

**Next Meeting:**

**December 2nd** ~ 7:00 pm, John F. Hill Grange Hall. Join us for our annual

**Election of Officers,**

followed by a **Holiday Party** and **"Show and Tell"** Serving refreshments will be Sylvia Moynahan and Carol Zamarchi.

**MEETING NOTES**

We had two very interesting meetings in October and November focusing on people and places in Eliot. At our October meeting Jim Staples and his sisters joined us to talk about the book *Mostly My Maine* which was written by his father Walter Staples who was born and brought up here in Eliot. Taking



excerpts from the book, he introduced us to places in Eliot that figured prominently in the lives of his family and we had a fun time trying to connect these places with where they are today.

You are invited to come continue the discussion at the **William Fogg Library** on **December 11** at **6 pm**, and learn more. Books are available NOW, at the Library, to borrow!

**Eliot's Maine Bicentennial Committee**

At the **November 6<sup>th</sup>** meeting of the MSAD 35 Board of Directors, Jan Cerabona, accompanied by Rosanne, Mike Zamarchi, teacher at the High School and Cari Quarter, from Old Berwick Historical Society presented the plans for the Historical Walk planned for December 7<sup>th</sup> and the Neighbor Helping Neighbor Clean Up day on April 14, 2020. These cooperative efforts of the Eliot and South Berwick communities in celebrating Maine's Bicentennial are meant to further unite the two communities of our school district.

**November 8<sup>th</sup>** the students, teachers and community presented a very moving program honoring Veterans, Active Military and First Responders as *Wreaths Across America* visited the school.



**Next meeting of the Committee is Monday, November 18<sup>th</sup> at the William Fogg Library, 5pm. All are welcome to join us!**

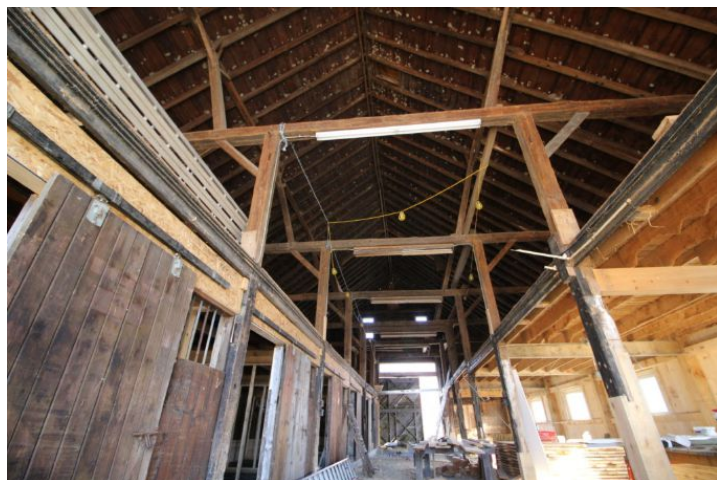
At our November meeting **Paul Goransson** joined us to talk about the preservation and restoration of the Civil War era barn on his newly acquired property at Bondgarden Farm on Depot Road. The main house, which was built on the site of the 1740 Nathan Bartlett house, was built about 1870 by James Bartlett who erected the barn about the same time. It was designed to be a dairy barn and the original structure is identical to the barn next door on their Sylvester Bartlett homestead. From the 1930s to the 1950s Bert Irving had a very large dairy operation here. In 1965 the Boardmans, who were from Concord, Massachusetts bought the place for a summer home. They converted the cow barn to horse stables and rebuilt the hay loft in the 1960s. The Boardmans sold to Kate Thompson in 1973 and Kate operated a very successful Morgan horse operation which was known throughout the area. In 2001 the horses were gradually moved to a new building built at the back of the property. By the time the Goranssons bought the property, in 2017, the horses had been gone for quite some time and the barn was in very poor shape and could not be used.

