

October 3, 2016 Meeting – John F. Hill Grange Hall, State Rd.,

7PM : Our Program will feature a presentation by members of the York River Study Committee - Jack Murphy, Stefan Claesson, Chutt Ott and Jennifer Hunter. The Study Committee was formed to work with community members to develop a York River Watershed Management Plan and evaluate the suitability of a Partnership Wild and Scenic River designation for the river and its tributaries. The Study Committee includes members from Eliot, Kittery, South Berwick, and York. This will be an interactive presentation/meeting with the goal to learn more about the York River watershed's historic and natural resources and features unique to Eliot such as Punkintown and working farms. Together we will explore what has been documented, what the additional research needs might be, possible management strategies to protect resources and opportunities to work together. Following the program refreshments will be served by Ruth Drake-Benedict.

ELIOT FESTIVAL DAY:

Join us on Saturday, September 24th at our booth. The Society will once again be selling baked goods. If you can help please call Sylvia (439-9713) or Carol (748-0889). We are looking for people to bake desserts and man the booth. Baked goods can be brought to Sylvia or Carol's house Friday or to the booth before 8am. They ask that cookies be bagged in allotments.



UPCOMING EVENTS:

September 21st : Elizabeth Rhoades Aykroyd, Curator, Portsmouth Athenaeum will speak at the Portsmouth Athenaeum, 9 Market Square, Portsmouth. 7PM. Reservations required. Call 603-431-2538.

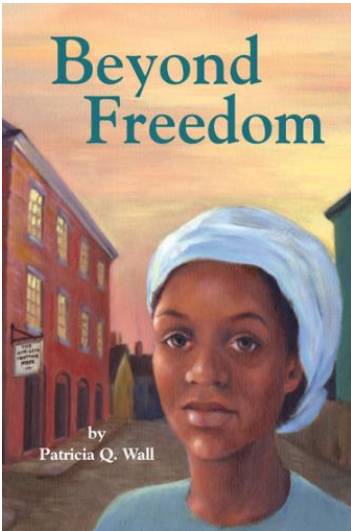
September 22nd : Brad Fletcher will present "Cochranism Delineated!" at 7:30 pm at the Jeppesen Science Center at Berwick Academy. Fletcher will discuss what he terms the "short, strange, and scandalous" history of the religious craze known as Cochranism that swept through southern Maine in the early 19th century.

AREA NEWS:

The Shapleigh Family Association held their annual reunion in August in Eliot. Guest speaker was former President of the Piscataqua Pioneers, Tylene Jousse. Their present President Charles Tarbell also joined the group later at their cookout. Tylene spoke to the members about the Piscataqua Pioneers. The group has their annual meeting in July and has sent out the word that they invite people, eligible to join them. If you are a descendent of one of the founding families of the Piscataqua River basin then you are eligible. You may contact the registrar Wendy Blood at 394 Ocean Road, Portsmouth, NH 03801. If you are looking to explore your roots there are many sources that give insight into the early pioneers of the Piscataqua including *The Genealogical Dictionary of Maine and New Hampshire*; *Rambles in Portsmouth*; *Old Kittery and Her Families*; the *History of Hampton, NH*, The Pioneers have also published *Piscataqua Pioneers: Selected Biographies of Early Settlers in Northern New England*, Portsmouth, NH. At the University of New Hampshire Library in Durham, in the Milne Special Collections and Archives, in the Lamson Collection are the *Piscataqua Pioneers Papers, 1905-1997*, MC231. It contains membership applications, society information and meeting minutes, and member's genealogies.



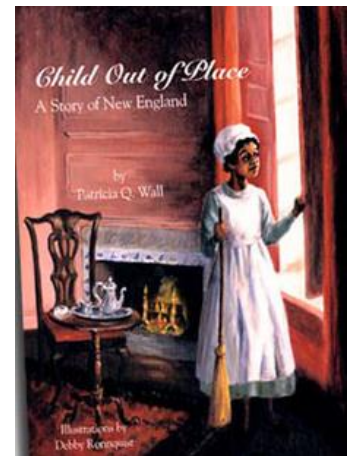
EXPLORING THE HISTORY OF AFRICAN AMERICANS IN EARLY KITTERY/ELIOT :



Patricia Q. Wall of Kittery, Maine visited with me recently to discuss the research and writing of a scholarly work entitled *Lives of Consequence: Blacks in Early Kittery & Berwick in the Massachusetts Province of Maine*. My contact was given to her by the librarian at the Fogg Library and Eric and I have been helping Pat investigate to see if it can be discovered where the 100 acres was located that Black Will, (slave of Nicholas Shapleigh) bought in 1696 from James Gowen. Nicholas Shapleigh, would, later, in 1701, “give” Black Will his freedom.

