

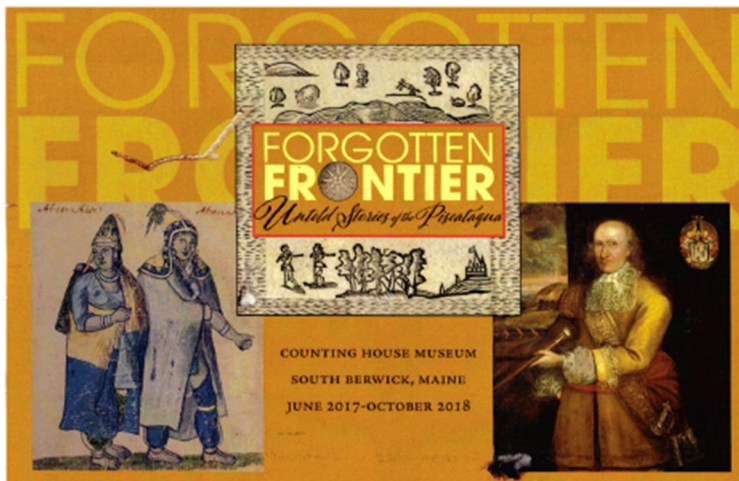
**AUGUST 7<sup>th</sup> – Annual Cookout:** Eliot Boat Basin. The grill will be going for those who wish to cook something. Bring your friends, family, dinner and something to share (if you'd like) and join us for a relaxing time of just being together! 5:30PM

**July 22<sup>nd</sup> – Saturday: 1:00 pm:** We will meet as a group to tour the “Forgotten Frontier” exhibit at the Counting House Museum in South Berwick. Please make your own way there or call a friend and car pool. This exhibit explores the encounters between divergent cultures in this region, in the 1600's, through eight main characters.

*Sagamore Rowls is a Wabanaki tribal leader of the Newichawannock; Humphrey Chadbourne an English carpenter who became a wealthy fur trader and timber merchant; Patience Chadbourne Spencer an English immigrant who became a Quaker tavern keeper; and Nicholas Shapleigh an English timber merchant, royalist and slaveholder.*

*William Black, who came here as “Black Will” an African slave of Shapleigh, later became a free man and farmer. Thomas Holmes was a Scottish prisoner who became a sawmill manager; Jean-Baptiste Hertel, a French soldier and patriot who accompanied the raid that destroyed Salmon Falls; and Mehitable Plaisted Goodwin a captive in the Salmon Falls raid that returns to raise a family at Old Fields.*

*The artifacts, documents and reproductions tell their intertwined stories. -Old Berwick Historical Society*



For those of you unable to join us the exhibit will be open through October. Donations are accepted.

### **June Meeting Update:**

The Fogg House room was packed at our June meeting, hosted jointly with the William Fogg Library, as we took a trip to the past. Attendees were treated to stories about the people and places of Eliot many years ago – some within the memories of the elders who were in attendance. Jim Staples was joined by his brother Russ and sisters Rebecca and Barbara. Through a series of readings from the recently published book “Mostly My Maine” we were taken back in time through the pictures painted by the skillful words of their father Walter Staples and grandfather Victor Staples. We heard about the children at the #4 schoolhouse and what their school day was like. In addition to being taught as a group in this one room school house they helped split and bring in the wood to keep the building warm in the winter and would walk across the fields to a neighboring farm to get water. Nat Staples who lived nearby ran a “pickle factory” and unfortunately during an electrical storm his fine home and farm buildings burned down. We talked about the electric trolley line that provided transportation and hunting in the Maine woods. Walter Staples writes in preface, “The purpose of this book is not to consider the consequences of the changes that have taken place in the last century, but





instead to record life as it was as recently as my childhood. I want my children to know about it. I want this generations and later ones to be able to read about it, to know that there was such a time when we enjoyed true freedom, a freedom for which there is no room today". Several relatives, neighbors, and friends of the Staples family also attended the meeting, making for a lively discussion filled with laughter and good memories of people and times past.

The book is available from Randall Press, Portsmouth, NH.

***Russ***



***Rebecca and Jim***



***Sylvia Moynahan and Shirley Dodge***

## Eliot Stories Project

The **Eliot Stories Project** came to a wonderful conclusion on June 13<sup>th</sup> as the second-grade classes and their teachers hosted a presentation for family, friends, and supporters through art, music, movement and visual pieces making for a grand representation of the work they have been doing over the last several months as they explored, researched, and imagined Eliot's history.

