

## **Upcoming Meeting: October 2<sup>nd</sup> John F. Hill Grange**

**Hall, 7 pm.** For our program Paul Goransson will share with us present day farming at his farm on Depot Road – *Bondgarden Farms*. Refreshments will be served by Robert and Rosanne Fisher.

## **Recent Acquisitions**

- Bible belonging to Lillian Dame, the sister of Ella V. Dame from a friend of Jeanette Paul.
- Old chair from Cathy Spellacy from the attic of her home
- Framed Eliot High School diploma of Lewis S. Worster, 1911, from Linda Lockhart
- Picture showing George Ireland in a carriage decorated with advertising (possibly from a parade) from the New Castle Historical Society.
- Superintendent Committee notice of meeting at the # 8 Schoolhouse, 1872. Bought on Ebay and will be framed and hung in the schoolhouse.

## **Announcements and Updates:**

The **Education Committee** reports that 10 families visited during the open house at the # 8 Schoolhouse on June 12<sup>th</sup>, which they hope to do again next year and several members took advantage of the opening of the Elementary School on September 11<sup>th</sup>, to view the “Eliot Stories” mural. They will be meeting in the fall to make plans for the coming year.

**Eliot Festival Day, Saturday, September 30th** is fast approaching and the Fund Raising Committee is looking for **baked goods** and **help** with the booth on that day. Contact Julie Johnson (439-2542) if you need to drop off your baked goods the Friday before and/or to volunteer to help that day.

The Society is making plans to put up **historical plaques** around town. Zip Zamarchi is leading the effort which will be discussed at the October meeting.

## Upcoming Events

The **William Fogg Library's 110<sup>th</sup> Birthday Bash, Friday, September 29<sup>th</sup>** to benefit their Capital Fund as plans are being made to build community meeting space at the Library. At the Regatta, 7-10pm, Raffles, live and silent auction, heavy h' ordeuvres and music by *Something in the Water*. \$30/\$40 at the door.



### **HATS ABOUT THE HOUSE: VICTORIAN BONNETS, TOP HATS, 1950s FASCINATORS AND MORE**

*Friday, September 1st through Sunday, October 22*

A hat makes a statement about a person! At one time, it was expected that every man and woman should wear some sort of hat when out and about. How a hat was worn, its color, and style communicated the societal standing of its wearer as well as their economic ability to purchase such an accessory. Hat wearing faded for a time, but hats are making a comeback. Visit the Wadsworth-Longfellow House this fall to see a selection of the beautiful, fashionable (and sometimes awkward-to-wear) hats from the Maine Historical Society collection. This brief exhibit was curated by MHS' Adjunct Curator of Historic Costumes, Jacqueline Field, a textile and dress historian and author.



**September 20<sup>th</sup> – OBHS “Mill Girls”** South Berwick Public Library, 7PM. The Biddeford Mills Museum will present a program called “The Mill Girls” which intertwines historical fact with real life experience. The lecture will be given by former textile mill workers and will begin with a brief historical background covering the industrial revolution and Frances Cabot Lowell and the Lowell Mills circa 1825.



## **Saturday, September 23<sup>rd</sup> Great Works Regional Land**

**Trust Keay Brook Preserve Hike, 10-Noon** 251 Hubbard Road, Berwick. 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 for non-members.

## **Thursday, September 28<sup>th</sup> – OBHS – Stranger Danger: Indians, Africans, English, and the World of Atlantic**

**Slavery** – Perched on the edge of the English Atlantic empire New England’s people and economy were intertwined with the wider English Caribbean world and at the center of it all were the enslaved peoples who worked in thousands of English homes and farms. Dr. Linford Fisher helps us understand the meaning of cultural interactions, the realities of slavery, and the connections between New England and a wider Atlantic of trade culture and commerce. Berwick Academy, 7:30PM.

## **Saturday, September 30<sup>th</sup> – OBHS – History Stroll – 1 PM – Old Fields Burying Ground.**

The cemetery is located near the corner of Vine and Brattle Streets. Meet at the south end of Vine Street. Old Fields is South Berwick’s oldest community cemetery dating to the 1600s. It is part of the “Old Fields” area that was once the center of the town. A meeting house stood nearby. The tour will last approximately an hour. Comfortable shoes are recommended. Free.

