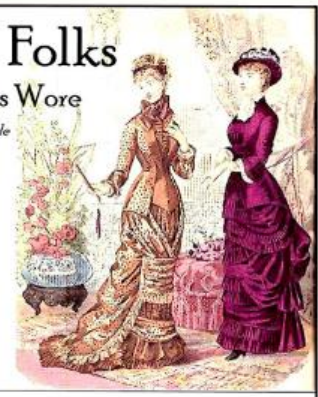
**Fashionable Folks****What New Englanders Wore**

*An exhibit showcasing changes in fashionable attire from the 1830s through the 1920s*

Sundays, 1-4 pm  
July 2 thru October 8, 2017

Colonel Paul Wentworth House  
Water Street, Rollinsford, NH

Exhibit presented by  
**ARCH**  
The Association to Restore Colonial Houses



www.paulwentworthhouse.org  
www.Facebook.com/ColonelPaulWentworthHouse

*The Shapleigh Family Association will hold their annual reunion at the home of Robert and Rosanne Fisher on August 19-20<sup>th</sup>. Patricia Wall will be the guest speaker. Following a cook out the group will tour the “Forgotten Frontier” exhibit at the Counting House in South Berwick. Sunday the group will breakfast at Wentworth by the Sea and then take in a tour of the Black Heritage sites in Portsmouth.*

**Great Works Regional Land Trust-****Wednesday Wandering****The Ogunquit River Trail Network****Wednesday, September 6, 9 - 11:00 am**

A series of outings showcasing Great Works preserves within five miles of the coast. Meet the first Wednesday of the months of June-September and will meet at Beach Plum Farm in Ogunquit (610 Main Street) before heading out to a nearby preserve. Hikers are expected to bring their own transportation and proper footwear.

**Attention:** This area is prone to deer ticks, please dress appropriately, covering exposed skin as necessary. Outings require minimum of three people. Email or call 207-646-3604 to reserve a spot. Free to Great Works members, \$5/\$10 family suggested donation for nonmembers. **Reservations required.**

**Keay Brook Preserve Hike****Saturday, September 23, 10 - noon****251 Hubbard Rd, Berwick ME**

Join Board President Michael Wright, as he leads hikers along the Salmon Falls River to the Keay Brook Estuary. Admire an old bridge, beaver activity, and migrating birds on this scenic river walk.

Call 207-646-3604 or email [info@gwrlt.org](mailto:info@gwrlt.org) for reservations. Free for members, recommended \$5 donation for non-members.

**Lives of Consequence: Blacks in Early Kittery & Berwick in the Massachusetts Province of Maine.**

Thursday, July 27<sup>th</sup> at Discover

Portsmouth author Patricia Q. Wall's new book was unveiled. It was a nice summer's day, planned for the garden

of the John Paul Jones House but with the threat of rain the event was moved across the street. While waiting for it to begin Bob and I took a tour of the John Paul Jones House and enjoyed the exhibits at Discover Portsmouth. The event, given by the Board of Trustees of the Portsmouth Historical Society and the Black Heritage Trail of New Hampshire

featured a book signing and special remarks by the author. Judy Loto, Director of Development for the Portsmouth Historical Society gave the opening remarks



followed by the president of the Portsmouth Historical Society and a member of the board of the Portsmouth Black Heritage Trail who gave greetings from Valerie Cunningham, its founder, who was not able to be present. Patricia talked about the origins of the book and her research, thanking all those who had helped along the way and expressed the hope that the publication would be the starting point for others to do more research and perhaps family members to come forward with their own piece of the story of their ancestors.



*Patricia Wall with "Black Will" descendant Stephen Black of Orr's Island*



Foreword by Portsmouth Historical Society Executive Director Kathleen Soldati, and Black Heritage Trail of NH Executive Director Jerriane Boggis. Preface by Valerie R. Cunningham, Trustee emeritus, Black Heritage Trail of NH. Gerald W.R. Ward, editor. Published by the Portsmouth Marine Society.

**Speaking of Eliot's history** – On July 12<sup>th</sup> I had a visit from Charles and Patricia Davis from Concord, Massachusetts. Members of the *John Libby Family Association*, they were here to present some books to the William Fogg Library. President Pat Libbey Davis and her husband, Secretary Charles F. Davis were joined by Allen Humphries, the Association's newsletter editor. They are descendants of John Libby (1602-1682) who came from Broadstairs, Kent County, England, on his own boat the *Hercules*, then settled at Black Point and helped found the town of Scarborough, Maine.