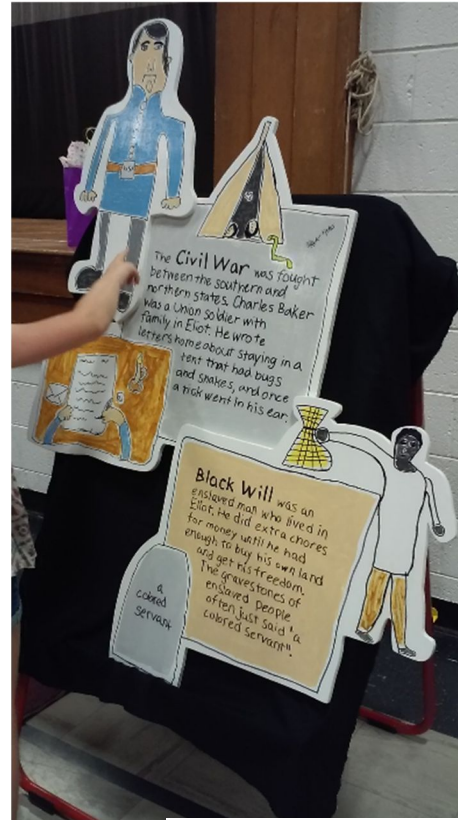


Following a presentation by artists in residence Laurie Downey and Gretchen Berg from *The Local Stories Project* the students then shared a physical theatre performance. Students, using their bodies only, no physical props or tools, acted out some of the writings they had done which explained the history they had learned. Using their bodies, they showed various types of housing being built from the making of Indian teepees and Igloos to sawing wood and building of English homes; the making of bricks in an Eliot brickyard and they created a gundalow, sailing on the Piscataqua! These and several others were amazing to watch.



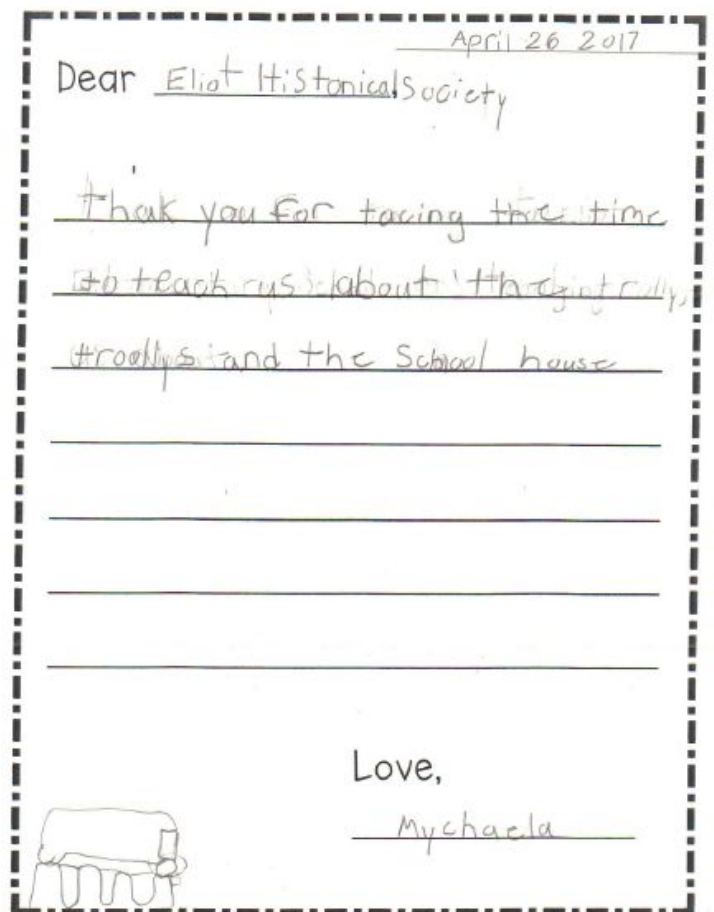
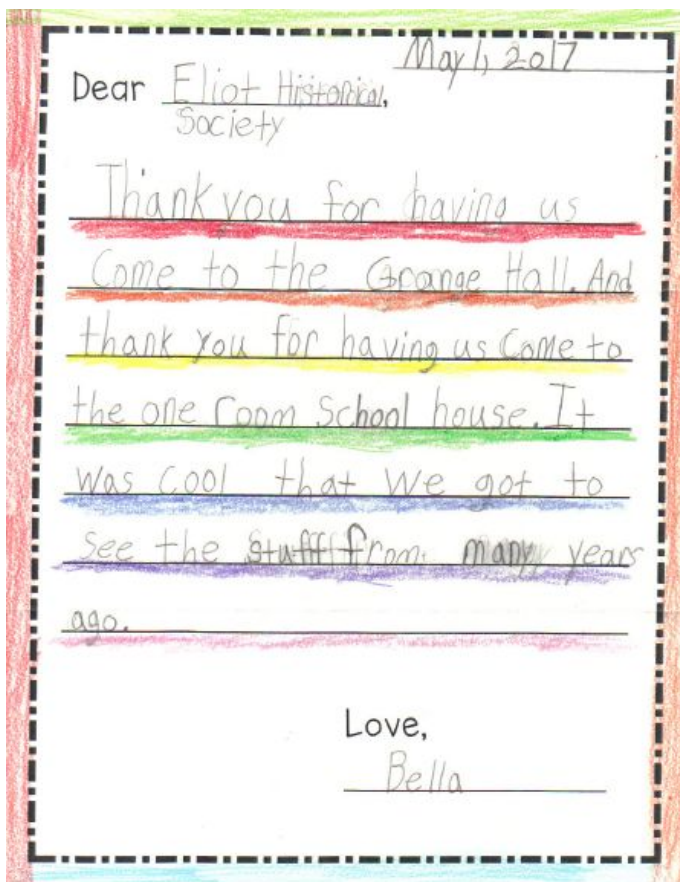


