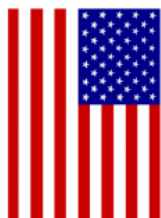


December 4th Meeting – 7PM. **John F. Hill Grange Hall**, State Road. Join us for our annual Holiday Party and Show and Tell. We invite you to bring something that you would like to show us and tell us about, whether history or family related or anything in between. Refreshments will be provided by Carol Zamarchi and Sylvia Moynahan.

News and Area Events

FUNDRAISER

The Fundraising Committee is organizing a RAFFLE for a beautiful hooked rug. Sales will be held at our November and December Meetings, Election Day (November 7th) and the Holiday Bazaar on December 2nd. Drawing will be held at our December 4th meeting.



NOVEMBER 7th - State of Maine Referendum & Special
Municipal Election/Referendum



Voting will be at the **Marshwood Middle School**, Rt. 236/Depot Road. **8am-8pm** On the local ballot will be two questions – **Question 1** concerns approval of a **Moratorium Ordinance Regarding Retail Recreational Marijuana**. **Question 2** concerns the approval of a **Local Food and Community Self-Governance Ordinance (LFCSGO)**. The intent of this ordinance is to remove face-to-face sales of local food from governmental licensure, inspection, and labeling requirements, helping to insure non-interference with farm stands, bake sales, community suppers, etc.. It is endorsed by Eliot's John F. Hill Grange #393. From *Section 3. Preamble and Purpose: We the People of Eliot...have the right to produce, process, sell, purchase, and consume local foods, thus promoting self-reliance, the preservation of family farms, ecologically sound farming practices, and local food traditions. ... As such, our right to a local food system requires us to assert our inherent right to self-government. We recognize the authority to protect that right as belonging to the Town of Eliot.*

1

Address: PO BOX 3, Eliot, ME 03903
Website: www.eliothistoricalsociety.org
Phone: 752-0174 (Rosanne)

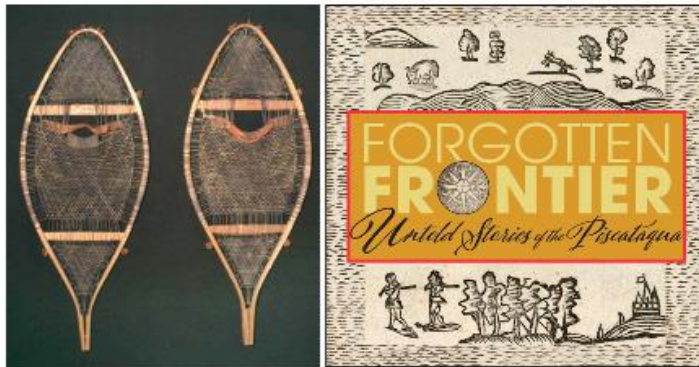
November 9th – York River Study Committee: Jake Aman from Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve will present results from the 2017 Fish & Fish Habitat Study conducted for the York River Study, and Amanda Shearin from Maine Inland Fisheries and Wildlife will present information on key habitats and species in the York River watershed. Presentations will include discussions on resource management/protection strategies. All are welcome to attend and participate in the discussions. **Please indicate in advance if you plan to attend the November 9 meeting by emailing jh.yorkriver@gmail.com.**

November 14th – Jill Shock, educator from the Mt. Kearsarge Indian Museum in Warner, NH, will present a program of stories, accompanied by artifacts, of Native Americans in the greater Kittery area. 6:30pm at the Kittery Recreation Center, 120 Rogers Road. The program is sponsored by the Ranger Chapter, DAR and is open to the public. Call 439-8580 for further information.



November 16, 2017 - Snowshoes and Sense of Place in the Anglo-Wabanaki Wars, 1675-1725

7:30 pm (Berwick Academy)



During some of the coldest decades of the Little Ice Age, Wabanakis and English colonists traveled along snowshoe routes connecting the Piscataqua region to a wider winter world. Diplomatic envoys, raiding parties, captives, and military patrols journeyed along customary paths that Wabanakis used in peacetime to visit kin and access seasonal subsistence sites. Dr. Thomas Wickman discusses Wabanaki knowledge of the region's diverse winter ecology and English settlers' evolving sense of place. *Photo credit: Hudson Museum, University of Maine*

COATS FOR MAINE SENIORS: The Maine Association of Area Agencies on Aging (M4A) is collecting clean, gently used winter coats for seniors again this fall. The **Eliot Town Office** will have a drop box in the office's main lobby. Donations will be accepted during normal business hours from October 15th to November 30th. For each winter coat collected, a voucher will be donated to the Maine Area Agencies on Aging to distribute to older Mainers in need **and** LL Bean will donate \$5 to provide fuel assistance for older adults in need (up to \$5000). Sponsored by the **Eliot Democratic Town Committee**