### **Area News**

The **Shapleigh Family Association** held its annual reunion on August 18-20<sup>th</sup>. With over 35 attending from all over the country it was an exciting and lively reunion! Guest speaker was author Patricia Q. Wall to speak about her new book *Lives of Consequence* which had her audience eager to learn more. Following the lunch a group went to visit the exhibit at the Counting



House in South Berwick – *Forgotten Frontiers*. At the breakfast on Sunday Pat and Tylene Jousse of the Piscataqua Pioneer group were guests at Wentworth by the Sea. Tylene’s half uncle was descended from Black Will’s son Joshua. This provided for a very interesting discussion about the research that she had done for him, just before he passed away. It seems he had heard a story about their being a native American woman in the family. It came as quite a surprise when he learned about Black Will and his son Joshua.



This year’s reunion was in honor of Richard W. Shapleigh who had for many years been president of the Association and its historian. Secretary Jane Edgecomb recounted Richard’s many contributions to the Association and he was presented with a certificate and digital photo frame loaded with pictures of Shapleigh family reunions and outings over the years. Richard was also

instrumental in helping Mrs. Herbert B. Knowles in the 1960s revive our Eliot Historical Society. He served for many years as President and also held the offices of Secretary and Treasurer. His dedication to family and town history is unmatched and to him we owe our deep gratitude

## **York River Study Committee**

Information and photos by David Ramsey as reported in the *York Weekly*  
June 17, 2017

In June, as part of the research being conducted by the York River Study committee, high school students and other volunteers took part in an archaeological dig at Punkintown located at the headwaters of the York River. They were looking for the presence of “significant archaeological cultural resources” in the study area. Participants



learned how to excavate a test pit, screen sediment to look for artifacts and record the work they are doing as they progressed. Investigations yielded nails, kaolin pipe fragments, small potter shards and piece of the mineral rhyolite that appears to be chip from the making of a Native American stone projectile point or other stone implements. The committee was formed to evaluate the suitability of a Wild and Scenic River designation and has been working with community members. They are eager to share with us their research and it is hoped to schedule them as soon as we have an opening in our programming.



Chuck Ott, Chair of the YRSC and intern Ryan Stuart of Kittery examining artifacts from the dig in Punkintown.

## **Unseen Witness: Sarah Farmer and the Portsmouth Peace Treaty**

Author and Artist Anne Gordon Perry was in town recently for the anniversary of the Portsmouth Peace Treaty, an event that brought to a close the horrific Russo-Japanese war in 1905 on September 5th. Not a stranger to Eliot, Anne is known for her portrayal of Sarah Jane Farmer, the founder of Green Acre and her production of historical theatrical



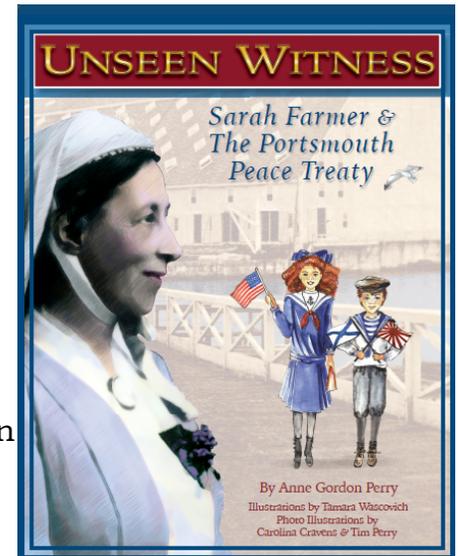
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# Eliot Historical Society    September 2017 Newsletter

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events in the town, including a production for the town's bicentennial in 2010 and more recently the reviving of "Eliot Stories" for an open house at Green Acre last year. Anne brought with her, for this visit, a new children's book that she has published. While here, accompanied by HuTian of Xi'an, China, she attended various events in our area which included a talk at the Kittery Naval Museum, the Discover Portsmouth Center, a book reading at G. Willikers! and tea given in Eliot as she shared the history of Sarah's work and the story of her being the only woman to have viewed the signing of the Treaty. She also presented books to the Libraries of Eliot, Kittery, and Portsmouth and participated in the September 5<sup>th</sup> remembrance in Market Square where Mayor Blalock read the Governor's Proclamation and the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard provided the salute before the traditional bell ringing at 4:47pm. During the activities small peace flags were passed out. Included here is our visit to G. Willikers! in Portsmouth with co-owner Jody Breneman and HuTian. Anne has presented a copy to our Historical Society.



*Depot Road and the Sylvester Bartlett Farm, now the home of Paul and Helen Goransson. Note the tracks and electrical lines of the trolley. c. 1910*

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