They hired Arron Sturgis of Preservation Timber Framing, who is an expert and noted for barn and steeple restoration to evaluate and subsequently take on the work which started in July 2018. Arron was also the one who evaluated our #8 Schoolhouse. The barn was built in 3 phases. The original measured aprox. 40 x 60 and was built with 6 timber-framed bents. Near the turn of the century three bents were added to

Photos by Rich Beauchesne/Seacoast Online; Paul Goransson; Preservation Timber Framing of Berwick, Maine







the original barn creating a structure 84 feet long. Sometime in the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century a full length shed which was 20 feet deep was added. When this was done critical elements that had been holding up the barn were removed and replaced with piers which then settled, leaving the barn inadequately supported! Arron commented that the roof structure was so good that it

was in fact holding up the structure below it!

Arron determined that the undercarriage was beyond saving and it was decided to raise the superstructure and lower it onto a concrete foundation, eliminating the historical underbarn which was no longer needed.

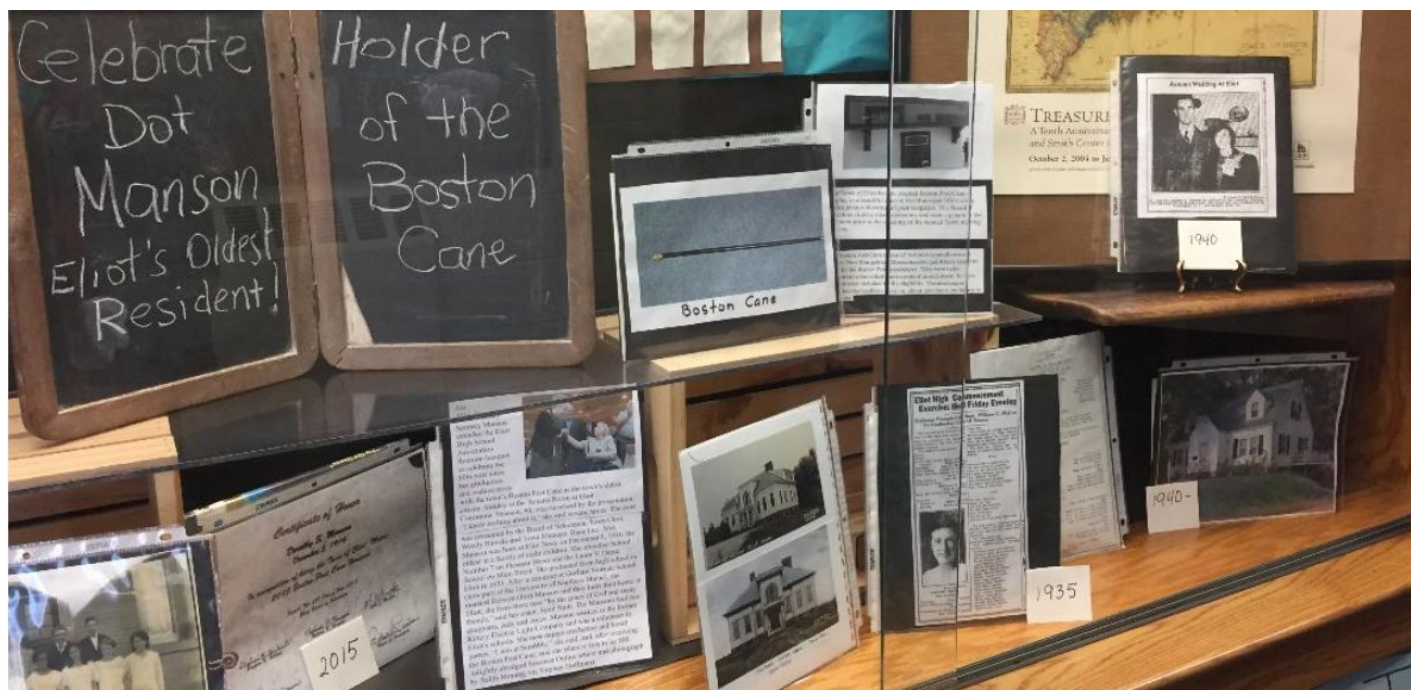
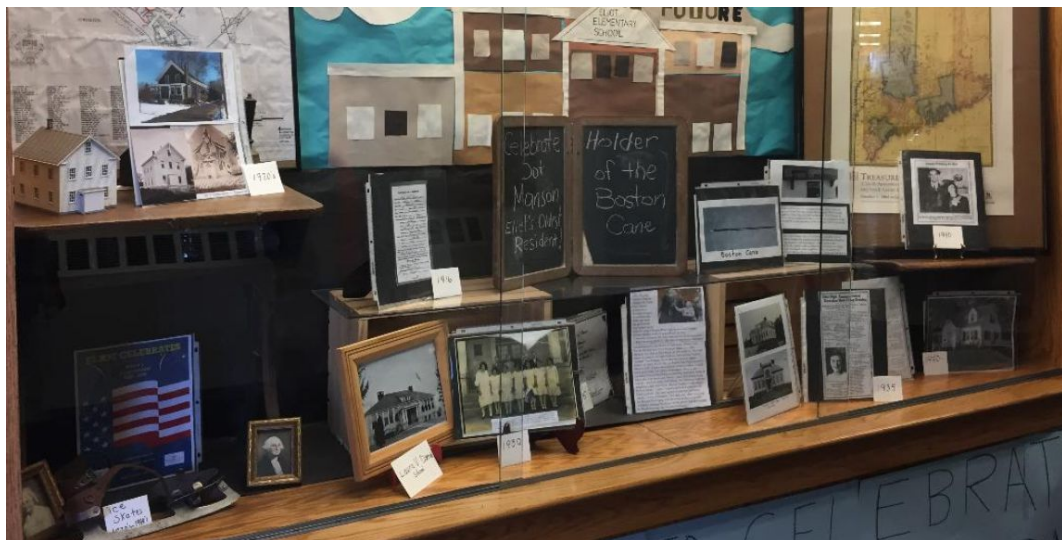
The first thing they did was to remove the front shed and a milking room, both of which were not germane to the original structure. Holes were cut in the sides and ends of the barn and 2 steel beams were placed down its length and then steel beams put in horizontally, side to side. These horizontal steel beams were then gradually lifted and cribbing placed below to rest them on, thus lifting the building off of the ground. The building was lifted just enough to get big equipment under, including the cement truck which would pour the concrete footings and the outerwall foundation. The lowering of the building took 2 days. In November the structural repair work began and Paul started work on the interior. He was able to salvage 7 of the wall panels from the stalls and 12 of the original doors, rebuilding the horse stalls so they could use the barn as a



