

**Meeting May 7** – 7:00 pm at the John F. Hill Grange Hall. For our program Eliot town manager, Dana Lee will discuss the duties of a town manager and any ways in which his may differ from the duties of other town's managers. He will inform attendees of current projects he is working on for Eliot. Refreshments will be served by Pam Ashley.

**April Meeting highlights** - The **Fundraising Committee** thanked Society members for their support of the recent **Lasagna Dinner** and suggested that it might be an annual event. This event raised over \$600 and was greatly enjoyed by all. Jan Cerabona shared with us the Elementary School plans for the second grader's **Eliot History** curriculum. Our Historical Society will be quite involved this year beginning with the open house at the #8 Schoolhouse on April 27th for the students and again on either the 28<sup>th</sup> or 29<sup>th</sup> for students and their families. In addition to the offering of speakers, 3 stations discussing Grange history, the trolleys and a sharing of exhibit pieces from our collection. Jan is also arranging with Julie our collections chair an exhibit for the school for the first week of May and possibly an exhibit of student art work, before the end of the school year, at the Grange Hall. **April 10<sup>th</sup> Mike Zamarchi** will be bringing a crew from the High School to tidy up the grounds at the Grange, as part of their community service day activities. It was announced that Cindy Lentz is stepping down from her service as chair of the **Fundraising Committee**. Please let Paul Johnson know if you are interested in joining and/or taking over as chair - pjrners@comcast.net

### **The Bay Lands**

At our March meeting **Eric Christian** shared with us his research on the lands and landowners of the Bay Lands here in Eliot. He has kindly shared this research which I have attempted to condense here. We hope he will publish a formal paper in the future as he has uncovered valuable information on this piece of our town's history.

Sir Ferdinando Gorges, in 1622, with Captain John Mason received a patent for lands in Maine between the Merrimack and Kennebec. In 1629 the land was divided and the land south of the Piscataqua became the Province of New Hampshire under Mason. The grants appear to have also given to Mason shared control of some of the lands east of the Piscataqua which included present day Eliot. He appointed Walter Neal as his agent.

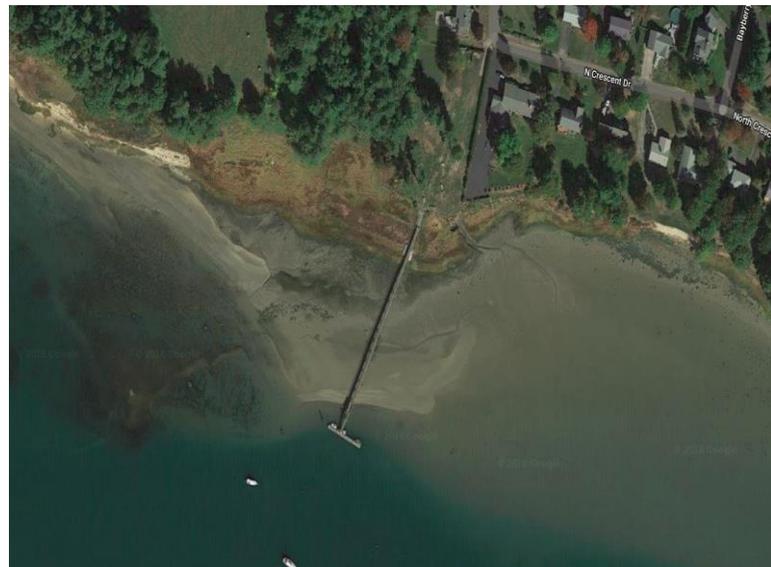
It is reported that William Hilton came to Hilton Point (Dover) with his brother around 1623 and settled at Dover Point in 1628. Across the river at Sandy Hill, in Eliot, he used an old Indian cornfield to grow corn and some accounts say he built a house here. Walter Neal drove him off and burned down his house in 1632.

In 1633 proprietors of the “Laconia Company” were given grants of land bordering the shores of the Piscataqua. Captain Thomas Cammock received a grant for the land where William Hilton had his cornfield and cabin, which he then sold to John Treworgy, Alexander Shapleigh’s agent, in 1636.



Thomas Wannerton received a grant just south of Cammock’s. He invited Nicholas Frost to come and be his neighbor and gave him land here in 1634. This Frost land and house became the home of William Everett and eventually William Leighton. Wannerton also sold off more of his grant to Nicholas Shapleigh.

**Henry Joselyn** also received a grant next to Wannerton’s in 1633. This grant extended from Watts Fort to Franks Fort. John Watts, a merchant kept a trading post here. Franks Fort was named for Francis Williams who was an overseer of experimental salt works for the Laconia Company, located along the shore between Franks Fort and Watts Fort.

