

June 4th Meeting: 7:00 pm, John F. Hill Grange Hall. **Wedding Bells** will be on the agenda for the Eliot Historical Society's June 4th meeting. Members are encouraged to bring their wedding pictures and to come prepared to share with the membership anything they wish to tell about their weddings, engagements, or courtships. Refreshments will be served by Keith and Toni Searles.

On **May 1st** we celebrate the Eliot Historical Society's acquirement of the District #8 Schoolhouse on Greenwood Street. Twenty-two years ago, outgoing president David Fulton presided over the ceremony officially transferring the property from the Town of Eliot to our Historical Society. A lawyer by profession, he brought with him a handful of turf and explained the old way of transferring land which was to hand the recipient a literal piece of the earth from the land which was being conveyed. He also handed over the key to the building to president Rosanne Adams, along with a paint brush denoting the work it would take to restore the building. A month earlier, at their April meeting, Society members discussed the upcoming event and shared their dreams and ideas for the future of the building following a video that David had prepared to spur on the discussion.

This momentous event followed the completion of the 3rd and final phase of the documentation of the "Historical and Architectural Resources of Eliot". The resulting report, available at the William Fogg Library, examines Eliot's history, growth and development from 1631-1945 with an analysis of Eliot's architectural history. It identifies important historic trends and patterns and includes the documentation and evaluation of individual historic resources and buildings that were 50 years old and older, at that time.

Following an evaluation by historic building preservationist



Arron Sturgis, fundraising for the restoration effort began in earnest. The Friends of Schoolhouse #8, a non-profit group, was formed to raise monies and oversee the restoration.





The building was formally dedicated in 2006 after several years of restoration headed by the late Lindy Leavitt and our President Paul Johnson. They were assisted in this mainly volunteer effort by countless Leavitt family members, Society members and friends. Florence Moulton, a former one-room schoolhouse teacher rang the bell and gathered people together for the dedication ceremonies.



The Society has, available for purchase, a Powerpoint presentation about the schoolhouse restoration on CD.



#8 Schoolhouse dressed up for our town's Bicentennial Celebration in 2010

News and Events

At our April meeting President Paul Johnson announced that Society member **Rosanne Adams** received the 2018 Fabyan Drake, American Legion Good Citizen Award. The award is presented each year by Eliot-Kittery Memorial Post 188.

On **April 10th Marshwood High School** held its annual **Community Service Day**. Ten Marshwood Students under the guidance of Mr. Morel were dropped off by bus at the Grange Hall to help with a spring clean-up. The winter's snow caused the snowplow to push much of the parking lot dirt onto the adjacent grass and caused many potholes. When the students arrived, Paul Johnson of the Eliot Historical Society asked them if any of them had ever been inside the Grange Hall. Only two students had and Mr. Morel also stated the students were asking what a Grange Hall was for, so Mr. Johnson invited them in to see the hall. He explained why Grange Halls formed all over the country. He also explained to them that when



their grandparents were kids, this is likely where they gathered for activities such as



dances and basketball games.

The group then went outside to begin their task. The ten students worked as a team

using rakes, shovels, buckets and

wheelbarrows to clean up the grass, remove the big rocks and broken pavement, and fill in the potholes. They seemed to enjoy the hard work and accomplished all of the tasks that were planned for them. A BIG THANKS! to the students of Marshwood High School. The Eliot Historical Society and the John F. Grange appreciate your efforts. – contributed by Paul Johnson



Eliot Elementary students study Eliot history.

Jan Cerabona has been working tirelessly, coordinating events and speakers, on behalf of the Society, with Ann Shisler and the 2nd grade teachers at Eliot Elementary.

April 25th **Patricia Wall**, author of "Lives of Consequence:" and **Rosanne Adams** spoke with the children about the early realities of slavery in our town in the 1600-1800's and the history of slavery in New England. Pat helped them focus their attention back more than 700 years, when slavery was first brought to what was then the "New World. She talked about the use of enslaved peoples in the production of sugar, their arrival in the southern region to grow and harvest sugar, cotton, and tobacco. Slavery then spread to the north as New Englanders began supplying Caribbean plantation colonies with a host of goods: horses, hay, beef, butter, tar, timber, salted fish, furniture, and iron and as landholders here sought a supply of labor to grow their own wealth. It is estimated that over 10 million Africans had been forcibly removed from their homelands and brought to the Americas by the middle of the 19th century. Pat explained why it is important to study this part of our history especially in light of what is happening around us today. Rosanne then talked about some of those who were enslaved including Black Will (Maj. Nicholas Shapleigh), Caesar (Andrew Neal), Pompey and Phillis (Maj. Charles Frost) and Cumbo (Capt. Nathan Bartlett).



