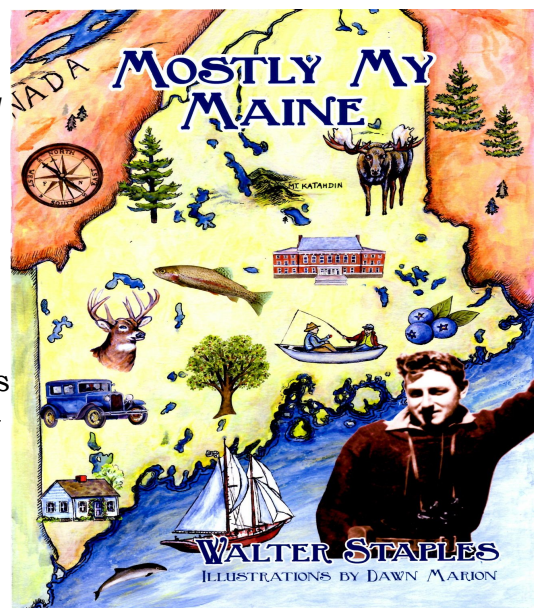


Upcoming Meeting June 5th: at the Fogg House/Wm.

Fogg Library. 7:00pm. We are joining with the Library in hosting this program. James Staples will be our featured speaker. He will be joined by 2-4 of his siblings and will give a brief reading from his recently published book - *Mostly My Maine*, the memoirs of their father Walter S. Staples, speak about the value of memoirs and the importance of recording experiences and observations and about their own memories of Eliot.

Walter Sylvester Staples was born in Eliot, Maine, Sept. 13, 1913, the son of the late Victor R. and Gladys (Langley) Staples. The oldest of three, Mr. Staples grew up on a small farm in Eliot where he acquired the love of farming and the outdoors. In *Mostly My Maine* he tells of his youth in Eliot, family, friends, and neighbors. He knows how to tell a good story and brings us his experiences in the Civilian Conservation Corps, at the Chicago World's Fair, hopping freights, attending college, driving cross country in a 'baby blue' Model A Ford, and sailing to the Arctic with Donald B. MacMillan. With marriage, family, and career came years of hunting, fishing, and harvesting Maine wild blueberries. Books will be available for purchase.

Following the program refreshments will be served by Robert and Rosanne Fisher and we will have our monthly meeting.



Eliot Stories Project

Reported by Ann Shisler and Jan Cerabon

Photos by Ann Shisler and Margie Brown

The second grade children, teachers and their helpers have been busy with the *Eliot Stories* project. Recently Jeanette Paul and Paul Johnson hosted their visit to the # 8 Schoolhouse and explored what a school day was like there many years ago and also learned about the history of the building.



At the Grange Hall, Julie Johnson set out and talked with them about the historical items on display from our collection. Zamarchi and Denny Lentz showed pictures and talked about the electric trolley lines in Eliot.



In April, just before the spring vacation, the second grade teachers each took a topic to explore with the children and they rotated through the activities, having a great time. Ann Shisler talked with them about Lanier Camp, showing them photographs and some artifacts (a punching bag, salt shakers, stool seat, handmade map) loaned by the Gilbert family and showed them how to play “Jacks”. Mrs. Reppucci did slide show and talk on brickyards and then they made a kiln out of lego blocks. Mrs. Rivard talked about one-room schoolhouses and then the children tried their hand at writing with quills and ink. Mrs. Hippern did a slideshow talk on Moses Gerrish Farmer and a mom from the Shipyard did an electrical circuit activity with them.

Returning from vacation they had a presentation on the gundalow, explaining the history and then had the opportunity to view a model of the boat before making their own model. On **May 8th and 9th** they will have an opportunity to sail on a gundalow!

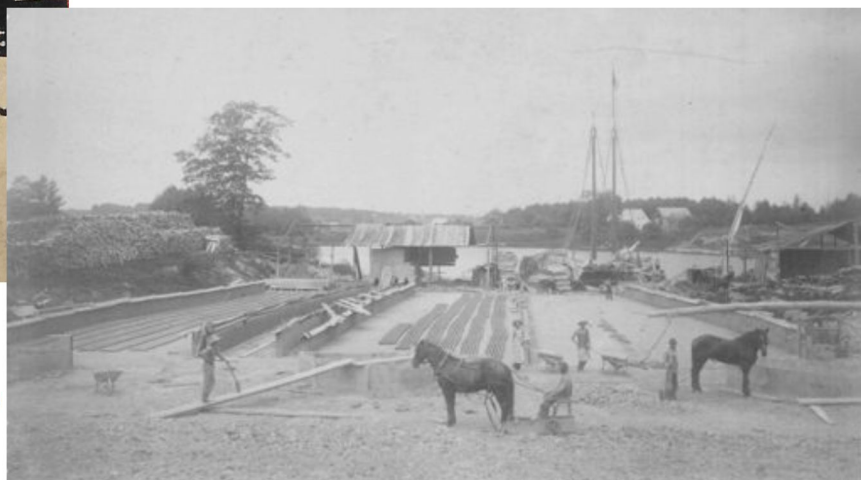
On **Wednesday, May 3rd** Lena Morin Bernard will talk with the children about her family’s brickyard at 1PM.

