

**JUNE 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting** – 7pm at the John F. Hill Grange, State Road. Please join us for this very special evening as we honor the life of our dear friend and devoted Historical Society member **Jeanette (Spinney) Paul**. We welcome you to share your stories, pictures, and memories of this beloved woman. Refreshments will be served by Toni and Keith Searles and Tracey Graffam.



### **Eliot Celebrates Maine's Bicentennial**

On April 25, Lydia Goodwin of the William Fogg Library and Jan Cerabona of the Eliot Historical Society who have spearheaded a committee to start planning for Eliot's participation in Maine's upcoming Bicentennial celebration were joined by other committee members as they presented to the Select Board the goals and aspirations for a year-long celebration by the people of Eliot.

The group asked for, and received, the endorsement of the Select Board and approval to be designated a town committee for the purpose of coordinating events for the 2019-2020 celebratory activities. Following approval of their by-laws by the Select Board, which will require membership being open to others in the



Maine became the 23rd state in the US on March 15, 1820. Maine was only the second state to be created from a pre-existing one, following Kentucky (the 15th state in 1792). West Virginia is the only other state to have been created from another one. Missouri entered the US as the 24th state on August 10, 1821. Missouri's state constitution caused yet more controversy since it prohibited the state from ending slavery in the future and also blocked free African Americans from settling there. Many felt this proposed state law violated protections in the Federal Constitution, but it was accepted by an ambiguous agreement by the US Congress. The Maine statehood process unfolded over many years and sparked several controversial issues that remain unsettled today.

The state bicentennial provides a unique opportunity to think more deeply about current public matters with a strong connection to the past, which may help us to better understand the present and to plan more effectively for our future.

Source: [umaine.edu](http://umaine.edu)

town who would like to serve, the committee will formally assemble and continue its planning.

Organizations, groups, churches, businesses are invited to be part of the festivities that will run for the year beginning Eliot Festival Day 2019 and ending Eliot Festival Day 2020, by holding their own event(s). To kick off our Maine 200th Celebration the Committee is urging town-wide participation in the Eliot Festival Day parade by our many organizations and groups.

The committee will not be sponsoring their own events but will help coordinate a master calendar of events to help keep events, during the year, from overlapping. They will also help to publicize the events and offer whatever help they can to make sure your activities are a success.

## **HOMETOWN ROOTS**

### **#8 SCHOOLHOUSE ADVENTURE**

#### **Eliot's 9 Schoolhouses**

At one time Eliot had 9 schoolhouses. Five of the schoolhouses are still standing today. Districts 3,4,6 and 7 have been remodeled as homes and #8 has been restored as a schoolhouse.

