#### Note from our President ~

Hi Everyone,

I hope that you and your families are staying safe and healthy. I just want to announce that we will be cancelling our Eliot Historical Society Monthly Meetings for the next few months. With the threat of COVID-19 still with us and our members' age being the most vulnerable, it wouldn't be wise to have indoor meetings. This cancellation will probably continue through December. I will send out an email to all of you to announce when our next "in person" meeting will be held.

In the mean-time please enjoy our Monthly Newsletter (thanks to Rosanne). Better yet, send something to Rosanne about you or your family (projects, family history etc) for her to include in the newsletter. Her email is <a href="mailto:rma249@yahoo.com">rma249@yahoo.com</a> Thanks,

Paul Johnson

President

EDITOR NOTE: Past Newsletters can be viewed through the link on our website page.

## Eliot Maine Bicentennial Committee

Official word has been received that our State of Maine Bicentennial celebration and all the plans that had to be postponed, including the Maine State Parade, have been moved to 2021.

Here in Eliot we were just at the beginning of our events going into the Spring/Summer.

We are all looking forward to resuming and re-planning for next year so STAY-TUNED!

## **SOCIETY NEWS**

From open houses to cemeteries and attending workshops through ZOOM, we have managed to keep ourselves busy tending to the work of our Historical Society, despite not having formal meetings this summer. In this edition we'll take you with us on some of our varied activities and participation in newsworthy events.

Address: PO BOX 3, Eliot, ME 03903 Website: <u>www.eliothistoricalsociety.org</u>



Just before the schools re-opened we held an "open house' tour at the Eliot Elementary. In addition to the tour residents got a sneak view of the new set up for the children returning to their classrooms. Our tour included a view of the display case, featuring the William Fogg Library history, the tribute tiles made by the children several years ago in honor Mrs. Esther Morrow, who brought Eliot's history into the classrooms, and the two movable murals made by the 2<sup>nd</sup>

grade classes for their Eliot History Studies program. Following the social distance protocols and masks because of the pandemic Janice, Rosanne, and Bob were able to host individuals and groups and talk with them about the

history and the artwork of these features. We thank all who were able to come and celebrate our history and our children.









Address: PO BOX 3, Eliot, ME 03903 Website: <u>www.eliothistoricalsociety.org</u>

Since our open-house there have been **two additions to the "Eliot History Wall" at the Elementary School!** The 1850 William Fogg Map and a present map of the town with the old school districts marked. A wonderful addition!

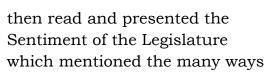






On Saturday, September 19<sup>th</sup> a small group gathered at Hammond Park to honor Janice Cerabona and present to her the Fabyan Drake Good Citizen Award for. Commander of the VFW Post #188, Jack Mercer, assisted by Ron Gammont presented the award to Janice. State Representative Michele Meyer





website: www.enotinstoricaisociety.org

she serves her community, including as teacher, volunteer, her work with the Eliot Historical Society, the schools and our #8 Schoolhouse and her service on the Maine Bicentennial Committee and Eliot **Aging.** Members of her family, and three past award recipients (Dominick Cerabona, Robert Fisher and Rosanne Adams) were in attendance. Daughter Susan did a great job of keeping her mother from knowing the



adidas 190ce

reason she was being bought to Hammond Park. As Jan said she thought they were coming there to do something with her grandson's senior school class. She wondered why there wasn't a crowd of kids there when she arrived! **Congratulations Jan!** 



#### Since the start of school Jan

has been doing a daily 2-hour stint as recess monitor. Thinking about Maine's Bicentennial and Eliot history (and discovering a



Address: PO BOX 3, Eliot, ME 03903 Website: <u>www.eliothistoricalsociety.org</u>



trove of stones while working on the cemeteries in Eliot!) she came up with a project involving art and history.

Gathering up the





stones, she then had her children, staff, teachers, and other community members, using permanent markers, decorate them. They are placed by the walkway as you enter the school addition. If you'd like to add your artistic rock to the display please contact Jan.



**Tetherly/Spinney Cemetery update**: With our crew of 4 we finished digging up the stubble and removing debris from the cemetery.

Channel 6 news sent down a photo journalist



Sebastian Bennage who interviewed us and took video and pictures as we sawed down limbs, reset a stone, and cleaned some stones. We were featured on the News Center Maine TV news!

Address: PO BOX 3, Eliot, ME 03903 Website: <u>www.eliothistoricalsociety.org</u>



One of our interesting finds was this piece of metal obviously left many years before and now partially imbedded in the mature tree. Barry tried to pull it out but determined that it would have to be cut out, so we left it as it was.

We finished up this year's work in the first week of October, but not before taking the



time to reset one of the older stones and uncovering 6 (!) of the base stones that were buried deep.