horse boarding facility. The restoration was completed in May of 2019 and has thirteen 12 foot by 14 foot stalls. They chose vinyl siding to further preserve the building. Although not an “authentic” restoration entirely, as much of the original 1870 barn was preserved and has brought back to its glory.

## NEWS and EVENTS

**Jan Cerabona** has organized the new display at the Elementary School which honors **Dorothy (Dot) Manson** who is the holder of the Boston Post Cane. The cane is awarded to the oldest citizen of the town. Dot is 103! The display shows the schools that she attended in Eliot, pictures and information about her graduation from high school and her marriage and receiving the Boston Post Cane from the town in 2015.





During the **“Wreaths Across America”** tribute at the Eliot Elementary School on November 8<sup>th</sup> **Dot Manson** was acknowledged with a standing ovation and presented with a certificate, and a coffee cup, socks and gift card from Dunkin Donuts ( a dollar for each year of her age) You can find her there, most Wednesdays, sitting and sharing with her friends her wonderful memories about Eliot’s people and places!

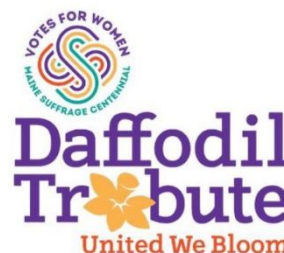


NOTE: The awarding of the Boston Post Cane began in 1909 when the now defunct *Boston Post* newspaper distributed painstakingly designed walking canes to some 700 New England towns. The canes, made of ebony, imported from Africa and crowned with 14-karat gold, were then presented by the Selectmen to the oldest living male of those towns. Since then, for over a century, the canes have been handed down to the next oldest survivor, in what has become something of a Yankee tradition. Women were added to the list of cane recipients starting in 1930. Jan and I are working hard to learn the names of other early holders since the plaque that is displayed with Eliot’s Boston Post Cane, at the Town Hall, only goes back to 1985. Through some quick research I found that the first recipient in Eliot, in 1909, was William Remick who was 90 years old. From 1985 to the present the recipients have been Julia Bartlett (1985), Lora Dow (1990), Mary H. Drake (1991), Ernestine D. Ball (1992), Adelyn Brady (1995), Ruth R. Varney (1997), Louise B. MacDonald (2000), Ethel R. Smith (2006); Linwood T. Davis (2008), Elizabeth C. Libbey (2009) and Dorothy Manson (2015). - Rosanne