The highlight of the evening was the unveiling of the pieces of a mural created from the sketches and notes that the children had made in their research journals that recorded their historical discoveries.



On July 7<sup>th</sup> the mural was installed in the hallway at the Elementary School!

This project was generously funded by grants received from Marshwood Education Foundation, the PEEPS, Investments for Children, and the Eliot Historical Society





Riding by the William Fogg Library you may notice the light shines more clearly on the front lawn and Eliot's tribute to our veterans. What was hidden is now bathed in light!

This beautiful restored "garden of honor" was made possible through the efforts of **Ruth Drake-Benedict** (the "official nagger") and **Larry**



**Kent** and with the whole-hearted support of the **Trustees of the William Fogg Library**. **Eliot's public works crew** came and cut down and removed the dead trees and then Ruth engaged **Eric Fernandes of Fernandes Landscaping** to remove the tree stumps and prune and reposition the boxwood that had crowded around the monument and then mulch the area. Fernandes also donated the wreath that you saw there last Christmas. We thank Ruth, Larry, Eric, and all those who helped in this project.

The monument, in memory of the men of Eliot who served in the World War, was dedicated on August 21, 1937 at 2pm preceded by a parade from the Congregational Church to the library grounds. The parade participants included a color guard and detachment of Marines from the Kittery Navy Yard, the American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary, Spanish War Veterans and the Auxiliary, Fleet Reserve Association and Auxiliary, the Boy Scouts, John F. Hill Grange and Eliot Fire Department. Dr. Henry Durgin was master of ceremonies that day and the Traip Academy band of Kittery furnished the music for the ceremony. Ruth Drake and Marjorie Hoyt were young children at the time and were given the privilege of unveiling the monument that day.

Recently I came across this piece. It appears to be a printer's block. The etching, done on a piece of copper or bronze is 2 x 2.25 inches and is

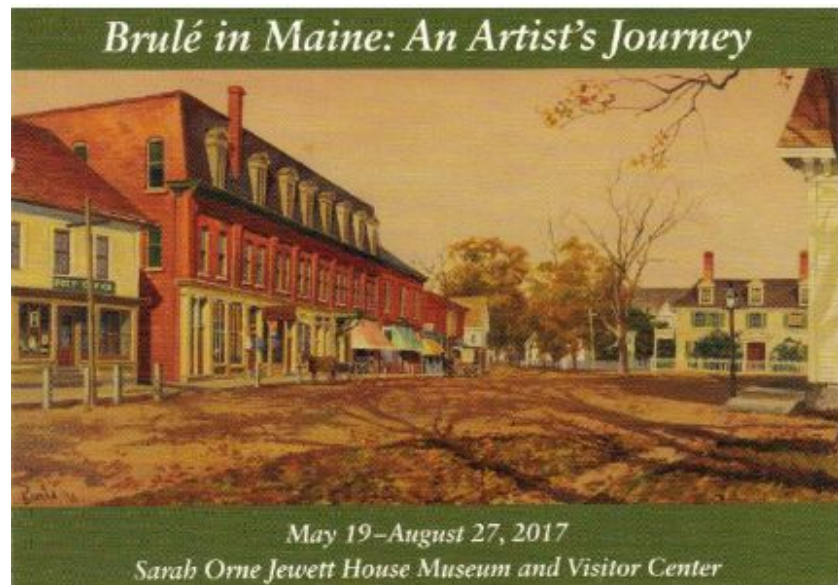
### BOOK SIGNING

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

Author Patricia Wall will hold the first public book signing on Friday, Aug. 4th at the Portsmouth Discovery Center 5:30 to 8:30 -- part of the Art Around Town evening.

Reminder: Pat will be speaking about her book at our September meeting!

nailed to a block of wood 4 x 3.5 inches. It is an exact copy, albeit reversed, of the bronze plaque on the Veteran's Memorial on the Library grounds. If anyone has any further information about this please let me know. It came from the Dennett estate in Kittery.



Commercial artist Al Brulé, an iconic illustrator in New York City, later moved to South Berwick to focus on creating fine art. Drawn from private collections this exhibition shows Brulé's amazing range of work, including many pieces on public display for the first time. Friday – Sunday 11am to 5pm