

NOVEMBER 5th MEETING – 7PM at the John F. Hill Grange Hall.

For our program professional **singer and performer Susan Reed** will present an evening on songs from WWI and II as well as some of her own composition. Invite your family and friends and join us for this fun musical evening! Refreshments will be served by Jack and Polly McDonough.

Eliot Historical Society member Debbie Scribner has organized and is offering **ELIOT TOWN FLAGS** on a pre-order basis.

This Beautiful Eliot Town Flag is 3' x 5' nylon with canvas header and grommets, featuring the town seal on a dark blue background.

A minimum order of 50 flags is required to get the best pricing. The cost is \$50.00 per flag. If 50 flags are not ordered your payment will be refunded.

Checks can be mailed to Debbie Scribner, 30 Forest Ave, Eliot ME 03903.

Orders need to be in by November 10th. Expected delivery is the 2nd week in December. They make great Christmas gifts!

Orders will also be taken at the NOVEMBER ELECTION at our table!

**#8 SCHOOLHOUSE**

Eliot Festival Day brought a good group of new visitors to the schoolhouse as well as a reporter from the newspaper which kept Julie, Jan, and I very busy. Although we had some activities for children our main focus was on the schoolhouse itself and showing it off. And show it off we did!

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Address: PO BOX 3, Eliot, ME 03903
Website: www.eliothistoricalsociety.org
Phone: 752-0174 (Rosanne)



In addition to the publications we have for sale, Jim Staples has generously donated a dozen copies of “Mainly My Maine”, the memoirs of his father Walter Staples. This book also includes memoirs of his grandfather Victor Staples as well. It contains some wonderful information about Eliot and its peoples in the early 1900s. Also recently added are *The Descendants of Daniel Goodwin* CDs and,

for the children, chalkboard w/chalk and bags of marbles.

Marion and David Raitt stopped by for a visit which was a wonderful surprise as they had just dropped off some things with Jan for the Society, many of which Jan had placed on display in the schoolhouse. Items include pictures of pupils of the Lincoln School, Florence (Raitt) Trefethen’s wedding picture which includes several of her pupils, a slate and original chalk box w/ chalk from the Lincoln School, shoes such as a school teacher would have worn, a homemade hickory stick pointer used by Florence, school bell and children’s clothing. Wonderful items to add to our school’s collection!





We had visitors from Oregon and England, Kittery, South Berwick, as well as Eliot. One visitor who is an elementary school principal, commented that having the school, set up as a school, is really important for the children. He said that many that he has seen have the room as a display area for other exhibits but really don't show how the room was actually set up. He very impressed with what we had done with ours.

Over the summer many local people have commented that they were just driving through and saw the sign and were curious; that they had not seen the building open before and were glad to have a chance to see what was in it and some residents didn't even know it was there! Many have taken information on our cemetery project and membership information and several new members have resulted. Jan and I both feel that having the building open was a success and will make plans to do it again next year, possibly expanding the times it is open and will work with Julie on possibly adding some of our other items. The more the Society

can interact with the community the more people we will find that are interested in helping and joining our organization. A huge thank you to Julie who sets up our schoolhouse every year and to Paul and his crew who care for the building, providing us with this wonderful teaching tool!

Plans are to have a table at the November election if you would like to help man it please contact Jan @ 748-0932 or Rosanne @ 752-0174.

In support of our Schoolhouse, the second-grade teachers are offering a number of items for sale, with the proceeds going to the #8 Schoolhouse’s educational programming. There are note cards made by the second-grade students, featuring their own drawings of the schoolhouse and gundalow, hand soaps, homemade strawberry sauce, aprons and cloth shoulder bags.

AN INTERESTING FIND



Joanne Muckenhout of York, Maine made an interesting find at this year’s Raitt Farm Tractor Show. She picked up a log book written by E. Gail Willis entitled “Mottoes”. Joanne says that the journal is fascinating and she had an interesting afternoon reading about names of families familiar to Eliot. Starting in 1905 she said it contains a “beautiful collection of quotes written in pen and ink. It then switches to pencil and it is a daily log of money spent and shopping.

Mrs. Gail Willis Libbey dressed in historical costume for an Eliot Historical Society tour of historic homes in the 1968.

Contained within is a heartbreaking entry for August 17, 1933 which reads, “Thursday

Bert shot & killed himself. I found him dead when I came home. How can we ever go on! My heart is broken.”