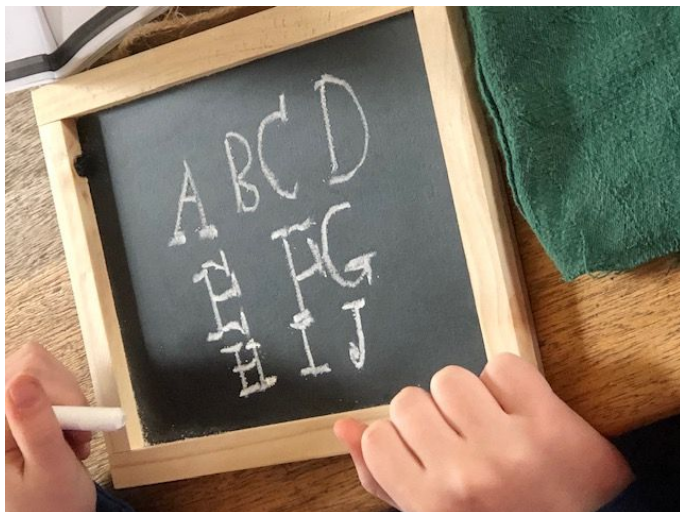
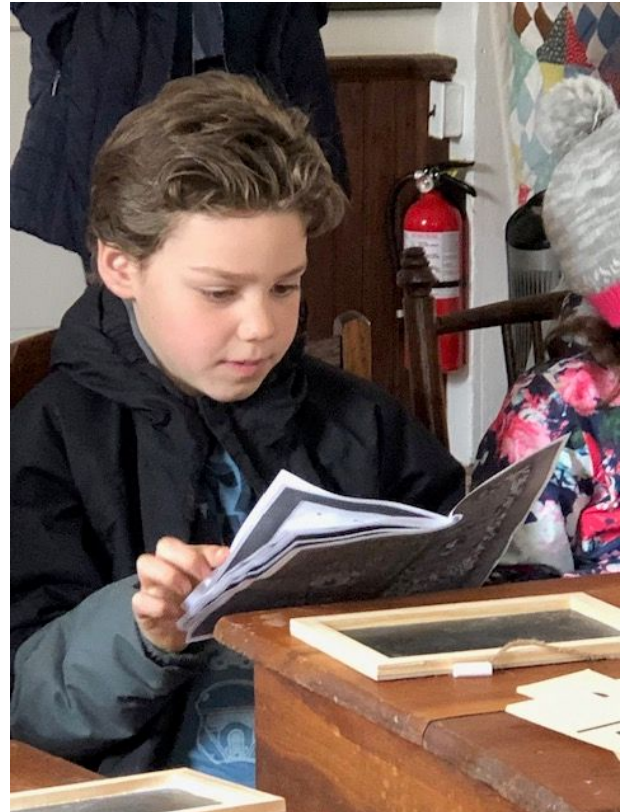
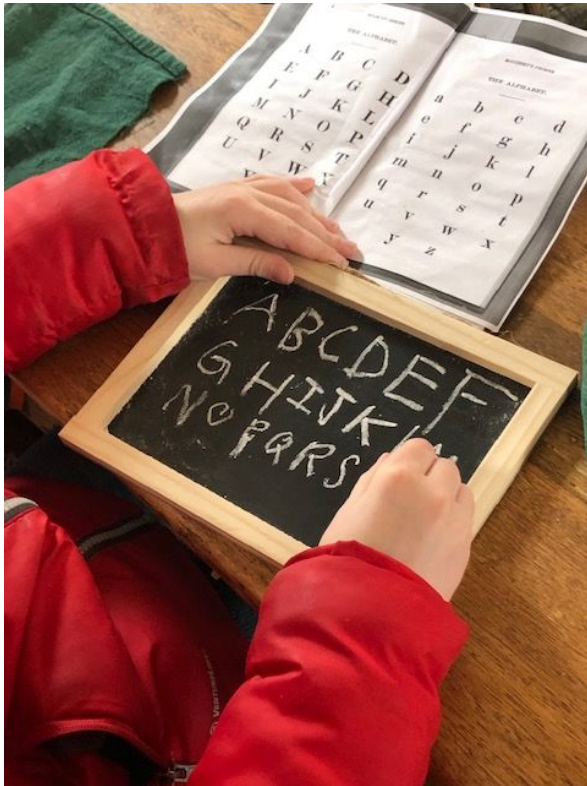
April 3<sup>rd</sup> second graders from Eliot Elementary visited the #8 schoolhouse on Greenwood Street in Eliot. Students were



treated to a lesson in the restored schoolhouse with **Jan Cerabona** and **Barbara Kumin**. When the children entered the schoolhouse, everyone saluted the flag and sang America. Mrs. Cerabona instructed those that had brought potatoes to bring them forward and place them by the potbelly stove to keep warm for the walk home. Students

