

Next Meeting October 7th

7:00pm, John F. Hill Grange Hall.

Russ and **Jim Staples** will join us to talk about their father's (Walter Staples) autobiographical book, *Mostly My Maine* which also includes the memories of their grandfather Victor Staples. Staples is a well-known name in Eliot and many of the places they speak about will be familiar. Come join us as we talk about Eliot's history, times gone by and places in Eliot that we may not realize existed. Refreshments will be served by Bob and Rosanne Fisher.

School is Open!

The display case at the Elementary School, once again, has been changed out as part of our educational outreach, coordinated by Jan Cerabona. The fall theme is *Maine's Bicentennial*. Featured are houses that would have been standing in Eliot in 1820, along with our schoolhouses, a map of the counties of Maine in 1820, and information on the then President – James Monroe. Centrally displayed is a poster encouraging participation in Eliot's year-long events.

**Eliot's Maine
Bicentennial Committee**

ELIOT FESTIVAL DAY is only weeks away! Do you have your float ready? Have you signed up for a booth or an activity? Will you come and support the events of the weekend?

Check out the events and the William Fogg Library's annual Auction/Dance at the Regatta on the 27th! The Grange's Farmer's Market! Come and Support the activities of your town!

The Committee has been hard at work adding to the calendar of events for the coming year. Just added are a visit from *Wreaths Across America*, on November 8th, to Eliot Elementary School, in honor of Veteran's Day at which the Police Department Color Guard will be participating and the Police Department's Trick or Treating event in October. Eleanor Pearsall will be graciously loaning her Eliot scrapbooks to the Library this coming year. Each month the Library will feature a new scrapbook just loaded with Eliot history – highlighting past events and the peoples of our town. Ask for them at the desk!

A little further down the corridor you will find the latest installment of the murals produced by the children for their *Hometown Roots* studies this past year!



In case you missed it....

... The breakfast at the **Congregational Church Blueberry Festival** was exceptional with its blueberry pancakes with homemade blueberry syrup, just loaded with blueberries! And the Pies! Breads! Crumbles! and Jams! were just too good to pass up!



... **Eliot's** year-long celebration of **Maine's Bicentennial** kicked off with a ceremony at the Town Hall. The police department lowered the State flag, followed by the raising of Maine's Bicentennial flag by **Senator Mark Lawrence** and **Representative Michele Meyer**. **Jan**



Cerabona, co-chair of Eliot's Committee spoke about the plans for the coming year and invited everyone to "spread the word" and participate! There will be lots more activities coming, starting with **Eliot Festival Day**, so join in the fun!

Speaking of Maine's Bicentennial Celebration...



*American Values.
Hometown Roots.*

JOHN F. HILL GRANGE, #393 joins Eliot in celebrating Maine's Bicentennial by inviting our Eliot neighbors who bake, grow produce, raise and/or produce other food products, as well as crafters to join us for a **FARMER'S MARKET** at **Eliot**

Festival Day, September 28th from 8:00 – 1:00, at our building on State Road. Come join us and sell your goods, promote your enterprise, and engage with your neighbors. The space is **FREE**, you just need to bring your own tables/chairs. Space is limited. Reserve your space by contacting Margaret Morse @ 439-0413/ write: 850 Main Street/ or email: mmorse850@comcast.net

Speaking of Cemeteries



Paul Johnson has been working with Owen Clark, whose interest in a cemetery near his home, led to contacting Paul. Paul has helped Owen upright stones and providing the information Owen needs to help care for the cemetery. Owen's work has led to his interest in caring for others that have been neglected, as well. At Paul's request Owen interviewed himself about his project.

Cemetery Interview

By: Owen Clark

Tell about yourself.

Hi, my name is Owen Clark and I am fourteen years old in eighth grade at Marshwood Middle School. Some of my hobbies are playing piano, skateboarding, writing and drawing. Additionally, since I was little, I have always been interested in history of all sorts. Part of that interest in history inspired me to take on this task of cleaning up the small cemetery in my back woods.

What made you think to take on a job like this?

I started cleaning it around April because well, I wanted to do it. I was just like "I feel like raking that old cemetery". It took about a week of sore shoulders and hard work, but after I finished, I felt accomplished. The previous cemetery that was once there covered in leaves and sticks had now completely vanished, and the new cemetery seemed quite content. So, I continued rebuilding and it really paid off.

What specific tasks did you do to clean up the cemetery?

First, I raked out the layers and layers of built up leaves and removed other debris such as sticks. Then, I weed wacked the cemetery grounds and around the stones. After, I planted some shade-loving ground covers such as Sweet Woodruff and Vinca Minor in the empty spaces of the corners and put small rock walls around them to protect the plants. And last, I straightened some stones and started cleaning them as well.





were facing. I learned that the smaller stones (which I originally thought were children's stones) were actually coordinating "footstones" and they had the initials of the headstone in front of it.

What was the outcome?

The outcome of this journey was that some people *did* notice and that got me some new skills and advantages in cleaning up this cemetery. I also gained a sanctuary to come to and feel at peace. I will continue this project and am very excited about it.

What are some future goals you have?

I'm thinking about planting some Hostas along a path I've been working on through the woods out to the cemetery and I am also going to put a bench in the cemetery at some point, as well as cleaning up the rest of the stones and I also hope to fix the cemetery gate.

What were some challenges you were forced to face along the way?

