

**April 8<sup>th</sup> \*– Monthly Meeting** – 7pm, John F. Hill Grange Hall. \*Please note the change to the second Monday due to the Citizen's Option Meeting. Refreshments will be served by Cindy and Denny Lentz.

**May 6 – Monthly Meeting.** 7pm at the John F. Hill Grange Hall. Refreshments will be served by Ruth and Grant Hurst. **Claire Bloom**, whose program had to be rescheduled, will be our speaker. She will share with us her experiences as Second In Command of the USS CONSTITUTION. Claire has Master Degrees in



Strategic Intelligence and Educational Leadership, and is a Myers-Briggs Type Indicator Master Practitioner. She retired from the United States Navy in 1998 following a very successful tour as the first woman to be the Second In Command of USS

CONSTITUTION, the Navy's three mast square rigged sailing ship in Boston Massachusetts, where she served from 1996-1998 when the ship sailed for the first time in 116 years, and celebrated her 200th birthday.

USS *Constitution* is the oldest commissioned ship in the United States Navy. Naval officers and crew still serve aboard her.



To Wabanaki people (the indigenous inhabitants of Maine), statehood may have been looked upon with apprehension. After almost two centuries of diplomatic negotiations with Massachusetts, Penobscots were reluctant to sever ties with the old bay colony. In an effort to uphold the 1819 articles of separation, in which Maine would receive \$30,000 from Massachusetts to carry out its new responsibilities with tribes, Maine entered into a treaty with the Penobscots. Native leaders agreed to recognize the new state in return for an annual distribution of treaty annuities and an affirmation of their land holdings. Neither Maine nor Massachusetts officials consulted with the Passamaquoddy tribe about statehood, thereby delaying the extension of state colonialism to down east Maine. The Maine legislature has long had non-voting tribal representatives from the Penobscot (starting in 1823), Passamaquoddy (1842), and Houlton Band of Maliseets (2010). In 2015 the Penobscot and Passamaquoddy withdrew their representatives. Maine is the only state in the US to have had tribal representatives to its state legislature, part of the unique and evolving Wabanaki-Maine relationship.

## HOMETOWN ROOTS

The kickoff for the second grade's **Local Stories Project** was on March 11<sup>th</sup>. This year's theme is **HOMETOWN ROOTS**. Eliot Historical Society members Zip Zamarchi, Helen Sullivan, Esther Morrow and Jack Murphy who were some of the presenters on March 29<sup>th</sup> attended. The children were introduced to them and visual artists/designers and educators Laurie Downey and Gretchen Berg, who will be working with the teachers and students guiding them through a process that integrates theater, visual arts, dance and classroom curriculum to create a lasting mural and performance which will be presented to the public in May. Introductions were made and the children were given their journals and shown how to use them, laying out the process of listening, drawing, and then writing about what they would see and hear in the weeks to come as they explored the history of Eliot's one room schoolhouse and other aspects of Eliot's history. The kids were amazing in how they responded. They were very excited to get started.

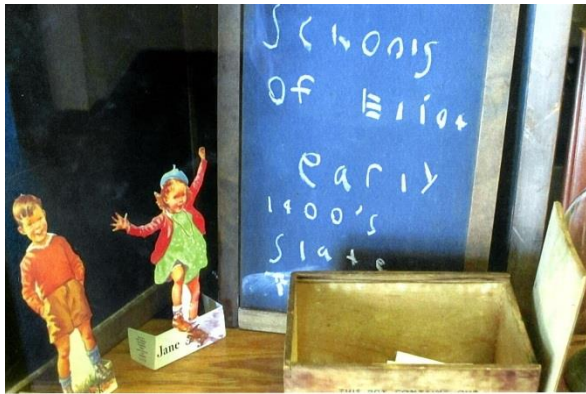
Jan Cerabona has already been working, since the end of February, with a group of 3<sup>rd</sup> graders interested in Eliot's history. They have been, among other things, working on a map showing the location of the schoolhouses, created Journals of their own thoughts about the schoolhouse they would have gone to, take a trip to the Library to look at the materials collected for the book *The Schools of Eliot* and helped to choose the materials that are now in the display case at the Elementary School. -  
Janice Cerabona and Rosanne Adams

As part of the Historical Society's participation **Julie Johnson** has been helping to create new displays each month at the Eliot Elementary School. In February we started with a general display featuring artifacts and various pictures from several of Eliot's school buildings – past and present.





