

Please note that our meeting has been moved to April 9th to allow members to attend the Citizen Option Meeting to be held at the Middle School on April 2nd. The fundraising committee hopes all members will make a special effort to attend our meeting on the 9th, which will focus on the financial needs of Eliot Historical Society. Most of those on the eight-member committee have been on the committee for many years. They meet regularly and have tried a number of ways to provide the money needed. They have found fund raisers that are based on soliciting and selling baked goods do not result in big returns; that begs the question of what might deliver more bang for the buck. We think a group discussion can generate some powerful ideas. Refreshments will be served by Ruth and Grant Hirst.

Happy
Birthday!

Eliot!

While still a part of Massachusetts, the people of the Second Parish of Kittery became the town of Eliot on March 1, 1810. On April 27, 1809 those who had gathered at the Upper Parish Meetinghouse, then located at the intersection of what is today Fore Road, Old Road and River Road, and voted to send General Andrew Pepperrell Fernald to petition the Massachusetts Court. In response the court ordered that “all persons interested may then appear and shew cause why the prayer of said petition should not be granted.” There were several who did oppose the separation including Stephen Neal and in January of 1810 the town of Kittery sent a delegation to the court to speak in opposition to this separation. A meeting held on January 15th at the Parish Meetinghouse elected Elisha Shapleigh, and Andrew P. Fernald to represent the parish before the court and present the petition of separation. The petitioners prevailed and a bill to incorporate the Town of Eliot was drafted in February of 1810. After several readings by legislative committees the bill was approved on March 1, 1810. Eric Christian, for our town’s Bicentennial in 2010, wrote a



Eliot Centennial 1910 – Spinney Creek Bridge

very scholarly and detailed account of the events leading up to our Incorporation which is available on the Society's website.

News and Events



LASAGNA DINNER

**MARCH 24TH 5- 7:00PM CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
INVITE YOUR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS!**



Message to our members: The Fundraising Committee was delighted with the success of last year's Taste of Italy and has decided to sponsor another supper this year. It will mostly be a repeat of the first dinner with the exception of the title--this year we're calling it a Lasagna Dinner: a choice of either meat or vegetarian lasagna, salad, bread, beverage, and ending with a brownie and ice cream. Once again the event will be open to the public and will be held at The Eliot Congregational Church on State Rd.

Last year the committee was pleased that so many EHS members volunteered to help with the supper, and we invite all members to pitch in again this year. We will need pans of lasagna and double batches of brownies brought to the church's community center. (Someone will let cooks know when to show up with already-baked contributions.) If you have not already signed up to bring lasagna or brownies and/or to work at the supper, please contact a member of the fund raising committee (Cindy, Carol, Sylvia, Helen Sullivan, Margie, Sophia, Carolyn).

Please encourage everyone you know to come for the Lasagna Dinner 5:00 to 7:00 on Saturday, March 24th.

Once again, all members of the society are invited to enjoy dinner after the public leaves. Our time together last year was a good chance for special camaraderie. – Carolyn Bogh.

We have been asked to share with you a letter written to the chair of the Fundraising Committee last year after the Italian dinner.

Dear Cindy,

I have been involved in a number of fund raising suppers over the years and thought it might be interesting to you if I shared my thoughts about Saturday's lasagna supper. That was an event where you can't judge its level of success merely by subtracting our expenses from how much money we took in that night. Being the first time the EHS ever tried that event, the planning time was longer than it would be if you did it again. As with all suppers, costs would include rental fees and food purchases not made by members (ice cream, salad dressing, etc). Also to be considered is the donated cost and time for cooking, serving, setting up and clean up, although everyone who worked at the supper did get a free lasagna dinner, and some took home some leftovers.

This is the first community supper when I have been the person to take the money. I have always been one of the workers in the kitchen or at the tables. That really gave me an opportunity to observe and evaluate the whole dining experience better. I had several interesting observations. First of all the committee did a great job of planning things like the decoration of the room and the serving method. People really liked the idea of finding a table near some friends and were impressed that they would have their own waiter. All they had to do was select which kind of lasagna they wanted and their meal was delivered to them by their own waiter. Comments I received from people as they left were always very favorable. They really liked the meal and the service. Another observation I made that you can't place a dollar value on was the camaraderie I saw between the EHS members who were working on the supper. Experiences like that can really bring a group closer together. Another very important thing that the supper did was to give some real exposure to the community for the EHS and that we are an active group that is involved in this community.