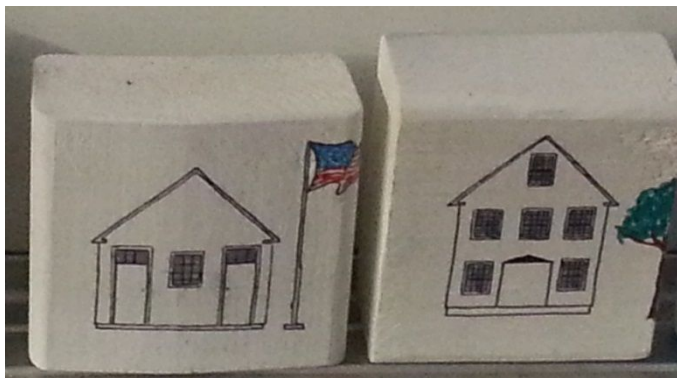


participated in a spelling bee, used slates and chalk to practice penmanship, and read from an early reader. They were assigned jobs that had to be done at the schoolhouse such as bringing in the firewood, cleaning the chalkboards, fetching the water, and washing the window. They didn't actually do the work but everyone was assigned a job that may have been asked of students long ago. Second graders left with an understanding of what it was like to attend a schoolhouse long ago.





Prior to the field trip each second grader used a map of Eliot to locate where they live. The map was divided into school districts and each child was able to determine what schoolhouse they would have attended. – Ann Shisler

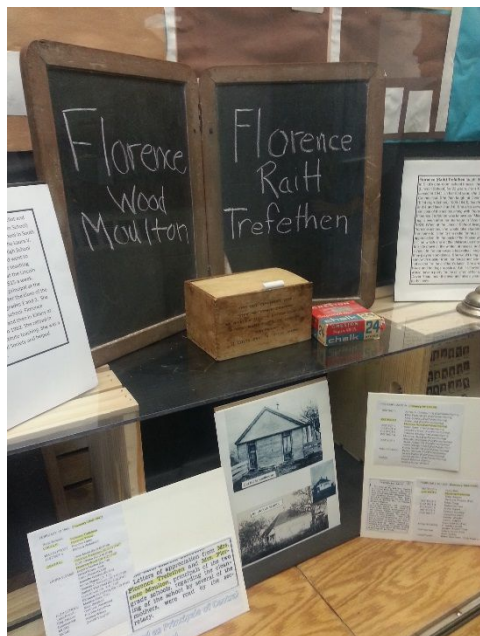


In April I joined the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade study group, led by Jan Cerabona and had a special visit at the John F. Hill Grange with Master of the Grange Margaret Morse. Margaret talked with them about the history of the Grange and the role that it has played in Eliot. They were very interested in the time capsule and following the talk took a tour of the building, talking and learning about the old pictures of Eliot. Along their walk from the Elementary School they talked about the weathervane at the Firehouse and the famous weathervane on Faneuil Hall that was made by Leonard Drowne who was born in Eliot and learned about Old Libbey Lane, the Eliot Academy, the old Congregational Church that burned, and about the history of many of the buildings they passed along the way. -

Rosanne



The display at the Elementary School, for May, put together by Jan, Julie and Rosanne, honors teachers Florence Wood Moulton and Florence Raitt Trefethen who both taught at the #2 or Lincoln School as well as the Central School and Laura V. Dame School.



## AREA NEWS and EVENTS

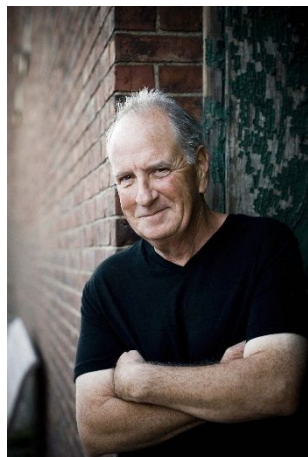
### **April 12, 2019 – Feb 1, 2020 –**

Exhibition ***Holding Up the Sky***. Exploring the experiences of the First People of Maine, the Wabanaki, encompassing the Abenaki, Maliseet, Micmac, Passamaquoddy, and Penobscot people. The exhibit explores the Wabanaki philosophies of leadership and obligation relating to humans and non-humans; and the reciprocity through the topics of self-governance, trading, the environment and resource management, basketmaking, medicine and health. It considers the thousands of years of life in “Maine” prior to the arrival of Europeans, and the complex relationships that have evolved since Europeans settled here. Wabanaki advisors guided the exhibition, interpreting 17th century colonial treaties, photographs, heritage items, and contemporary





artworks. Maine Historical Society gallery, 489 Congress St., Portland. 207-774-1822.