York Pond Area History Hike

On Saturday, October 14th I had the opportunity to participate in one of the *History Hikes* sponsored jointly by Old Berwick Historical Society and the Great Works Regional Land Trust. Over 30 people hiked into property owned by Great Works in South Berwick and York and then on to the Punkintown area of Eliot. Brenna Crothers (GWRLT) and Nina Maurer (OBHS) were our hosts for the day. These hikes/talks are built around the OBHS lecture series which this year augments their *Forgotten Frontier* exhibit at the Counting House. This hike followed their lecture, in September, by Linford Fisher on “Stranger Danger: Indians, Africans, English, and the World of



Atlantic Slavery” and my talk, this day, focused on the life of Black Will and his family as gleaned from court documents, wills, deeds, and written accounts. We entered at the Route 236 entrance to Punkintown Road then proceeded up into the woods of the Great Works property, over some really neat “floors” of stone formed by glacial movement. It was a beautiful fall day with the sun shining through the forest to our

path below. We stopped to check out an old abandoned quarry site - one of at least two known in this area. The hollowed-out granite rock was now filled with water but you could



Old Bartlett Mill Pond

still see the huge rock “walls” that surrounded it. A side path led to the shores of the Old Bartlett Mill Pond, and walking around the edge, a little further we arrived at the Plaisted Cemetery in Punkintown, before going on to view York Pond and making our way back out Punkintown Road to our parking site. As

we traversed the well-marked paths through the woods we took several breaks where a piece of Black Will’s story was relayed; questions asked and we had some interesting



Stephen Black and Paul Boisvert

discussions both during the breaks and as we walked along with our fellow hikers. As Nina Mauer says it was a “workout for both brain and brawn!” Among those joining us on our hike were Stephen Black, his wife Sally, and cousin Gerry York from Harpswell, Maine. Stephen and Gerry are descendants of Black Will and provided us all with a real sense of the historical nature of the walk. This day would prove to be the first day of what would be an exciting and memorable weekend for all of us as we met up the next day when Stephen returned to South

Berwick with his “cousin” Faith Woodman and her husband Hugh to see the “Forgotten Frontiers” exhibit. We were joined by Paul Boisvert of Berwick. Paul lives on the land once owned by Black Will’s son William Black, Jr.. Faith, is a direct Chadbourn descendant and she discovered, during the visit, how also, through Patience Chadbourn Spencer, she is connected to the family of Black Will.

In the afternoon Paul and his wife Patricia welcomed us to visit them at their 1740s farm house and shared the research they had done. They have a great feeling for their



connection to Black Will and were visibly moved in having Steve and Faith on their property.



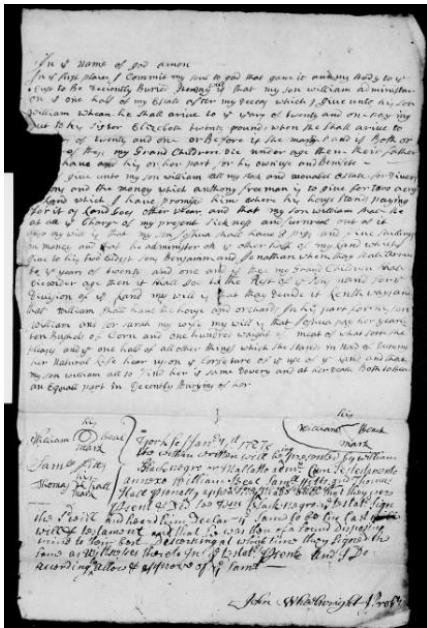
Faith checking out her Chadbourn connection

It was “history in the making” during these two days as I witnessed members of the Black family coming back to their ancestral lands - stepping foot on the very lands left so long ago.

Excerpts from the talk: Black Will, aka William Negro, was a slave in the household of Major Nicholas Shapleigh and his wife Alice whose home was on what is now River Road on the site of the “Kittery House.” Nicholas was the son of Alexander, the first of his family to settle in Kittery, in what is now the town of Eliot. He was a lumber and fishing merchant; owned his own vessels; and had both lumber and grain mills in what is now Kittery and Eliot. His lands in Eliot extended well into its center, with over 760 acres. He was one of the town’s first Selectmen, along with his