On **Thursday, May 18th** the third grade class will have Connie Weeks speak to them about “Backfield’s Farm” and her experiences homesteading.

Keep open the date of **Monday, June 12th** when the children will be hold a program showing us what they have learned!



Charles A. Raitt brickyard



Henry P. Abbott brickyard. Boats in background appear to be a schooner and gundalow, used to transport the bricks.

EHS YARD SALE!

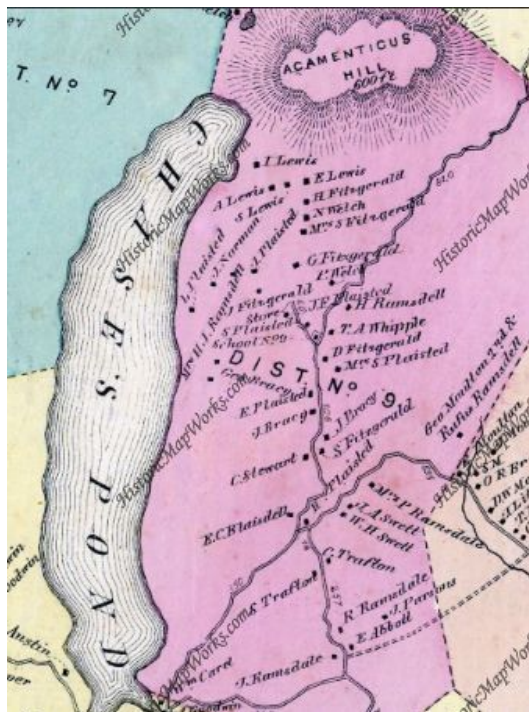
June 3rd (Raindate June 10th) Start collecting your items now. They can be dropped off at the # 8 Schoolhouse from 5-7pm on Tuesday, May 30th; Wednesday, May 31st and Thursday, June 1st. If you wish to tag them with prices then that would be a great help. Set up will begin at 6AM on Saturday the 3rd. They will need help setting up and then taking it down at 2PM. They are also asking for baked goods.

May Historical Society meeting notes:

Pamela Wallis spoke to us about the community that once existed on Mount Agamenticus. Her interest in this area was peaked following the purchase of her house on Old Mountain Road. Walking the woods and seeing the old stone walls and cellar holes and seeing an old one room schoolhouse across the street, boarded up and falling down, and a nearby chapel in the same state of disrepair she began to wonder about the people who once lived there.

This started a search through books and old records, with the assistance of the York Historical Society she was able to begin to see the people who lived there and how they lived.

This area was originally known as the Outer Commons. In 1750 the town of York decided to divide up this area and give out grants of land to men who paid taxes but didn't own land. Those who came forward to accept the offer were the Welches, Fitzgeralds, Moultons, Bracys, Nowells, Ramsdells, Trafton, Swetts and Plaisteds.



This area provided good hardwood and logging became the primary industry and living for these families. They logged in spring, summer and fall and in the winter put the wood on sleds, bringing them down Logging Road to the landing.

Most families had many members living in one small house and were extremely poor. Those who made a little more money built more substantial homes, of which 5 remain today.

The men came down off the mountain three times a year, but nothing has been found to indicate that the women left their homes. They just stayed up there on the mountain tending their gardens, sewing, raising children and cooking. The men brought their logs to the banks of the Cape Neddick River to be put on ships and would pick up their supplies in Cape Neddick Village. The next time they came to town was for the “drilling days” or musters, when the militia would train. The third was for the town meeting in March.

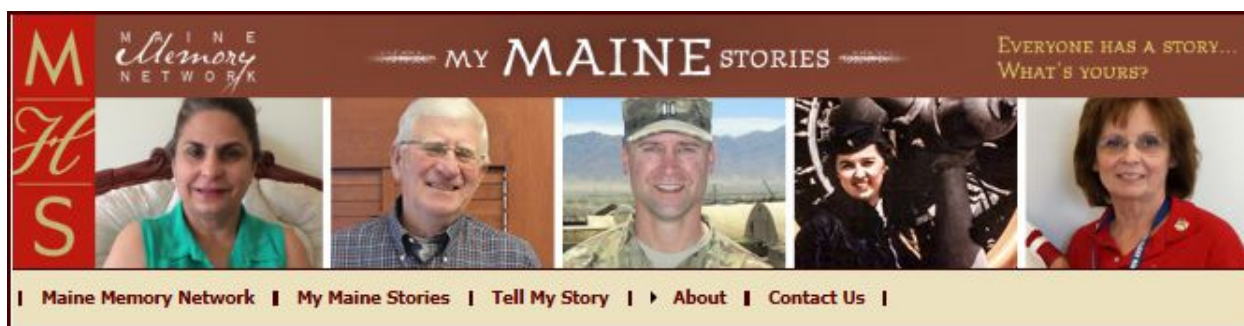
Around the 1840s-50s a community began to form. The one-room schoolhouse was built and served the community as it grew. By the late 1800s and early 1900s, the village had three stores, a barber shop and a church.