**May 23<sup>rd</sup> - OBHS Annual Meeting and Members Opening**  
7:00 pm (Counting House Museum)  
Celebrate the new exhibits "Our Stories: Life in Tatnic" and "Brave New World: The Wireless Age Begins," and stay

for a fun evening of songs presented by award-winning folk singer and songwriter Cormac McCarthy. For Old Berwick Historical Society members; new members are welcome.

### Gravestone Cleaning Class

In May, MOCA President Angela Tibbetts will be leading a two-part gravestone cleaning class at the Massabesic Center for Adult Learning (MCAL) in Waterboro.

**What:** Gravestone Cleaning class

**When and Where:**

- Wednesday 15 May (Part I), 6:00–8:00 pm, MCAL Room 21
- Saturday 18 May (Part II), 1:00 pm at local cemetery (location to be announced)

**Instructor:** Angela Tibbetts, MOCA

**For more information,** visit the MCAL website at <https://tinyurl.com/Cleaning-Class>.

### **May 30 – June 1: The State Bicentennial and Statehood**

### **Commemoration Conference**

will be held at the University of

Maine in Orono. The scholarly conference will be open to the public for a nominal fee and seeks participation from pre-college students and teachers as well as cultural organizations.



The #8 Schoolhouse on Greenwood Street will be open starting the Weekend of May 25-26 and on the last weekend of each month through to Eliot Festival Day, September 28<sup>th</sup>! 11am – 2pm

## William Fogg Library Endowment Fund

In 2007 to celebrate the Library's 100<sup>th</sup> year, the William Fogg Library started a campaign to help increase the endowment fund monies that Dr. John S. H. Fogg left to the Library to provide for its support. The investment income from this money is then used to provide the capital for the running of the Library. We all have the opportunity, by contributing to this fund, to help insure that the Library can continue to provide the quality of services for which it is known and appreciated by our citizens. Please consider what YOU can give!

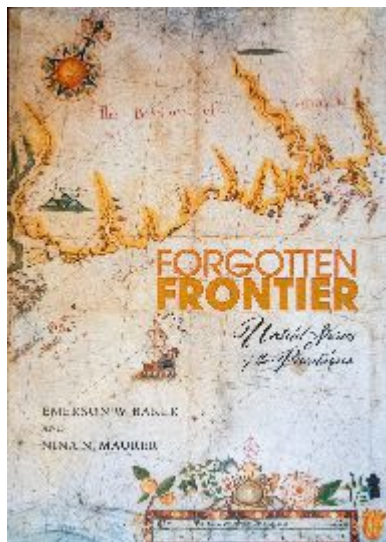
Please mail checks to:  
William Fogg Library Endowment Fund  
P.O. Box 359 Eliot, ME 03903



Include your name, address and telephone number. Indicate if you would like to make the contribution in honor of someone and/or if you would like it to be an anonymous gift.

You may also printout the form at [http://williamfogglibrary.org/form\\_contribution.pdf](http://williamfogglibrary.org/form_contribution.pdf)

## NEW PUBLICATIONS:



***Forgotten Frontier: Untold Stories of the Piscataqua*** By Emerson Baker and Nina Maurer (South Berwick: Old Berwick Historical Society, 2018).

This exhibit catalog includes an introduction by Jeffrey Bolster, and essays by Lisa Brooks and Emerson Baker. 87 pages with 79 color photos and illustrations, 7.5" x 10.5". Available from Old Berwick Historical Society

\$20.00 (plus \$5 for postage and handling)

***My Everest Odyssey*** By Russell Staples. The remarkable story of one of the earliest trekkers to the base camp of Mount Everest. In 1967, with \$200 in his pocket, twenty-two-year-old Peace Corps Volunteer

Russ Staples heads for Nepal. Join Russ as he travels from a small village in South India, with little more than a borrowed backpack and youthful enthusiasm, to the base of the tallest mountain in the world, a journey that took forty days and included travel by planes, trains, busses, and rickshaws. Available at Beech River Books. \$16.00 / paperback / 179 pages / 6 in. (w) by 9 in. (h) <https://www.beechriverbooks.com/id51.html>