The March display, with items chosen by the 3<sup>rd</sup> graders, focuses on the one-room schoolhouses which is a major theme of the HOMETOWN ROOTS project.



In addition, the 3<sup>rd</sup> graders, each week, have been coming up with an Eliot History “**Did You Know?**” factoid that is presented to all students at the Elementary School each Friday. Here are a few:

**DID YOU KNOW** that the gym in the Elementary School was opened in 1957, 62 years ago? That there were six windows in the building. Now there are two, can you spot the other four?



That this plaque on the wall tells you who donated to the bleacher fund, check it out and see if you know people on the list.

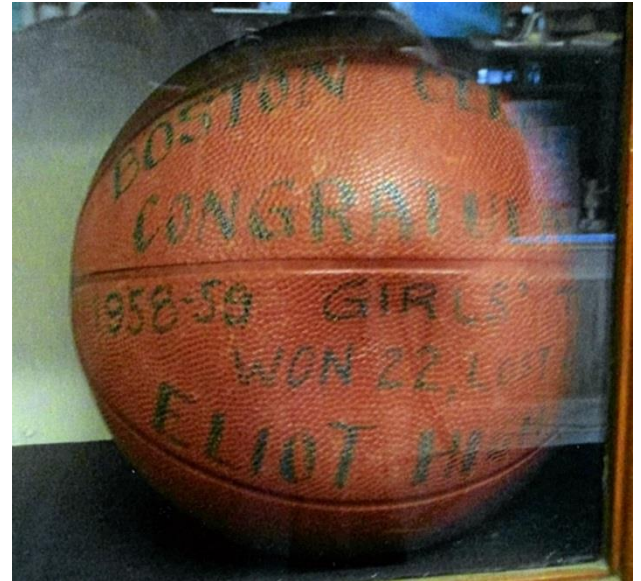
That Gemma's great grandfather, Robert Perham, was the girls' basketball coach and a teacher at the high school starting in 1950? He was instrumental in pushing for this gym to be built.



1955-1956 Eliot High School Girls Basketball Team

**Front Row (l to r):** Colleen Spinney, Carol Furbish, Mary Staples, Janice Lyman, Sylvia McConnell, Ann Griffiths, Jean Dunning, Charlotte Tuttle, Merry Raeside. **2nd Row:** Coach Perham, Dawnalyn Swan, Judy Bailey, Christine Allen, Barbara Manter, Anna Brannen, Helen Staples, Mary Jasper, Beverley Bond, Gail Mitchell. **Back Row:** Carol Boyce, Gail Shapleigh, Judy Place, Janice Halque, Kathleen Moynahan, Donna Small, Regina Littlefield, Marguerite Dixon, Carol Bond.

**Robert Perham**



**DID YOU KNOW** that Eliot was divided into eight districts? There was a schoolhouse in each district. Only three of the district schools had names.

District 1. Emery School

District 2, early school - Frye School  
later school - Lincoln School

District 3,. Major Charles Frost School

Five of the schoolhouses are still standing today. Districts #'s 3,4,6 and 7 have been remodeled as homes and #8 has been restored as a schoolhouse.



Frye School



Lincoln School





Major Charles Frost School



District 6 Schoolhouse today



District 7 Schoolhouse today



District 8 Schoolhouse today

## HOMETOWN ROOTS

### DATES TO REMEMBER

**APRIL 3** – CHILDREN VISIT # 8 SCHOOLHOUSE – ALL DAY

**MAY 9** – 6 PM - CHILDREN'S PERFORMANCE - ELIOT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

**March 29<sup>th</sup>** the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade classes continued their Eliot history studies by visiting the Fogg House, the William Fogg Library and the John F. Hill Grange Hall. The classes were split into two groups with half going to the Grange and the other half split again between the Fogg house and Library. Librarian, **Lydia Goodwin** greeted the students at the door and