Cerabona talked with them about the restoration of the schoolhouse, the discoveries

Friday, April 27th over 60 students visited the one room school house where President **Paul Johnson** and **Jan**



that were made and what a day was like in a one-room schoolhouse – the things they studied, the games they played some of which children still play today, the chores they had to do, and what happened when children misbehaved. Later when they returned to the school they made their own clay marbles.

On the weekend of April 28th and 29th at the #8 Schoolhouse **Jan Cerabona** welcomed children and their families from the school to an open house. The sign boards were placed at the end of Greenwood Street announcing the open house which drew not only the school children’s families but also a great number of people who happened to see the signs and had always wanted to see just what the building was all about. Jan said she had a donation box and books for sale and she had a wonderful time talking with people and she plans to have an open house each weekend throughout the summer up to and including Eliot Festival Day weekend in September. A special thank you to Paul and Julie Johnson.



May 1st the children paid a visit to the John F. Hill Grange Hall where they split up into three rotating groups. **Jan Cerabona** shared with them the history of the Grange and how it then began in Eliot. She talked about the Eliot Grange, showed pictures of it in the early 1900’s and how



it is still relevant today as people are now moving back toward growing produce and raising animals and needing to have the “how-to” of those activities shared with them. **Zip Zamarchi** and **Dennis Lentz** talked about the old electric trolley lines that ran through Eliot and showed them many fascinating



pictures of scenes in Eliot, accidents on the lines and places in the area that were served by the trolley routes.

Downstairs **Paul and Julie Johnson** had on display some of the Society's collection – memorabilia from the “Scout Circus” that went on for many years in the field at Nap Rousseau's “Locust Farm” on River Road. There were several posters and flyers, a painting, and



pictures, including one of a boy riding on a tight rope! On display was a painting of the Nightingale and various items produced by the Kennebunk Savings Band featuring the clipper ship. There was a lively discussion with the children about the Town Seal and the meaning behind the various features it contains. The children really enjoyed the visits.

During the week Society member **Nancy Cultrera** talked with the children about her great-grandfather who served in the Civil War. She was very surprised and delighted to discover just how much the children already knew about that period in history.

The week of May 7th the teachers will be each taking a subject area and sharing information with the children and on May 9th they will be visiting the gundalow at Prescott Park.

UPCOMING TOWN AND AREA EVENTS

May 10th – SELECT BOARD MEETING/ PUBLIC HEARING Thursday, May 10th at the Select Board meeting they will consider the request to place on the November ballot a vote to endorse a Wild and Scenic designation for the York River. The meeting will be held at the Marshwood Middle School Cafeteria and begins at 5:30 pm. At 7pm will be a Public Hearing where the town warrant items, that we will be asked to vote on at the June 12th Annual Town Meeting Election and Referendum will be explained. You will have an opportunity to ask any questions you may have on these warrant articles.

May 15th – 2nd Grade Allied Arts Night – 5:30-7:00pm, Eliot Elementary School. Students will share through artistic offerings what they have learned during their Eliot history studies!

May 16th – MSAD #35 BUDGET MEETING – 7pm at Marshwood High School Auditorium. The vote taken at this meeting by residents of Eliot and South Berwick, determines the school budget which will appear for vote on the June 12th ballot.

May 26th – ELIOT GARDEN CLUB PLANT SALE - 9:00-12:00 at the Eliot Gazebo on State Road across from the Elementary School. Come early for the best selection of locally grown plants and their famous home-made pies!



OPEN HOUSE

MAY 26, 27, 28

#8 SCHOOLHOUSE

Greenwood Street

11:00AM – 2:00pm

Memorial Day - will open at 10:00am

May 29th -MEMORIAL WEEK: ICE CREAM SOCIAL – 1PM BARAN PLACE GATHERING ROOM. Enjoy an hour of Ice Cream, Cookies and Education! Speaker Sarah Rawlings of the League of Women Voters of Maine will speak about the process of Ranked Choice voting. Space is limited. Please call Sandy at 603-738-2997 to reserve a space.

June 12th VOTING State of Maine Primary Election & Referendum
Annual Town Meeting Election & Referendum
MSAD #35 Budget Validation Referendum

Absentee ballots are available at the Town Hall, request on-line at <http://www.maine.gov/cgi-bin/online/AbsenteeBallot/index.pl>