Pat hails from John's son David Libby (1657-1736) who with his brother Matthew settled in Eliot, buying part of what are known as the "Baylands". John's daughter Hannah married Daniel Fogg who had also settled at Black Point. Daniel Fogg later moved to Portsmouth, NH and then to what is now Eliot, joining with the Libbey brothers, Joseph Hammond and Stephen Tobey in purchasing their respective tracts of the *Baylands*. David Libby's son



Ephraim (1702-1776) and grandson Ephraim (1732-1783) resided in Eliot before the next descendants moved to Durham, NH (John Libbey), Dover, NH (Joseph Libbey) and then to Georgetown DC, where John Edward Libbey, Sr. (1837-1863), Patricia's great-grandfather, had a thriving lumber business. We had a nice visit talking about the lands of the Libbys here in Eliot, their burial sites and of course *Old Libby Lane* and other points of interest in the town.

The John Libby Family Association held its first Family Reunion on September 7, 1904 at Central Park in Somersworth, New Hampshire under the name of "Sons and Daughters of Benjamin Libby." In a few years, the name was changed to the one presently used. The Reunion and Annual Meeting is normally held on the fourth Saturday in Scarborough, Maine near the original homestead of John Libby.

Patricia has, very generously, donated a copy of "The Libby Family in America, 1602-1881, Vol.1. Revised Edition", 2012 by Charles T. Libby to our archives.

To learn more about the *John Libby Family Association* visit their website at <http://libbyfamily.org>.

### **Back Fields Farm**

Last month **Jay and Michele Meyer** hosted youth from Israel from the **Friends Forever** program out of Portsmouth, NH. Founded in 1986 by Rotarian and YMCA director, Robert Raiche, **Friends Forever** began as a joint Portsmouth, N.H. YMCA/Rotary effort to unite



one small group of Catholic and Protestant teens from Northern Ireland. Since that time, Friends Forever has grown to host 60 youth from Northern Ireland annually, and it has expanded to serve the Arab and Jewish youth of Israel. Friends Forever has built hundreds of lasting friendships across the cultural, religious, and political divides of both Northern Ireland and Israel. They were the 2008 recipient of the *Sarah Farmer Peace Award*.



A group of Muslim and Jewish youth from Israel visited the **Meyer's** farm where they got a first-hand look at the farm's daily operation. They picked berries, ground flint corn, entertained the herd of Nubian goats and learned about beekeeping, maple syrup production. Their visit was capped off by a lunch with lots of conversation and laughter!

For more information on Friend's Forever visit: <https://www.ff.international> and <https://www.facebook.com/FriendsForeverNewEngland>



**BACK FIELDS FARM** was originally part of a 1651 grant to Nicholas Frost. It was called Long Marsh and is referred to in the old needs as Long Marsh Farm or Salt Marsh Farm. Part of the land was sold to Robert Cutts in 1722 and from there it descended down through his family lines to Daniel Odiome whose widow sold it to Elisha Goodwin in 1822. It passed down through the Goodwin family and several other owners before being bought by Connie Weeks, who with her husband Silas established it as **Back Fields Farm**. Today it is the property of Jay and Michelle Meyer who are carrying on the great traditional use of the land through their farming and homesteading endeavors.

Website: [www.eliothi](http://www.eliothi)  
Phone: 752-0174 (Ros)





## ***Eliot Connects Garden Tour 2017***

By all reports this group's first Garden Tour on August 5<sup>th</sup> was a HUGE success even despite the rain! Beth Hallissey has kindly shared some pictures with us. What a wonderful event and we hope it continues.



Carol Lombardi and Jenny Freeman at the EUMC Community Garden

Butterfly garden at the Library: Larry McCullough, Lydia Goodwin, Barbara Longstaff and Skip DeVito.



Watering can at Raitt Farm

Pine Tree Farm patio during the tour



The headboards at Lisa's garden at the Raitt Farm





Stone found in South Berwick

At the Society's visit to the *Forgotten Frontier* exhibit at the Counting House in South Berwick last month Carolyn Bogh was approached by an OBHS volunteer who asked if she might know anything about a tombstone recently uncovered in South Berwick. It is a stone for Flora E. Brooks, the daughter of William W. and Abbie F. Brooks who died on Dec. 15, 1864 at the age of 15 years and 9 mos.

The really interesting thing is that this stone ALSO stands in the Remick cemetery on Aqua Ave in Eliot!

If anyone has any information about why there would be two stones in two towns please contact myself or Eric Christian.



## THE ELIOT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

### MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

\$10/YEAR – INDIVIDUAL

\$50 – LIFETIME FOR INDIVIDUAL

\$20 – FAMILY\*

\$75 – LIFETIME FOR FAMILY

\*includes immediate family and children under 21