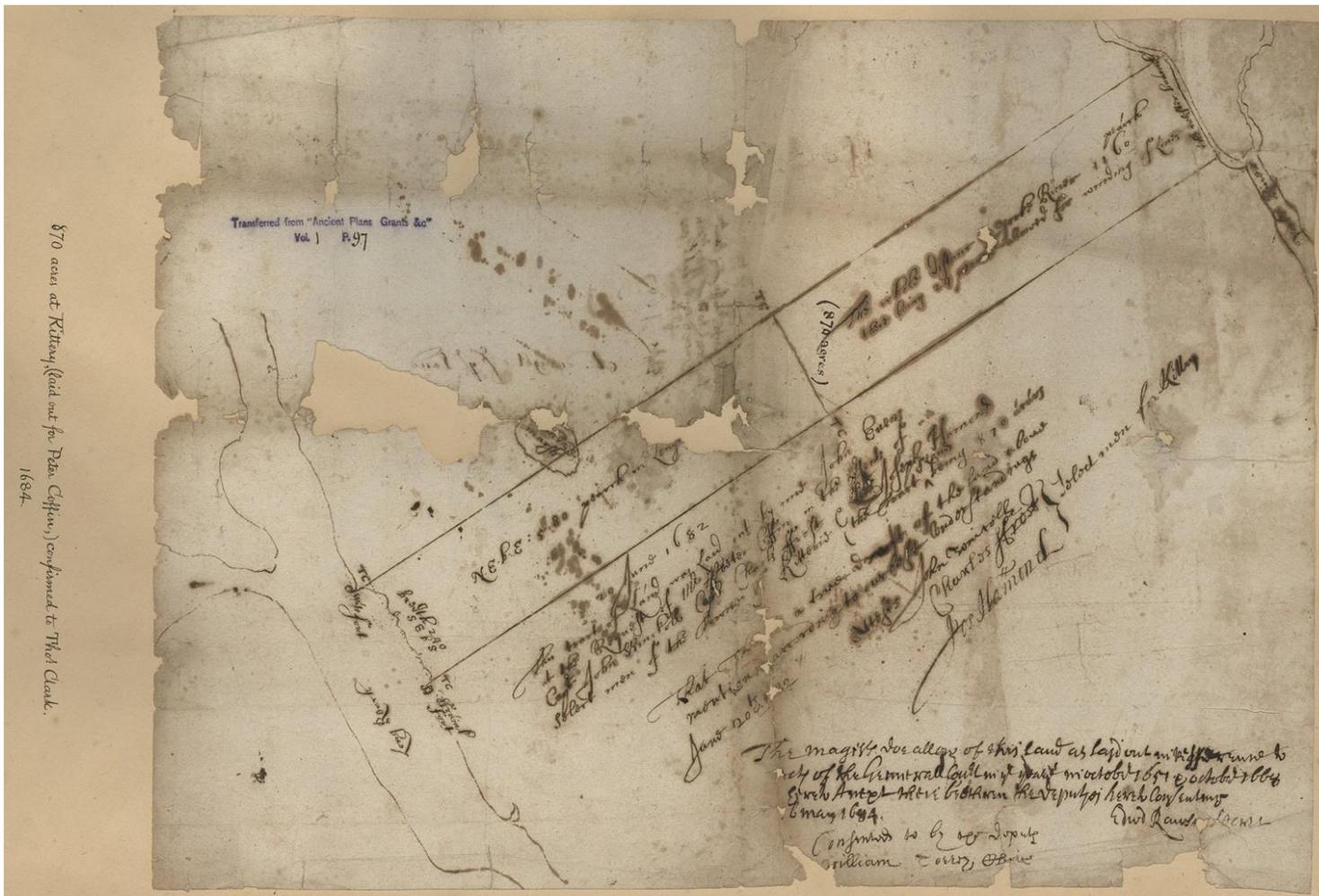


Joselyn’s grant became what is known as the “**Bay Lands**”. In 1639 he sold this land to **Rev. Hanserd Knollys** of Dover. He returned to England in 1641 but not before selling his lands to the General Court of Massachusetts for 30 pounds.

