

MEETING –

September 9- Please note that, because of the Labor Day holiday, our meeting will be the 2nd Monday of the month. 7pm at the John F. Hill Grange Hall. **Chuck Ott** (York River Study Committee Chair) and **Jennifer Hunter** (York River Wild and Scenic Study Coordinator) will present an update on their work. Refreshments will be served by Skip and Margie Brown.

MAINE
BICENTENNIAL
KICK-OFF EVENT

ELIOT TOWN HALL
MONDAY, AUGUST 12
10:00 AM

**Raising of the Maine
Bicentennial Flag**

Please join us!

**Eliot's Maine Bicentennial
Committee**

**Join us in a year-long celebration
of Maine 200th Birthday.**

HOW CAN YOU BECOME INVOLVED?

- Make sure you or your organization are represented at Eliot Festival Day - participate in the parade - have a booth - enter the Outhouse Race
- Build upon the activities you already do AND incorporate creative ways to share your history and celebrate our State's Bicentennial.
- Organize and/or Host a special event that highlights your organization or committee to add to the calendar. Get creative!
- Love a parade? The Maine State Parade will be in Lewiston on May 16, 2020. Want to work on Eliot's entry in the parade?!
- Attend scheduled events during the year which will include the William Fogg Library's "Eliot Read Book Club" and Story Book Walks, Historical Society Tours and Talks, events at the John F. Hill Grange, and the many others that will be on the upcoming calendar.
- Let us know of your ideas and plans to celebrate your own history!

ALL ARE INVITED to join us at our meetings which are held at the William Fogg Library on Monday afternoon at 5pm. Next meeting August 19th. Contact Jan @ jcerab2805@aol.com (748-0932) or Lydia @ goodwinl@william-fogg.lib.me.us (439-1580)

Story Time at the # 8 Schoolhouse!

Jan Cerabona and **Ann Shisler** are trying something new this summer, with support from librarian **Lydia Goodwin**. In August they set up two story times for children, ages 5-8. Following the story is a related craft. The first book reading was on August 7th with *Memorial Bridge Cat*. The next will be on **August 14th** with *Tugboat River Rescue!* Both books are by local Maine author Crystal Ward Kent. The story time is held from 10-11am. If you are interested in bringing your children or grandchildren please reserve a space by calling the William Fogg Library at 439-9437.

Open house at #8 Schoolhouse! The summer is upon us and the open house events at our schoolhouse are in full swing, with 2 months to go. If you get a chance stop by and visit with Jan for a bit! The schoolhouse is open 11am – 2pm on the last Saturday and Sunday of the month. Next dates are August 31/September 1 and September 28/29.



We started off our season in May with a special visit from Guy Trammell of Alabama's Tuskegee Institute. He came to visit our schoolhouse at the end of a 5-day visit to the schools in Eliot and South Berwick, to share with them African-American history as part of South Berwick/Tuskegee

sister-city exchanges. His visit was funded by the Marshwood Education Foundation. Donasie Peterson and her grandmother Jan Cerabona had the great pleasure of greeting Guy and showing him around our building!

Our August cookout!

Once again, Elementary School music teacher Mr. K and a group of young singers led us in celebrating our town in song! It may have been a small group of Historical Society members that were in town that evening but the children and their parents helped to fill the pavilion! We joined in singing Eliot versions of *The Gundalow Song*, *Our Hometown*, and *The One room school* and ended the evening with the *Maine Song*. A huge thank you to Jan Cerabona who arranged this and to all the parents and children!

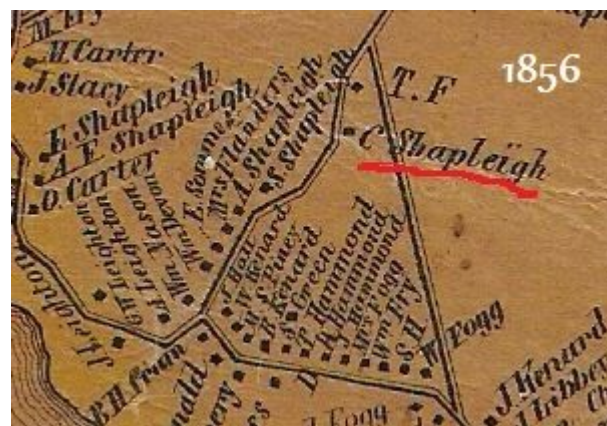


(Part 2 of 3 or maybe 4)

A round, ornate metal pocket watch with a detailed engraved floral design on its face. The watch has a small, textured metal loop at the top and is resting on a dark wooden surface.