The Kittery House, Eliot



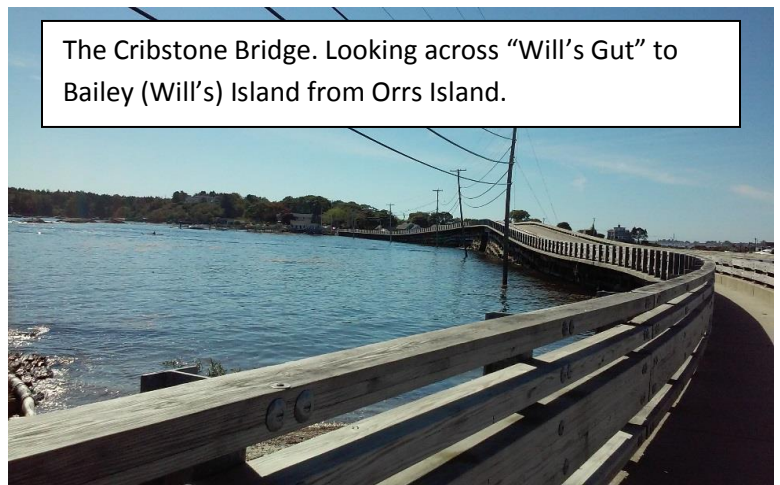
The Will of Black Will

neighbors Nicholas Frost and John Heard. When Nicholas died in 1682 Black Will was living in his own cabin on three acres of the Shapleigh lands and was “given” to his widow Alice. In 1696 Black Will bought 100 acres of land in the interior of the town, from John Gowen, and it is assumed was living there by 1700 when he was freed by John Shapleigh (the nephew and, heir of Nicholas/Alice). In 1708 he obtained the freedom of his friend Tony who had been a slave for the family of Major Charles Frost and invited Tony to settle on his lands. Black Will died in 1727 and willed his 100 acres, in equal parts, to his grandsons, in care of his sons William and Joshua. His sons were to provide for their mother Sarah, during her lifetime, but it appears that William, who had acquired his own lands in Berwick, through a grant and purchase in 1714, had left Eliot by 1715 when he was then living in Berwick. William Black, Jr. moved to what is now Bailey Island (long ago called “Will’s Island”) sometime before 1746 with his wife and child. Some say it was upon the death of his father, in 1727, and several accounts place it as later. That is still a question to be answered. William Black, Jr., died before 1754, when his son, also William, appointed Samuel Fernald his attorney and entrusted him with his lands in Eliot. In 1760-1 William (III), moved over the straight between the two islands – Will’s Gut – and onto what is now Orr’s Island after having deeded his part of

his grandfather’s 100 acres (50 acres) to Samuel Fernald of Eliot. Black Will was able to hold on to his 100 acres for 31 years, no small feat considering the times. The 50 acres left to his grandson William passed out of the family in 1760-1. The lands left to grandson’s Benjamin and Jonathan were deeded out in dribs and drabs until the last 3 acres was relinquished in 1839 with the passing of Black Will’s great-great grandson Henry Black.

NOTE: In September Bob and I made a weekend visit to Bailey and Orrs Islands in Harpswell to visit Stephen Black, whom we had met at Patricia Wall’s book launch at Discover Portsmouth. Having been researching the lands of Black Will here in Eliot, I found myself driven

to try and discover just why his son moved to Bailey Island. Stephen treated us to a tour of Bailey and Orrs Island. As we traversed the lands of Black Will, Jr. and his descendants, through our walks and rides, we looked to try and discover more about where William Black, Jr. lived, why he came here and what his life would have been like. Stephen also arranged a meeting with historian (and cousin) Gerry York, who has done a great deal of research into the family. It really helped to



The Cribstone Bridge. Looking across “Will’s Gut” to Bailey (Will’s) Island from Orrs Island.



have someone so knowledgeable of the area, its history and the Black family to help us navigate through the old name designations of the island, the lay of the land, and just where the Black family might have settled, why they might have come here and what kind of work they might have been doing in the 17th and 18th centuries.

Also the genealogist of the family, Gerry helped us work through the lines to make the family connections clearer, before being joined by Stephen's wife Sally and cousin Faith Woodman for dinner that first evening. We had a wonderfully relaxing and spirited evening talking about the past, our families, our mutual interests and just enjoying each other's company. Hopefully this will be the first of many visits to the area as the story of Black Will's family unfolds.



Stephen and Sally Black, Gerry York, Faith Woodman

SPEAKING OF CEMETERIES

NEW BOOK! *Portland's Historic Eastern Cemetery* by Ron Romano (History Press: 2017)

This new book unravels the history of Portland's 350+ year old historic burying ground, and tells the stories of some of the 7000 interred there, through chapters such as "Lost at Sea," "Five Men Hanged for Murder," and "The Dead House." Price is \$21.99
www.ArcadiaPublishing.com