**Site of Watts Fort**

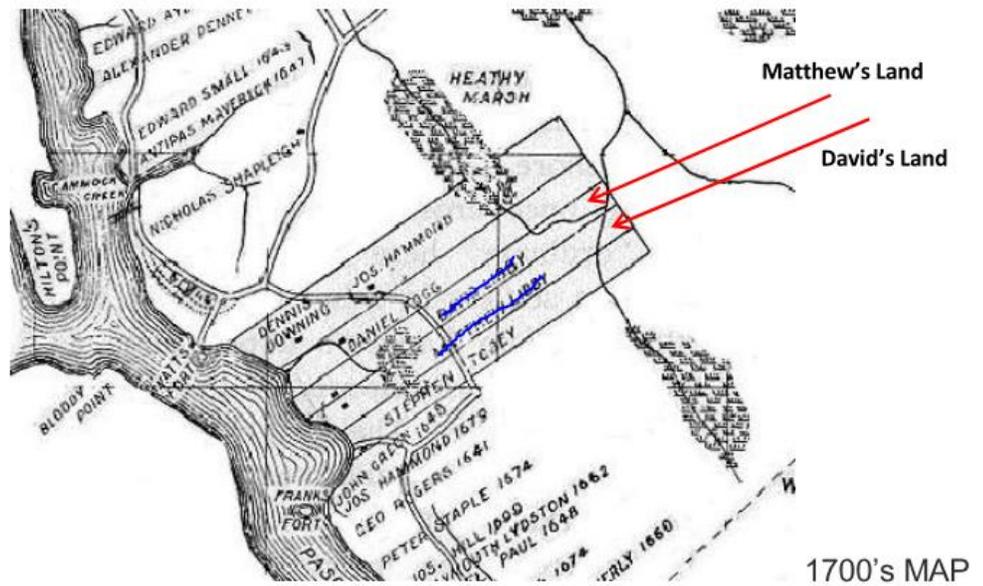
**William Hawthorne** who was born in 1606 was a successful merchant in Salem, Massachusetts and was the ancestor of author Nathaniel Hawthorne. He received the Knowles or Knolly lands as a grant from the General Court in 1651. Land was often used as currency among merchants which was the case when Hawthorne sold the lands to **Capt. John Leverett** of Boston in 1653 for 8 hogsheads of salt and 10,000 feet of boards. Two years later Leverett used the land to acquire 80 pounds sterling in boards from Thomas Broughton. Broughton then sold the Bay Lands to **Major Thomas Clark** of Boston in 1659 and when he dies in 1683 his daughters, Mehitable Warren and Elizabeth Hutchinson took ownership of the Bay Lands for the next 16 years.

In 1682 Peter Coffin requested survey of these lands and the parcel measured 240 rods wide by 580 rods long for 870 acres.



870 acres at Kittery, laid out for Peter Coffin, confirmed to Thos Clark, 1684.

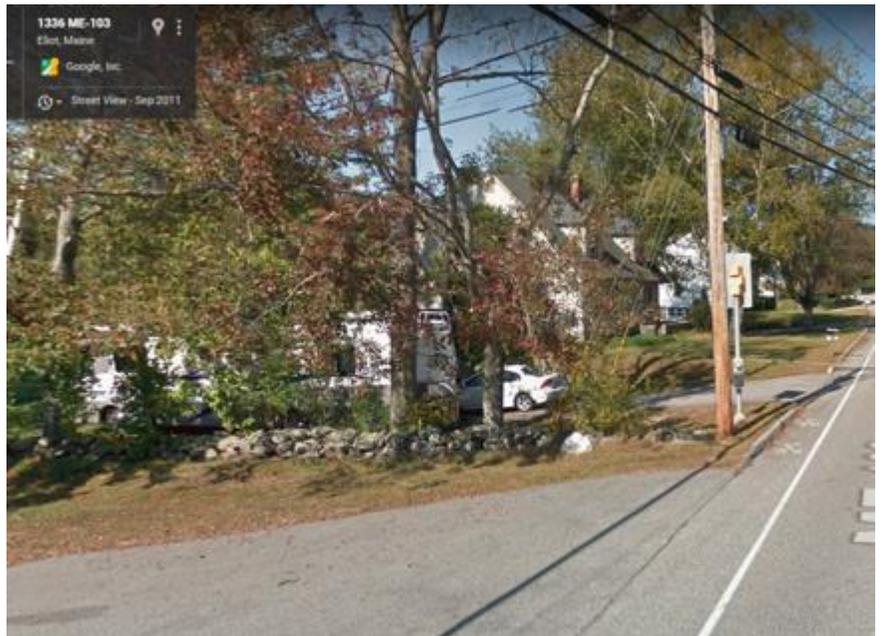
On December 18, 1669 Joseph Hammond, Daniel Fogg, Matthew Libby, David Libby, and Stephen Tobey bought these 870 acres for 300 pounds. Because Hammond put up 100 pounds he received a wider swath of land. As might be expected this quantity of