The supper was a lot of work, but members had fun doing it and we did take in more than \$600 Saturday night. Considering the fact that this was the first time it was done, we had good attendance. In talking with Bud we both shared that historically once an event like this is held and people enjoy the experience not only do they come again but others who hear about it come as well. That certainly has been true of church suppers and pancake breakfasts.

I hope you found these comments helpful or at least interesting. Please feel free to share them with other members of the planning committee. You gals did a great job of pulling this together!

Dick Bogh

Old Berwick Historical Society:

March 22, 2018 -- The Indian World of George Washington: the First President, the First Americans, and the Birth of the Nation

7:30 pm (Berwick Academy Arts Center)

George Washington often dominates the narrative of the nation's birth, yet American history has largely forgotten what he knew: that the country's fate depended less on grand rhetorical statements of independence and self-governance than on land-Indian land. Drawing on his forthcoming book of the same title, Dr. Colin Calloway will discuss how the first president contended with Native American people and power, and how they responded to his policies, and shaped Washington's life.

March 31 - History Hike - Beaver Trade and Wabanaki

Culture 10:00 am to Noon. Hike the **Orris Falls Conservation Area** in South Berwick with historian **Neill DePaoli**, who will



describe the pivotal role of the beaver trade at Newichawannock and the influence of the English trade in Wabanaki culture in the 1600's. The land lies at the heart of an ancient volcanic caldera. Encompassed within this extraordinarily rich area of vernal pools, a 90-foot gorge, and a wetland area actively dammed by beaver. In partnership with Great Works Regional Land Trust. Space on hikes is limited to 25 people and reservations are required. Call GWRLT at 207-646-3604 or email info@gwrlt.org for more information, hike status, and weather updates.

April 2 – Citizens Option Budget Meeting – 7pm at the Marshwood Middle School Cafeteria, Depot Rd/Rt. 236. Residents are given the opportunity to hear about the proposed budget, ask questions and most importantly place their own recommended amounts for the town’s budget items on the June ballot. If the required number of citizens are not registered by the time the meeting opens at 7pm then the meeting will NOT be able to make recommendations and the time will be used only to discuss the budget.

Dominique Metreaud, who spoke about the move and restoration of the Green Acre electric trolley station has left us copies of his written manuscript about the project. Copies will be available at the April meeting or, if you can’t wait, you can contact me.

How a Slave and a Counterfeiter Made the Fugio Cent, the 1st U.S. Money

- Reprinted from the New England Historical Society website

The Fugio Coin

Today there are many low-grade fugio cents, but collectors will pay \$10,000 or more for a rare example in excellent condition. The fugio cent earned its name from the caption ‘fugio’ above an image of the sun shining on a sundial. Fugio, Latin for ‘I flee/fly,’ and the words ‘mind your business’ below the sundial form a rebus meaning ‘time flies, do your work.’ The reverse side includes thirteen chain links and the captions, ‘we are one’

and ‘United States.’ Ben Franklin originally came up with the fugio design for Pennsylvania notes he printed. Thomas Jefferson later remembered the disaster of the Connecticut mint. In 1792, a debate broke out about whether the U.S. government should build its own mint or not. Jefferson successfully argued in favor of a national mint.

A convicted counterfeiter and a Connecticut slave made the first U.S. coin, called the **fugio cent**, in fulfillment of a government contract

