

JULY - REMINDER - the Historical Society has no meeting in July. Our next event is **August 5th** for our **Annual Cookout** at the Boat Basin beginning at 5pm.



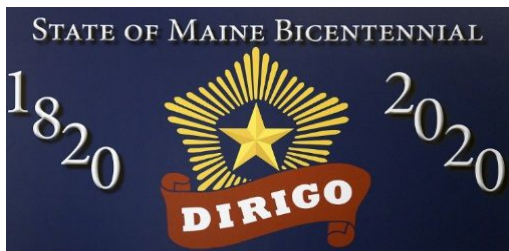
At our **June 3rd meeting** family and friends gathered to honor **Jeanette (Spinney) Paul**. We shared our stories, memories and poetry and saw a special video made in

her honor. Thank you all for coming and please join us again on **JUNE 15th at 11am** when we will gather at the **#8 Schoolhouse on Greenwood Street** and dedicate a plaque her memory.

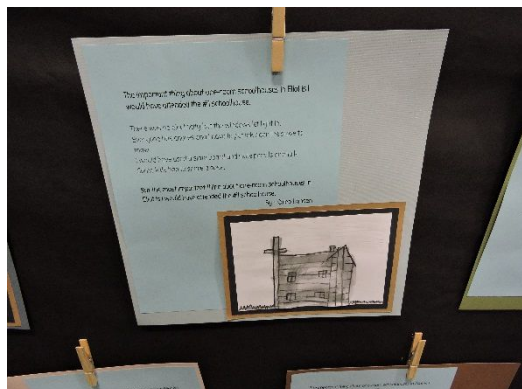
Hometown Roots

It was standing room only at the Eliot Elementary School gym as friends and family gathered with anticipation to see the 2nd grade children's presentation after weeks of serious exploration of the history of their town.

HOMETOWN ROOTS was the theme of this year's studies. Along one side of the gym were displayed the



A wide variety of Maine people and communities constantly create anew what it means to be a Mainer. This landscape has been inhabited for thousands of years. People and land shape one another, and our geography, climate, and natural resources are important factors in determining how we live here. It has long been said there are “two Maines,” but the cultural identity of Mainers is at once both more complex and closely connected than that. While we are friends and neighbors bound by our common work ethic, integrity and rugged individualism, there are complex local, regional, tribal, cultural, and socioeconomic identities that are important to understand, appreciate, and include in our consideration of what it means to live in Maine.



children's journals containing their writings and drawings about the stories they had heard during their class and events. Also displayed was a weathervane they had constructed from a cup and straws and their picture of a story about Eliot that had

most fascinated them. In the back of the room was an 8x10 foot map of present-day Eliot with the school districts as they would have been in 1872 marked off. Within each district was a replica of that district's one room schoolhouse and each child had placed a wooden marker with their name inside the boundaries of the district where they would have gone to



school in the 1800s. This interactive map will be utilized in subsequent years as historical building replicas will be added as they continue to study the history of the town.

The evening was a beautiful blend of performance, music, and presentation. Starting off the evening **Jan Cerabona**, Eliot Historical Society's liaison to the school, introduced a special video honoring **Jeanette (Spinney) Paul**. Jeanette was dedicated to educating our community's children about the history of their town, and will always be remembered for her yearly portrayal of the school teacher at our Number 8 Schoolhouse.

During their HOMETOWN ROOTS studies, the children had kept journals with writings and pictures which were then used by Artists-in-Residence **Laurie Downey** and **Gretchen Berg** from the *Local Stories Project* to select those themes that had most caught the children's attention. Gretchen worked with the children to create a performance and Laurie to produce a "moveable" mural. Using their journal entries, Gretchen read about various events in Eliot's history while the children, using only their bodies, created the objects and acted out the stories.

Among the stories told were those of Shem Drowne, born in Eliot, who was a famous metalsmith and created the



famous golden grasshopper weathervane that graces the roof of Faneuil Hall; the story of the clipper ship Nightingale that was built at Eliot's Hanscom Shipyard and its figurehead which was discovered being used as a scarecrow when the ship was abandoned; the story of how bricks were made at the brickyards in Eliot; what a day was like for

children at a one-room school; the day pilot Charlie Oldfield crashed his plane into the old Town Hall that was once located across from the Elementary School; the meaning of our Town Seal; and the story about a tree planted by Bud Moynahan's graduating class which still stands outside the Elementary School (the old Eliot High School).



Eliot Elementary's music teacher, Mr. K. accompanying the children on his guitar, led them in song while the words, with pictures, played in the background on a large screen. Using popular music, Mr. K. has added new lyrics that talk about Eliot and aspects of our history that the children studied. The songs and the performance were lively, engaging and fun. "Our Hometown", the "Gunda Low Song" and "The One Room Schoolhouse" were just a few of the special offerings.

To complete the evening's program Laurie and Gretchen, assisted by students and teachers, "rolled out" the graphic panels that had been completely designed by the children using their own artwork and journal writings. There are six panels and subjects include the eight district schoolhouses, stories about Lena Molleur-Bernard and her homerun, the plane crash into the old Eliot Town Hall, the All Scouts Circus and Lanier Camp.



The panels will be installed on the wall of the Elementary School as a continuation of the "moveable" mural that was done two years ago by the 2nd graders under the guidance of Gretchen and Laurie

It was truly an inspiring evening with creative ways to take aspects of our town's history and make it come alive, not only for the children but us, adults, as well. A job well done by the

children and their teachers! Can't wait to see what next year's class will do!