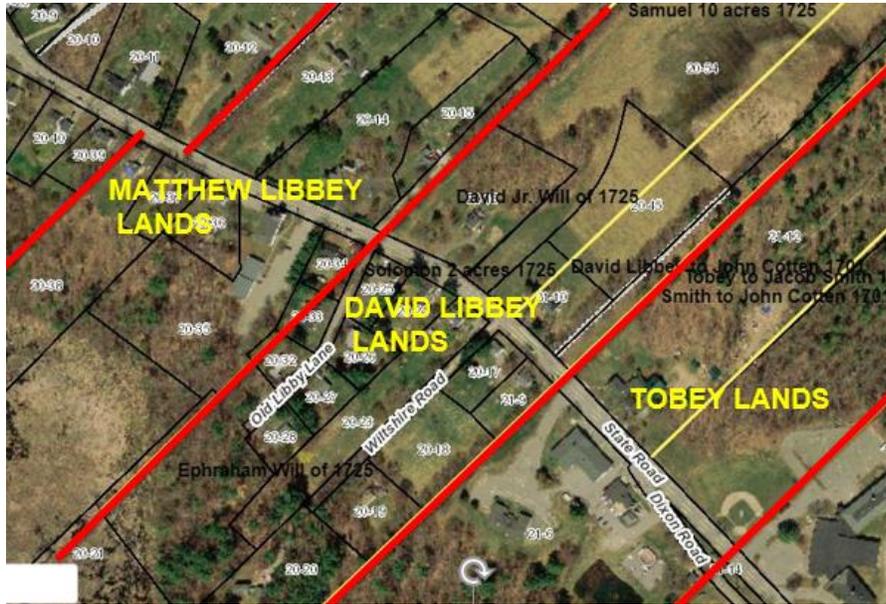


undeveloped land invited squatters. **Dennis Downing** was already living on about 30 acres of land where Frost- Tufts Park is today. His son Joshua inherited this land. Stackpole in *Old Kittery and Her Families*, says that all the grantees of the 1699 purchase, except for Joseph Hammond were already living on this land. Tobey may have also been here with his shipbuilding operations at Mast Cove.

**Stephen Tobey** began dividing off the northern part of his parcel almost immediately

Through his research into the present-day boundary lines for the owners of these lands Eric discovered that the town office complex was part of Stephen Tobey's parcel. The stone wall on the right of the drive was the boundary between Stephen Tobey and David Libbey's lands. The other boundary for Tobey was located where the driveway to the Elementary School is.





**David Libbey** divided off a 12 Rod parcel adjacent to Stephen Tobey’s parcel to John Cotten in 1702.

David Libbey’s will of 1725 divides his parcel among his sons, David Jr., Samuel, Solomon, and Ephraim and **Matthew Libbey’s** 1740 will divides his parcel between sons Matthew Jr. and Samuel.

Libbey Lane, with parts of it still in use today was an established access road between Matthew and David Libbey’s lots.



The Dr. Willis Homestead on Old Road which was bought by John Fogg from a Mr. Dixon about 1775 is probably part of a much older house built around 1727. This homestead, along with the William Fogg House (1821), William Fogg Library the site of the Eliot Academy (1839-1875) were all part of the original **Daniel Fogg** lands.

**Joseph Hammond's** will formally divide his parcel, in 1751, between sons Joseph, and George. The George A. Hammond house, now Orland McPherson's on State Road, originally on the land of Hammond on a parcel off what is now Bradstreet Lane, was moved, in 1852, to its present location.

### **News and Events**

**April 14, 9am - Movie "1776" will be shown at the Kittery Community Center on Rogers Road.** This event is sponsored by the Ranger Chapter of the DAR. \$5 charge. Coffee, Tea and Pastries will be served.

#### **May 5 – William Fogg Library -**

This benefit walk will help raise money for the Library's planned expansion project. For more information contact the library at 439-0437



#### **May 18 – MOCA Annual Spring Program Day and Member**

**Meeting.** 8:30-2:30pm at the Waterboro Grange Hall. The program, after lunch, will be "Moving a Cemetery" by James Pate from the Dennett, Craig and Pate Funeral Home. Registration is through their website: <https://moca-me.org/event-2680291>. I will be attending and setting up a display for our "Adopt a Cemetery" program. I also have space for two people to share the ride there. If anyone would like to go please contact me at 207-752-0174. You will have to register to reserve a space and lunch on-line.