Patricia grew up in Pennsylvania and has been working with, writing on and volunteering her

time with projects focusing on the history of New England for over 30 years. Living in Kittery, she became inspired by Valerie Cunningham of Portsmouth and Valerie’s work to preserve the history and culture of the African\American community and her founding and creation of the Black Heritage Trail. This interest led Pat to her first historical novel on this topic, *Child Out of Place: A Story of New England* (2004), followed by its sequel *Beyond Freedom*.

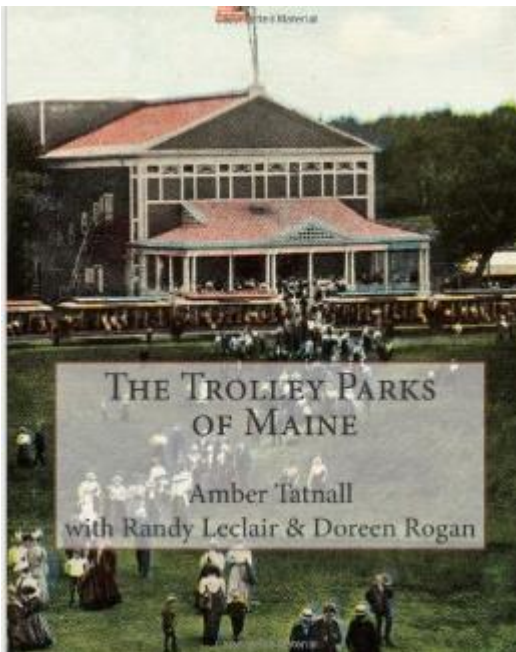


The idea for her latest project came to her while sitting in the First Congregational Church of Kittery Point and looking up at the empty spaces where the side galleries used to be. She started wondering about the Black people who had been segregated there and what their lives were like and wondering too if, as the history books say, there were only “just a few slaves” in this area. She set about to find the answers, give them a voice, and tell their story. *Lives of Consequence* includes as much information as could be found about those who were brought to our community as slaves as well as the slave owners, which for Eliot include the Frost and Shapleigh families, among many others. She is presently finishing up the book and seeking funding for the project. The Shapleigh Family Association has made a donation at their annual reunion held in August and at the September meeting our Society contributed toward the publication of this wonderful addition to the history of this area about a people whom we know so little about. Her book will be published by the Portsmouth Marine Society (the publishing arm of the Portsmouth Historical Society) and a 2017 release date is anticipated. Contributions can be made out to the Portsmouth Historical Society, earmarked “For Patricia Wall's book” and sent to Portsmouth Historical Society, Executive Director, 43 Middle St., Portsmouth, NH, 03801.

NEW NAMES FOR ELIOT'S ROADS

From the June 25, 1903 Portsmouth Herald:

The following names have been given to the principal roads running near the electric road. From the Kittery line to the Berwick line, State road; The "Neck" road (old) Pleasant street; The Neck road (new) Main street, till it reaches Parry Tobey's house, where it takes the name of Farmer's street to Liebman's corner, where it becomes Beach road. From Dr. Willis' to John Emery's is called Old road; and from there to George Neland's it is Shapleigh road. The road past Moses Goodwin's is called Goodwin road; the cross road by W. H. Staples' to No. 8 School house is called Greenwood avenue; the road past the poor farm is called Hanscom road and what has been known as Cole's lane is now Cross street. Signs bearing these names have been placed in their proper locations and no doubt it will simplify matters for the traveling public greatly.



The Trolley Parks of Maine features thirteen of the numerous trolley parks that were operated by electric railways throughout Maine at the turn of the last century. Illustrated with numerous photographs and hand-drawn maps.

The promise of musical entertainment, boating, bathing and other recreational activities drew crowds to Maine's trolley parks. From the New England Electric Railway Historical Society.

Available from Amazon and also the Seashore Trolley Museum for \$12.95