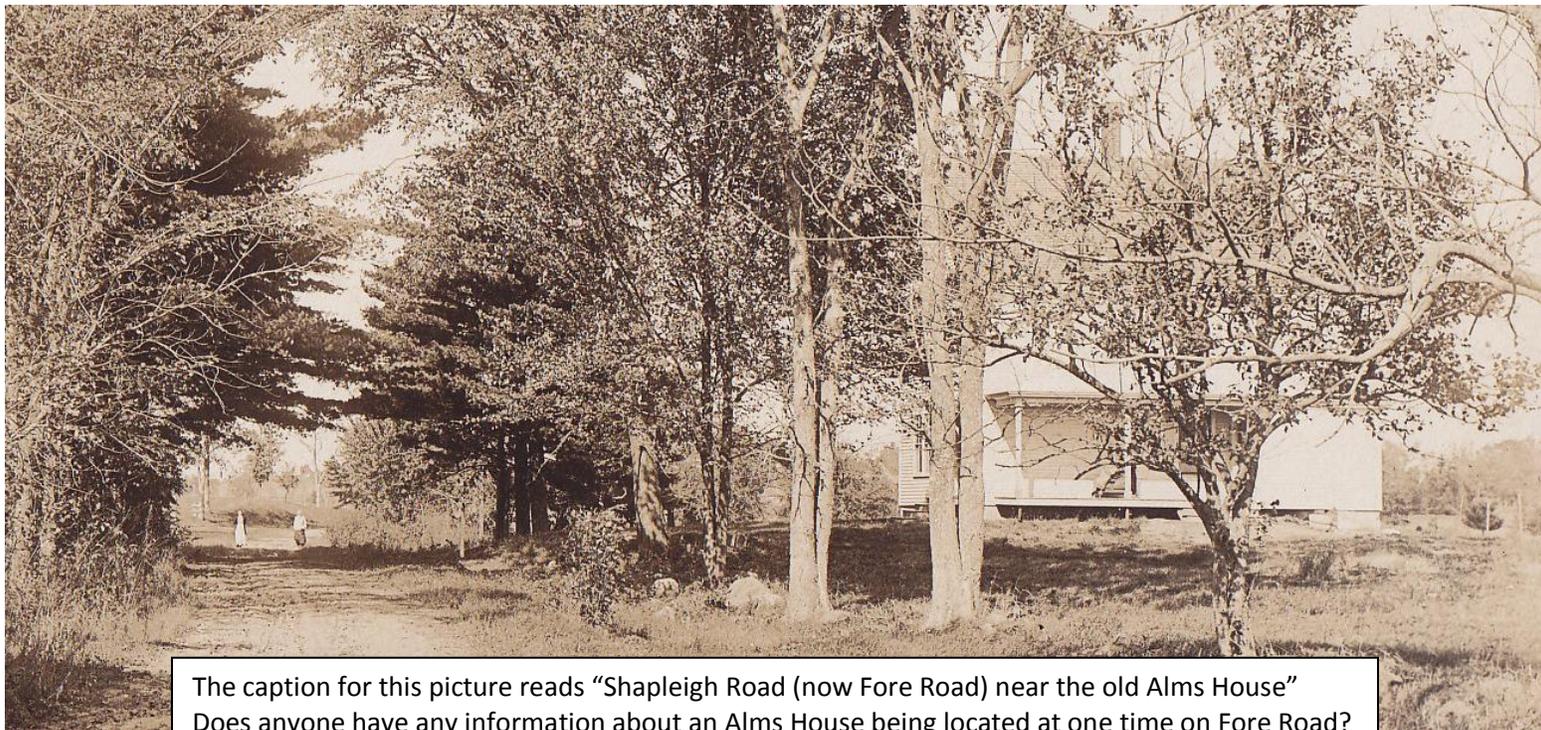
obtained through a bribe.



As a young man, Abel Buell got caught counterfeiting five pound notes. As punishment, authorities cut off the top of his ear and branded his forehead with the letter 'C.' Buell later made the first map of the United States, sold at auction to the Library of Congress for \$2 million in 2010. Far less is known about the enslaved man, known only as Aaron. He was only recently discovered to be one of the workers who made the first coins of the United States, along with a freed black man, white workers and children, according to numismatist and historian Christopher McDowell. Abel Buell, Aaron and the others didn't make the first fugio coins at a U.S. mint. Instead, the U.S. government gave a contract to make the fugio cents at the Connecticut mint. That early effort at outsourcing didn't go well. "It was a fiasco," said McDowell, who uncovered the story of the Connecticut mint. The tale underscores the early fragility of the United States, the genius of the first Connecticut Yankee and the struggles of the people who actually worked to build the country.

Aaron

But Buell didn't do it all. Several years ago, ledgers from the Connecticut and federal mint were rediscovered in the New Haven Museum archives. McDowell studied those ledgers. He learned that 33 workers in addition to Aaron made the first fugio coins: children, indentured apprentices, white unskilled laborers, white craftsmen and a free black man. Aaron worked the press, taking copper blanks and stamping the fugio image onto it. For that work, Aaron's wages of four shillings a day went to his master, a man named Levi Hubbard. But Aaron had a side deal: If he worked extra hours, he could keep his overtime wages. Aaron worked a lot of overtime, said McDowell. Abel Buell traveled to England in 1790 after the mint failed. People have long thought he left the United States to avoid the long arm of the law, McDowell said. However, subsequent research shows he went to learn the secrets of the British textile industry. Abel Buell memorized the secrets of large-scale cotton manufacturing and brought them back to America. In New Haven, Buell established one of the country's first cotton mills. He printed the first map of the United States, and he created the first movable type made in America. But Abel Buell died penniless in a New Haven almshouse in 1822. The man responsible for minting the fugio cent was buried in a pauper's grave.



The caption for this picture reads "Shapleigh Road (now Fore Road) near the old Alms House"
Does anyone have any information about an Alms House being located at one time on Fore Road?