## DAFFODIL TRIBUTE – UNITED WE BLOOM – NOV. 5

On November 5, 1919 the state of Maine was the 19th State to ratify the 19th Amendment which gave to women their hard fought, right to vote. This past election day - November 5, 2019- marked its 100th anniversary and the Maine Suffrage Committee called upon citizens across the state to participate in a DAFFODIL TRIBUTE by planting daffodils which, next year, will



bloom in celebration of the 100th anniversary of the adoption of the 19th Amendment of the Constitution!

I sent out a call for people to join a “planting crew” that was initially composed of myself, my husband Bob Fisher and Jan Cerabona. Judith Hilt joined our crew and the four of us traveled to 6 locations - the Eliot Historical Society’s #8 Schoolhouse, Baran Place Elderly Housing, the Eliot Town Office, John F. Hill Grange Hall, Eliot Elementary School, and the William Fogg Library.



The morning was ideal for planting and we found ourselves “ahead of schedule” because of all the help that met us at each of the locations. We ended just before noon as it started to shower.

Along the way we picked up and dropped off additional helpers and counted more than 30 Eliot friends and children who took part. Including among those were residents from Baran Place, our State Rep. Michele Meyer, Eighteen (!) third grade students from the Elementary School, Cindy Waters of the Eliot Festival Day Committee and members of the Baha’i Community, Grange, Historical Society and Ellen from the William Fogg Library. It was a great event and lots of fun. A huge thank you to all our planters and supporters. Be sure to take some extra looks around next spring and see the blooming daffodils! - Rosanne





## ELIOT HISTORICAL SOCIETY RAFFLE

Ticket buyers will have the opportunity to enter for the prize of their choice

Stoneware Cookie Jar  
(4) Tickets to the Seacoast Rep Theatre  
Twin size handmade crochet afghan

**TICKETS ARE \$1 EACH or 6/\$5**

Tickets will be available at Society monthly meetings through December and Marshwood Christmas Bazaar, December 7<sup>th</sup> (Marshwood High School)

*Welcome to our new members – Gene and Stacy Wypyski*

## ELIOT's MAINE BICENTENNIAL EVENTS

MARSHWOOD CHRISTMAS BAZAAR  
DECEMBER 7, 2019



**EAT, SHOP, and TAKE A WALK!**

**AN HISTORICAL WALK OF ELIOT  
AND SOUTH BERWICK  
THRU THE  
HALLS OF MARSHWOOD HIGH  
SCHOOL!**

**WALK BEGINS ON THE LOWER LEVEL AT THE FOOT OF  
THE STAIRS**

**WATCH FOR THE GUIDES WHO WILL LEAD YOU IN THE  
RIGHT DIRECTION**

SPONSORED BY MARSHWOOD HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS, OLD BERWICK HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
and ELIOT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

### DECEMBER 8

Maine author Matt Tavares, *Dasher*, ELIOT  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL gym – check w/school for times

### DECEMBER 9

The *Wreaths Across America* convoy will be making a stop  
at Kittery Trading Post on its way to Arlington National  
Cemetery. Eliot Elementary School will be there to greet  
them.

### DECEMBER 11

WILLIAM FOGG LIBRARY HISTORY BOOK GROUP  
discussion – *Mostly My Maine*, by Walter Staples, 6pm.

**STORY BOOK WALK** -DOUGLAS MEMORIAL  
WOODS, *Learning to Ski with Mr. Magee* by Chris  
VanDusen. Sponsored by William Fogg Library and Great  
Works Land Trust