Eliot Celebrates Maine's Bicentennial

The Select Board recently formally endorsed and established a Maine Bicentennial Committee for our town that was initially brought together by Lydia Goodwin and Jan Cerabona. Presently it has representatives from the Historical Society, William Fogg Library, Eliot Festival Day Committee, John F. Hill Grange, the Eliot Elementary School the business community and the faith community. All citizens are welcome to attend meetings and it is the hope of the committee that groups will sponsor an activity(s) during our celebratory year which begins with Eliot Festival Day 2019 and ends on Eliot Festival Day 2020.

The next meeting of the committee will be at the William Fogg Library on June 24th at 4:30pm. All are welcome!



Not wanting to miss the opportunity to see what others were doing for the State's Bicentennial, Jan Cerabona and I, since we are both members of the Eliot Historical Society and the town's Maine Bicentennial

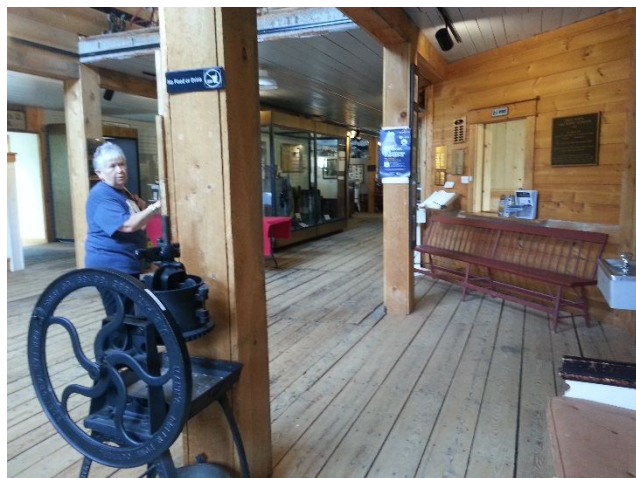
Committee accepted an invitation to participate in the **Maine History Festival** which was held in conjunction with the Conference. On May 31st we traveled up to the UMAINE Campus in Orono, with our Historical Society/Committee display in tow. The Maine History Festival provided a great opportunity to network with others who are involved in documenting and celebrating the history of Maine both on a local and state level. We were among more than 40 cultural organizations, teachers and students who each were given a table to present their organization and the things they are involved in. Among those presenting there were Historical Societies from the mid and northern part of the state involved in oral history projects, and walking tours, genealogical society groups, the Maine State Archives, Osher Map Library, Fogler Library, Maine Blueberry Council, the



Franco-American Society, Wayne Cobb, a Quaker historian, a person who was transcribing audio recordings of the old sea chanties of the Irish, Scotch and Arcadians; the Maine Archives and Museums, the Maine Historical Society, Maine National History Day which is sponsored by the University of Maine and the Margaret Chase Smith Library, The Maine Folklife Center, the Maine-Wabanaki REACH (Reconciliation-Engagement-Advocacy-Change-Healing) organization, several individuals who were researching the history of their towns and were published authors. For those who LOVE history and education there was everything one could have asked for! Jan was able to connect with Gavin Glider a teacher from Portland High School who was interested in her idea of having the one-room schoolhouses all have an "open house day" during the Bicentennial Year. He thought it would be a great project for High School students and said he'd do it! I had an opportunity to meet archaeologist Pamela Crane who headed up project which uncovered the remains of the 1718 homestead of the Andrew McFadden family who settled on the shores of Merrymeeting Bay. She is now going to help us with our William Furbush project.



Getting there a few hours before set up time, we had the opportunity to visit the **Page Farm & Home Museum** which is located on the campus. We had a



great time looking at all the neat things from days gone by – farming, textile and butter making implements, old sleds and toboggans, tole work and weavings and even a Grange



meeting set up with the various sashes and symbolic items.



We were most interested though in the one room schoolhouse which was next to the barn. It had been brought down from Hiram. They use it as a teaching setting also and they had the individual blackboards, reprints of



primers, ink powder and the seating just like we have. Although it has many more blackboards than our own does it helped confirm that we were on the right track in our own layout accurately reflecting a

one-room schoolhouse. One of the REALLY interesting things was the outhouse that was not only attached to the schoolhouse but was accessed from inside the building!



Paul Johnson, Donald Webber, Jr., Robert Sapiro

The Eliot Historical Society has loaned the Trolley Stop building, which Donald Webber, Sr. made, to Green Acre Baha'i School where it will on display. The original building was recently moved back to Green Acre and restored.



Bonnie Wible

DON'T FORGET TO



JUNE 11

MARSHWOOD MIDDLE SCHOOL 8AM-8PM

SCHOOL/TOWN BUDGETS – TOWN OFFICIALS

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

Area News and Events

Counting House Museum Exhibits - *Brave New World:*

The Wireless Age Begins is an exhibition exploring the cutting-edge technology of the early 20th century, which transformed the way Americans thought, wrote, talked, danced and sang. ***Our Stories: Talking***

about Tatnic focuses on the most rural part of South Berwick, on the Wells border. Settled originally as farmland, many local residents can trace their family stories to Tatnic. Families, including the Gray, Rodier, Hasty, Warren, and Young are used to tell the story of this area of the town. Open Saturday and Sunday 1:00–4:00 p.m. through October. ***Village Voices: Tales of***

Enterprise and Endurance chronicles 400 years of enterprise in the South Berwick region through the lives of residents who have shaped key trades. This permanent exhibit is located on the second-floor hall of the Counting House Museum



June 21 – 24: Portland's ***Schoonerfest and Regatta***. The tall ships return! Downtown waterfront. More information at <https://www.visitportland.com/tall-ships-maine-va5-c3545.aspx>



A THANK YOU to our State Representative Michelle Meyer who recently gave the Society two new flags to fly at our schoolhouse! (the others were getting pretty tattered)