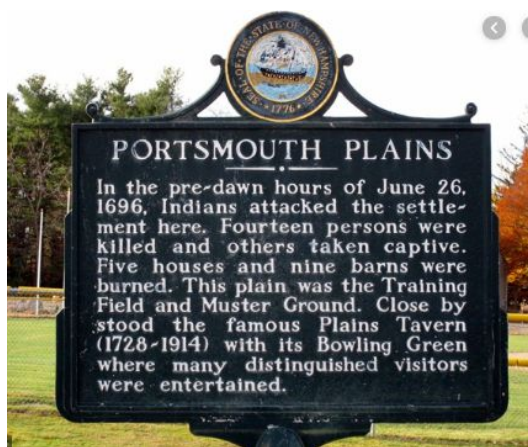
There were a couple of challenges I had to face along the way. One was that I knew probably 90% of people wouldn't notice a difference or notice anything at all. So, in the end was it truly worth it? But I pondered that question and came to the conclusion that it doesn't really matter if people notice or appreciate it. I knew in the end *I would* and I knew that it would also make the deceased buried here smile and feel respected in the end. Another challenge I had to face was that it was pretty time consuming and it definitely took some physical energy.

What were some things you found fascinating?

Some things I found that were fascinating was initially reading the dates and the names on the headstones. Another thing I found fascinating was the placement of the stones and where they



Area News and Events



Plains Speaking – exploring the 1696 Portsmouth Plains Massacre.

During the months of September and October, Pontine Theatre will present “Plains Speaking: Portsmouth’s 1696 Massacre in Fact and Fiction,” a series of events exploring the history and legacy of the massacre that occurred on the Portsmouth Plains on June 26, 1696.

Pontine’s present home at the 1845 Plains School is located on this site. The

community’s longstanding interest in place-based history and historic preservation gave rise to the development of this program examining this important and overlooked part of Portsmouth’s history.

Due to limited space, however, preregistration is required. Reservations may be made by contacting Pontine Theatre via email info@pontine.org or by phone at (603) 436-6660.

SEPTEMBER 10, 7-8:30pm – Emerson Baker will speak to the pattern of English settlement in the Piscataqua region that gave rise to conflict with Natives in the 1690’s. Location: The Plains School, 1 Plains Ave., Portsmouth. The space is fully accessible with free parking conveniently located onsite.

SEPTEMBER 26, 7-8:30pm – Lisa Brooks, Abenaki scholar, will provide a Native perspective on historical documents pertaining to the aggressive outbreaks that took place in New England beginning with King Philip’s War (1675-78). Location: Levenson Room, Portsmouth Public Library.

SEPTEMBER 28, 1-3 pm, there’ll be a Walking Tour. Adjoining the site of Pontine’s residence at the Plains School is a 500-acre tract of publicly-owned, undeveloped land known as The Great Bog. A 19th century railroad line running through the bog is being transformed into a walking trail that runs from Portsmouth to Breakfast Hill Road in the neighboring town of Greenland. This is the site where, the morning after the massacre, the Wabanaki raiders and their captives were overcome by pursuing settlers. The tour will follow in the footsteps of the Wabanaki raiders on a likely route of their retreat. Along the way, stops will be made to share narratives written by those captured in historic raids.

OCTOBER 8 @ 7 pm, Nina Maurer will present the findings of new research into the Portsmouth Plains Massacre and its connection to other raids in the Piscataqua region. This presentation will also include a panel discussion with Seacoast historians: Sandra Rux, curator at Portsmouth's Warner House, who will present her research into the various families living at the Portsmouth Plains who were impacted by the 1696 massacre. Stephanie Seacord, director of marketing at Strawberry Banke Museum, will discuss the reinterpretation of the Sherburne House, planned to open in 2021, and the connections to the Sherburne farm, still located at Portsmouth Plains. Location: The Plains School, 1 Plains Ave., Portsmouth.

September 18th – “Expedition to the Wreck of the *Portland*”. Live feed broadcast from the wreck of the Steamship *Portland*. This special broadcast using state-of-the-art imaging technology through which researchers from Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution and Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary, using the Research Vessel Connecticut and linking through URI's England.”

Built in 1890 in Bath, the passenger steamer *Portland* was one of the premier side-wheelers of the Eastern Steamship Company. On November 27, 1898 the ship departed Boston for her scheduled run to Portland, Maine and was never seen again. A storm arose that evening, damaging hundreds of vessels and New England shore properties. The *Portland* was lost with no survivors. It is estimated that 190 died that night. In 2002 she was found upright and intact by the Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary, off the coast of Massachusetts. The program will include the opportunity to ask questions of the research team. Location: MHS Shettleworth Lecture Hall, Portland. FREE and open to the public.



William Fogg Library
Annual Auction/Dance

Celebrate 112 years of the William Fogg Library and kick off Eliot Festival Days weekend.

Featuring:

- ★ Live music by dance band *Something in the Water*
- ★ Appetizers and a cash bar
- ★ Raffle prizes
- ★ Live and silent auctions

Friday, September 27, 2019 + 6:30 - 10 PM
Regatta Room, Eliot, Maine

Tickets \$30.00 per person. Purchase a table for 8 and get one free ticket!
available for purchase at the Library and online

williamfogglibrary.org * 207.439.9437 * 116 Old Road, Eliot, ME 03903