A close-up photograph of an open, heavily corroded metal box, likely a pillbox. The interior surfaces are covered in a thick, uneven patina of green and brown corrosion. The box is held open by two fingers, and the background is a dark, textured wooden surface.

Eric found that the home was listed as C. Shapleigh on the 1856 town map and S. Shapleigh on the 1872 map. In addition, in the 1880 census there was a Samuel Shapleigh, Jr., (55) wife Sarah (42), and Samuel E. Shapleigh (12) listed as being next to George O [Owen]. Shapleigh*.



Through the Alfred Courthouse website Eric found that in 1942 the house, on whose grounds the pocket watch was found, was owned by Edward and Minnie Gleason and then sold to Melvin and Alice Stadig. In 1977 the Stadigs sold it to Kenneth Dame.

Checking the records of Richard W. Shapleigh, Sr., who, for many years was the Shapleigh Family Association's historian, I found that Richard had documented this house as being the Samuel (6) /Levi Jenness (7) Shapleigh homestead. He wrote that the house was believed to have been built in two sections between 1850-1860. Richard's father George Eliot Shapleigh, who was the grandson of Samuel, was the last Shapleigh to be born here and the property was sold out the family. In 1941, after the death of Richard's grandmother and one of her bachelor sons who lived here, it came back into the Shapleigh family when Richard's first cousin, once removed, Sheryl Goodnough, owned it for a time.

Richard Shapleigh in further documentation says that Levi Jenness (7) Shapleigh was born in 1797 and was the son of Samuel (6) Shapleigh (b. 1757) who married Elizabeth Yeaton and was the grandson of Alexander (5) and Elizabeth Goodwin Shapleigh. Levi Jenness Shapleigh married twice. Levi's son Samuel was born in 1825 and was the son of he and his first wife Mary Paul. Samuel (1825) married (1) Martha Maddox and (2) Sarah Grace. Their son Samuel (b. 1867) is the 12-year-old son listed in the above 1880 census - the son of Samuel and Sarah Grace.

Fortunately, Richard W. Shapleigh, Sr.'s collection was recently donated to the Shapleigh Family Association. It is hoped that as we go through the materials, we might be able to identify the woman in the locket or perhaps our readers might have an idea of who it might be??!

You can see Dylan's website at www.runnionhandmade.com

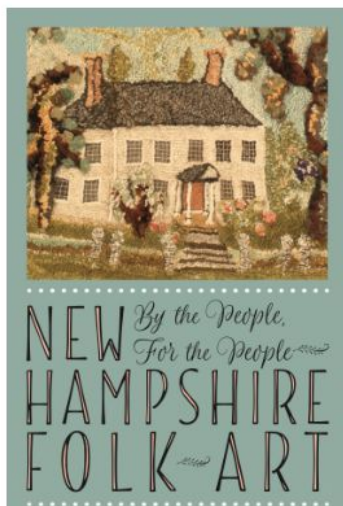


*George Owen Shapleigh's house is shown as "A. Shapleigh" on the 1856 Map and then as "G.O. Shapleigh on the 1872 map. The house is no longer standing but was on the opposite side of the road, near Bill Shapleigh's gravel pit, as you go toward River Road.

The Twombly family lived there later. Next to the site, at 141 Fore Road, is the home of Marcia Goss, a Shapleigh descendant. George Owen Shapleigh's parents were Alexander and Eliza Jane (Hill) Shapleigh. His father Alexander was the son of Levi's brother Samuel. George Owen Shapleigh was born in 1839.

Area News and Events

Folk Art Exhibition – Discover Portsmouth w/ exhibition Tours on Fridays, 12-1 pm - free



2019 Exhibition

New Hampshire Folk Art:
By the People, For the People
Curated by Gerald R. Ward

with Companion Exhibition
by the League of NH Craftsmen

Open Daily 9:30 - 5:00

Discover Portsmouth

free and open to the public

August 18 – Shapleigh Family Reunion, 12 -4. St. Christopher's Church, York, Maine. For more information, call Rosanne 752-0174

A Prayer for Genealogists

by Curtis Woods

Lord, Help me dig into the past
And sift the sand of time
That I might find the roots that make
This family tree of mine.

Lord, Help me trace the ancient roads
On which my fathers trod,
And led them through so many lands
To find our present sod.

Lord, help me find an ancient book
or dusty manuscript,
That's safely hidden now away
in some forgotten crypt.

Lord, let it bridge the gaps that haunts
my soul when I can't find,
This missing link between some name
that ends the same as mine.