She asked about who Bert might be and with a little investigation I was able to find some information about the family. E. Gail Willis was the daughter of Dr. John L. M. Willis and his wife Carrie Ham. She married Albert E. Libbey and they made their home in Evanston, Illinois for many years before returning to her hometown of Eliot to a home on Old Road. Albert was a Trustee of the William Fogg Library from 1942-1962 and following his death a picture, plaque, and bulletin board were dedicated in his honor. It is written that Elizabeth Gail W. Libbey was its first Librarian, following the building’s dedication in 1907 and served for many years. Newspaper clippings showed that she was a very active member of the Eliot Garden Club, winning many awards for her arrangements, flowers and vegetables, the Eliot Historical Society and the Friends

of the William Fogg Library. Gail was a member of the Eliot Congregational Church and its Ladies Circle group. Deeply loved by the members of her church, upon her death, many donations were received, in her name, for their organ renovation fund. Albert died in 1962 and Gail in 1970. Bert, their adopted son, was 16 when he accidentally shot himself while cleaning his 22 caliber. He was alone in his room when the accident took place. He died instantly according to the report of Medical Examiner, Dr. Edward E. Shapleigh. Bert was born in Austria in 1917 and came to the United States when very young and was adopted by Mr. and Mrs. Libbey. They are buried in the Willis plot at Mount Pleasant Cemetery. Joanne has plans to donate this journal to the Society.

AREA EVENTS

October 6: Dead Duck Beach Cleanup 1PM

Join the *Eliot Conservation Commission & The Blue Ocean Society for Marine Conservation* for a beach cleanup at Dead Duck! All supplies provided.



October 13: Table Talk - Community Talk - Free Meal - Great Fellowship 12-2 at Green Acre Baha'i School. Limited space so register early at greenacre@usbnc.org or call 207-439-7200

York River Study Committee

Thursday, October 4 at 6:30 p.m. at the York Community Auditorium at York High School. UNH Professor Jeff Bolster will give a talk, "*A Watery Kingdom Transformed: York River and the Piscataqua Region Through Time.*" In this richly illustrated talk, Professor Bolster reconstructs centuries of the human and ecological history of our region. With its attention to the backstory, this provocative presentation provides perspective on the issues we face.

On November 6, voters in York and Eliot will decide whether to pursue a Partnership Wild and Scenic River designation for the York River and accept the accompanying York River Watershed Stewardship Plan. In **Eliot it's Article #10** on the ballot. Community approvals - a majority of 'YES' votes on these warrant articles - are required for Congress to consider a Partnership Wild and Scenic River designation. **Citizens are invited to learn more and ask any questions about the York River Study Committee's recommendation for communities to pursue Partnership River designation:**

- Visit the Study Committee's table at York Marketfest, Saturday, Sept. 22
- Visit the Study Committee's table at Eliot Festival Day on Saturday, Sept 29
- Attend the Study Committee's meetings on Tuesday, Sept 25 and Tuesday, Oct 23, at 5:30 p.m. at the Grant House in York
- Attend a Kittery Town Council workshop on the York River Wild and Scenic Study on Monday, Oct 22, at 5:30 p.m. at Kittery Town Hall
- Visit the York River Study Committee's website: www.YorkRiverMaine.org

October 13: - History Hike - Militia of Northern New England 10:00 - 11:30am. Negutaquet Conservation Area, North Berwick

Historian Steven Eames will discuss the militia of northern New England, its origins with the provincial government, and the turn of tide 1774 when the militia found itself turning against the provincial government. The property is home to approximately 2 miles of trail systems and features trail highlights such as the “Double Oak”, a small riverside cemetery including a revolutionary war **gravesite**, beaver habitat, and meadows along with forested land. Presented through a partnership with the Great Works Regional Land Trust. 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.

October 14: The **Old Berwick Historical Society**, in partnership with the First Parish Federated Church, will host a **guided walking tour of Old Fields Burying Ground**. South Berwick’s former churchyard cemetery is located on Vine Street, entering from the Brattle Street. The event begins at 12pm rain or shine, and will last approximately an hour. It is open to the public and is free of charge. Comfortable shoes are recommended. Following the tour, the historical society invites participants to visit its Counting House Museum at Main and Liberty Street. The museum is open on Saturday and Sunday from 1:00 to 4:00 pm through the end of October. Admission is free. More information on the society's programs is available by calling (207) 384-0000 or visiting www.oldberwick.org,



October 17: Berwick Historical Society hosts author **Lorraine Dutilleul** to talk about her new book *Growing Up Franco-American*. Come and learn about/discuss early experiences growing up in what was essentially an Old World Culture. Berwick Public Library, 7pm. 207- 698-1155.

October 25: *The Architectural Legacy of Franco-Americans* 7:30 pm (Berwick Academy Arts Center) Historian Peter Michaud will examine the architectural impact of French-Canadian immigration over three generations. Beginning with Thomas Plant, whose father immigrated from Quebec to Maine in the 1830s, and the creation of his shoe factory and his estate Lucknow, to the work of local architect Lucien Omer Geoffrion who worked in the greater Portsmouth area from the 1930s to 1970, Michaud will discuss the buildings and landscapes created by French Canadian immigrants and their reflection of popular social trends. OBHS program.