The people living there were looked upon by the York and Cape Neddick people as being peculiar. Because they were so insulated from people and some had come from Scotland and had a hard brogue they were hard to understand and so seemed aloof. Some of the men, such as Elijah Lewis and Calvin Plaisted, found ways to make a little money and began to sell their weaved baskets, making the trip to Portsmouth and other surrounding towns.

The wooded areas now gone, by the 1920’s Agamenticus Village, as it was called was in decline. Paved roads, electricity, and phones didn’t come to the area until after the second world war. Young people, seeing no future, left the area and eventually most of the families left, leaving behind only traces of their lives.

Area News and Events:

The **Maine Historical Society** has launched a new feature on their website called *My Maine Stories*. This participatory forum provides online space for sharing your recollections about Maine. Stories could include your experiences in Maine, memories of your family, ancestors, or town; your work life, or the impact that an historical event in Maine had upon you. Your story could be in the form of a type written piece, a video, an audio recording, and photographs which are then uploaded to their "Tell My Story" page. After a review it is then posted on line. <https://www.mainememory.net/mymainestories/>



May 10th - Annual Senior Luncheon, 11:30am, at the Congregational Church. Each year the town holds a senior luncheon to recognize the contributions of Eliot's senior citizens.

May 11th - Public Hearing on the Annual Town Meeting Warrant Articles - Marshwood Middle School Cafeteria. 7:00PM. Be an informed voter!

May 20th – Dr. Fogg's Birthday Celebration at the William Fogg Library, 10:00AM – 2:00PM.



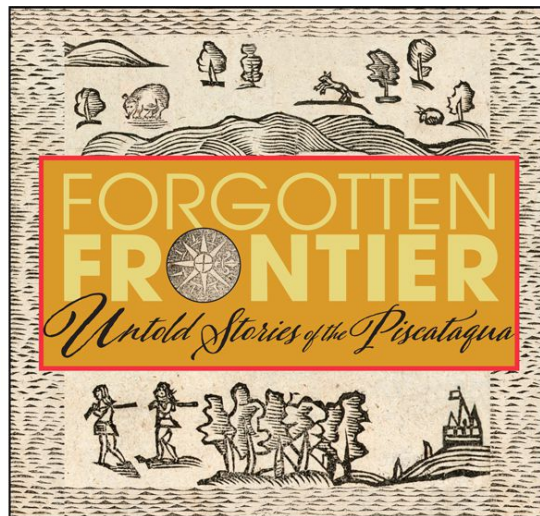
Portsmouth Historical Society Walking Tours : A variety of tours are offered starting May 6th: **Discover Portsmouth Daily Tours** start at 10:30am/75 min. Guides will cover the streets, stories and architecture.

Portsmouth History & Homes on Tuesdays at 11am/90 min. This extended tour of historic downtown stops briefly in front of six historic houses and touches on Portsmouth's economy. **Portsmouth Women** tour takes place on the 4th Wednesday at 4:30pm/75 min. Hear the untold stories of navigators, preachers, artists, authors, tavern keepers and madams! **Historic Preservation** tours will be held on select Saturdays at 10:30am/75 min. Led by historian Richard Candee they showcase the neighborhoods and unique architectural landscapes of the town.

ANNUAL TOWN REPORTS NOW AVAILABLE AT THE TOWN HALL

May 25, 2017 – Old Berwick Historical Society's Annual Meeting - *Songs from the*

Forgotten Frontier. 6:30PM at the Counting House Museum. Come celebrate the opening of our new exhibit, *Forgotten Frontier: Untold Stories of the Piscataqua*. John Kemp and Kathleen Curtin, formerly of Plimoth Plantation, will survey the place of music in the lives of English colonists, from sacred psalms to popular tavern tunes. Kemp assumes the role of Deacon Samuel Fuller to demonstrate a "simpling" of songs familiar to early English arrivals in the Piscataqua. For OBHS members; new members are welcome.



June 13th -Annual Town Meeting Election/Referendum –

Marshwood Middle School, 8:00AM – 8:00PM. Voting on the school and town budgets, election of town officers, committee members, and state referendum issues. Absentee Ballots will be available 30 days prior to the June 13th election/referendum – Check with the clerks at the Town Hall.

Speaking of Cemeteries:



"Here lies Good Old Fred,
a great big rock fell on
his head R.I.P."



"Ma Loves Pa – Pa Loves women. Ma
Caught Pa, with 2 in swimmin. Here
lies Pa.."



"Beneath this stone lies a
merry lass who aimed for the
brake and hit the gas."

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