gave them a brief history and tour of the Library. While **Susan Peterson** worked with children creating a craft project **Jan Cerabona** was in the Sarah Farmer Room showing the students the three albums of materials that were collected by Jeannette Paul and Eleanor Zamarchi for the book "The Schools of Eliot". The students really enjoyed looking at all the old pictures and had lots of questions. They also went through a box of the "Old Eliot" publications that had been donated by Deb Scribner and her brother and



were shown how they were used to find information about the schools. At the John F. Hill Grange, the children were split into two groups, one upstairs and one downstairs. **Helen Sullivan** talked about her school days at the old high school, which is now the old building that is part of the Elementary School, and shared with them a photograph album of pictures of the kindergarten classes taught by her mother Mrs. Verna Staples, who taught for 29 years. The subsequently built wing, added to the high school, was dedicated to her and bears her name. **Jack Murphy** shared his memories about his school days and answered questions. He attended three of the one room schoolhouses – numbers 2, 3, and 4.







**Margaret Morse**, Master of the John F. Hill Grange, gave the children a history of the Grange in Eliot, its beginnings and the work that it has done and is doing in the town.



**Esther Morrow** shared the story of the clipper ship *Nightingale* amid the backdrop of a mural that she



commissioned from an area artist, that once hung in her home.



**Zip Zamarchi** spoke about the day in 1925 when the plane of Capt. Charles Oldfields crashed into the town hall that once stood across the street from the Elementary School. He shared some pictures of the pilot and the plane and stories about the excitement that the crash caused in the town. **Rosanne Adams** told the children about the "All Scouts Circus" events that were held starting in 1949 at the home of Nap Rousseau on River Road. The children had an opportunity to see a painting of the event, flyers, and posters. The children were very attentive, even with it being a long day and a lot of information to think about. Throughout the day time was made for them to write in their journals about things they had learned. It will be interesting to see what they will do with that information. We'll find out in May!

- Jan Cerabona, Rosanne Adams



**In case you missed it** – in February President **Paul Johnson** presented **Jules Weyers** a certificate of appreciation and town flag. Joining us were presentation coordinator **Keith Searles**, **Toni Searles**, town flag project leader **Debbie Scribner** and myself. It was a very moving afternoon as Jules shared with us the meaning behind his design and also stories about his life during the Nazi occupation of Holland.



In the early part of 1985, the Eliot Selectmen appointed a "Steering Committee" to come up with a Town Seal for Eliot's 175th Anniversary. The theme was "The Spirit of Eliot". The steering committee was composed of Larry and Jessie Kent, Clayton and Irva Hinds,

Walter Barrett, and Pete and Lena Mulleur. Jules' design was chosen from the 25 entries they received.

### **MAINE BICENTENIAL – 2020**



**Lydia Goodwin**, librarian of the William Fogg Library, and Historical Society member **Jan Cerabona** took up our challenge asking how might we celebrate our state's bicentennial! On **MARCH 15<sup>th</sup>** they attended the **MAINE 199: BICENTENNIAL OR BUST** meeting in Hermon, Maine. The group explored

how communities in Maine might participate in the statewide Bicentennial

celebration. Jan and Lydia brought back a lot of information and on **March 25<sup>th</sup>** they brought together representatives from various groups to begin planning for OUR Bicentennial offerings. Attending the initial meeting were Jack Murphy, Cindi Waters, Kim Booker, Ann Shisler, Rosanne Adams, Jan Cerabona, Margaret Morse, and Lydia Goodwin. It is hoped that many more groups will join and we have an exciting series of events! If you are interested a meeting is planned for April 16<sup>th</sup> at the Library at 4pm. Please join us if you have some ideas as to how you and/or your group might participate. Following this meeting the plan is to then meet with the Select Board to present the plans. A HUGE thank you to Lydia and Jan for coordinating this!



**Bob and I** returned from our vacation in Florida too late for Maine Maple Sugar Sunday but just in time to catch **Jay Meyer** of Backfields Farm wrapping up his maple sugaring operation. While his helper was out taking down the buckets

and tubing Jay was chopping wood and manning the fire and reduction operation. He has now taken over the full building (once a garage) making the operation a little easier and more efficient. If you weren't able to get down to see him be sure to catch him next March!



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*From all reports our recent Lasagna Dinner was a huge success. We have heard many positive comments from those who attended! THANK YOU to all who helped. We couldn't have done it without you!*

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