Address: PO BOX 3, Eliot, ME 03903 Website: www.eliothistoricalsociety.org





We plan to resume next spring/
summer and will be seeking additional help.
We have at least 5 more stones to reset in their bases, a stone to repair and some to

straighten! A HUGE thank you to Steve Robinson and his crew from the Highway Department, residents Stefan and Kate Claesson, Wendy Watts and Bob Magro for their help and support and Barry Bernard of Portland, Maine for

getting this project rolling! If you are interested in helping next year please let us know - Rosanne and Jan

Here are the before and after pictures.







Address: PO BOX 3, Eliot, ME 03903 Website: <u>www.eliothistoricalsociety.org</u>

**Cemetery Cleanup by St. John's Church youth group**: In the midst of our own cemetery project we were contacted by Rev. Nathan Bourne of St. John's Episcopal Church in Portsmouth. One Sunday every month their youth group goes out into the community to perform a service. They learned about what we were doing, here in Eliot, from EHS member Donna Murphy. We matched them up with two cemeteries on Goodwin Road, that are near to each other. Rosanne supplied the information on the cemeteries and how to



approach cleaning them up and also showed one group how to properly clean stones, starting with just water and then showing them the cleaning that is done with D/2, an accepted cleaning product. There were about 20 youth and adults who came to offer their help and they did an outstanding job!



The **Hammond/Moulton cemetery** could hardly be seen from the road and there was so much over-growth that Barry took time out from his family cemetery work to come and cut down the larger growth so the youth could better clean it out.





Moses Hammond and wife Mercy and their family members are buried here as well as the Sylvester Moulton family who married into the Hammond. There is

Address: PO BOX 3, Eliot, ME 03903 Website: www.eliothistoricalsociety.org

an interesting story behind this cemetery. Moses and Mercy and four of their children, ages 24-46 and possibly others who are documented (without stones) all died within months of each other in 1844. It has been written that Moses was a tanner and may have gotten a bad batch of hides containing, possibly, anthrax, which caused their sickness and death. Following their deaths, it is said that no one went back to live in the house and it was moved down the road (to what is now Wilson Road). Moved with a team of oxen, when word was received that President Lincoln had died, they stopped the move and all went home for a 3-day period of mourning, before returning to complete the move.



The **Goodrich Cemetery** was a bit easier. Only 3 stones in this cemetery. The work required here was removing the downed branches, raking, and pulling the weeds. Hopefully sometime the granite pieces flanking the gateway can be re-set, along with the stones that are leaning. A HUGE thank you to Rev. Bourne, his youth group and the adults!





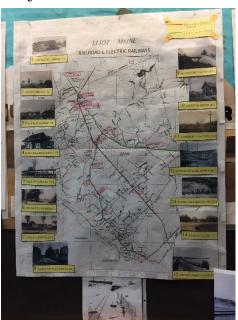
Address: PO BOX 3, Eliot, ME 03903 Website: <u>www.eliothistoricalsociety.org</u>



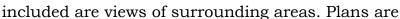
George W. Goodrich, his first wife Mary (Hanscom) and the two-year old child of his second wife Ellen M., who died 4 months after George, are buried here. If anyone has information on wife Ellen, we'd love to have you contact us. We wonder if she died at the same time as her husband and child or married again.



Eliot Historical Society's fall history display at the Elementary School was set up in the display case just as school was re-opening. Jan and Rosanne chose the history of Eliot's Railroad and Electric (Trolley) Railway. Zip Zamarchi lent a model train and we made a map showing the routes of our two transportation systems and some of the bridges,



crossings and stops along the way. Also

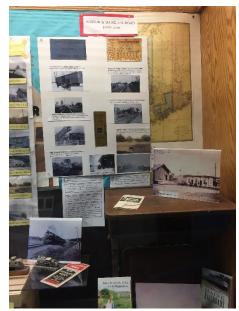


underway to produce a video of the history sites at the Elementary School so that more can enjoy these displays, going forward, while the schools remain closed to the general public.





Address: PO BOX 3, Eliot, ME 03903 Website: www.eliothistoricalsociety.org







### **OUT & ABOUT**



This is a one-way trail through our 14 acres of beautiful hardwood forest. Trail length is .6 mile, you may loop as many times as you'd like. We have included more than enough space to socially distance, but bring your mask please. You'll experience glowing landscapes, light tunnels,

fairy villages, our 60 foot interactive photography-studio-lit stage, designed to give you incredible other-worldly photo opportunities, and so much more! Bring your camera! Open October 2nd - November 8<sup>th</sup>. Every Wednesday - Sunday we may also add some rain dates. Check our tickets page for up to date info. Starting at 6 PM each night General Admission \$8 Children 3 and under free with paid adult ONLINE TICKETS ONLY In order to follow State of Maine attendance maximum guidelines and proper social distancing, we will NOT be selling tickets at the door. We apologize for the inconvenience.

# If you have something to share for our next newsletter let us know!

Address: PO BOX 3, Eliot, ME 03903 Website: www.eliothistoricalsociety.org