

In Memoriam On September 28th we lost a very beloved member of our Society - **Richard Bogh**. He was very active in our community as a member of his church, the Friends of the Library, Lions Club and contributed to several other community organizations as well as our Historical Society. We were fortunate to have him as a great supporter of the many activities and projects we undertook. Often, he would be found with his wife Carolyn by his side at our meetings and fundraisers.

He also served on the board of directors for many years and as treasurer. We will miss you Richard.



FABULOUS FIND of Kittery donates September proceeds to Eliot Historical Society.

A small group gathered recently to accept our donation from *Fabulous Find*, a non-profit resale boutique in Kittery. Each month they choose one or more non-profit groups to receive the profits from sales during that month. We received \$ 9686.57!! If you haven't stopped in yet, please do. You'll be wonderfully surprised at the beautiful home goods and clothing. Stop in often as new things come in every day and they don't remain long! They are located on Rt. 1, just off the Kittery Traffic circle.

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

ELIOT FESTIVAL DAY



We had a very nice presence at Eliot Festival Day this year, under a new tent, bought just for events like this. Town flags were on pre-sale and the society

offered information and publications. We understand there was great interest in our cemetery program expressed by people who stopped by to chat. Shown here manning the booth are R to L: Margie Brown, Tracey Graffam-Dickson, Skip Brown, Paul Johnson.



ELIOT TIME CAPSULE Eliot closed out its Maine Bicentennial "200 plus 1" celebration with the burial of its time capsule on October 15th. Inside is a collection of items that will tell people 50 years from now what it was like to live during 2020/2021. Included are coins, town documents, newspaper articles, official and non-official school shirts from the graduating classes of 2020 and 2021, a bronze



Eliot Maine Bicentennial co-chairs Janice Cerabona and Lydia Goodwin, with secretary Rosanne Adams



paperweight with the preamble to the American Legion constitution, the newsletter of the Eliot Historical Society, which chronicled the events of the Bicentennial and the changes in community brought about due to the pandemic, the recent Eliot Business Directory produced by the Eliot Festival Day Committee, pictures of and writeups from children, a certified copy of the Town Charter and many more items submitted by groups and individuals.



The weather held out as townspeople were joined by special guests - the 3rd grade classes from Eliot Elementary School, their teachers, principal Peter Harrison, School Superintendent John Caverly and Select Board members Lauren Dow and Richard Donhauser and State Representative Michele Meyer at Hammond Park.

Janice Cerabona, co-chair of the Eliot

Maine Bicentennial Committee welcomed those attending, talked about the celebration and thanked all for their support as it extended a year beyond the original plan and became Maine 200 plus 1.

Excitement had been building at the Elementary School as the children have been anticipating this event for many weeks and donated several items for the capsule. It didn't take the children even a heartbeat, when asked how old they'd be in 50 years, when the time capsule would be opened, to yell out "58"!



Richard Donhauser talked about the special importance of the children being there to see this time capsule, as they



will remember this day and be here to see it opened in 2070. Many things in our daily lives will have changed and the things in the time capsule will be a reminder



of the time of their youth. One of those things, the masks we wear, he mused, will hopefully be a thing of the past.

Rep. Michele Meyer, who, with Senator Mark Lawrence, kicked off Eliot’s celebration in 2019, returned to help close things out. She addressed the group saying - “Good morning. I want to thank the Eliot Bicentennial Committee for the opportunity to take part in this, the final event of Eliot’s Celebration of Maine’s 200th



birthday. It seems like just yesterday that I ran the bicentennial flag up the pole at the town hall, signaling the start of what was to

be a year-long commemoration of our statehood. We simply had no idea, on that lovely summer day, of what lay ahead. That we as Mainers would find ourselves challenged in ways we simply could not have imagined and that we, like the Mainers who have come before us, would face the unknown with grace and fortitude, finding ways to build community even as we distanced ourselves to keep each other safe. When poet Amanda Gorman wrote her poem “The Miracle of Morning” it was early on in the pandemic, when we were only beginning to comprehend the scale of the crisis to come. But even then, she wanted to acknowledge the promise of healing like the light of morning, that springs from despair. She writes, ‘While we might feel small, separate, and all alone, Our people have never been more closely tethered. The question isn’t IF we can weather this unknown, but HOW we will weather this unknown, together.’ And so, we look forward, inspired by our resilience, our renewed sense of community and perseverance and dedicated to the better, brighter days we know lie ahead in Maine’s third century of statehood.”



Following the service, Steve Robinson and members of his town highway crew dug the hole and lowered the time capsule cylinder into the ground. A large stone waited patiently nearby, to be placed over it and a bronze plaque will be secured on it, so that its place will be known for the planned unsealing on Memorial Day in 2070. Funds for the project were provided by a Maine200 grant.



SPEAKING OF CEMETERIES

(how could we not?!)

October has been a busy month for us. Work continued at the **Spinney/Tetherly cemetery** on Monday, October 4th. As you remember, the Eliot Highway Department helped us clean it out last year during the height of Covid-19. Our 7- member crew, led by the expertise of Historical Society president Paul Johnson, continued the work.







We dug up bases, realigned tipped stones, reset downed stones and foot stones. 4 hours and over 20 monuments! We did some amazing work with a great team! The braces have since been removed.



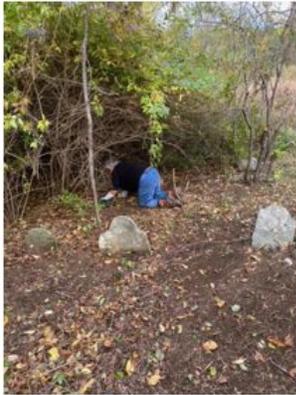
Paul returned recently to fix a broken stone and reset in the base. Our next task will be to see if we can remove some trees that are in the way of resetting two gravestones. We will revisit next year and continue the work!

October 7th Jan and I, and again on October 22 Jan and Tracy, worked on the heavily overgrown **Neill cemetery**. We were spurred to take it on after a visit from Andrea Swan, whom we talked about in our last newsletter. This ancient Neall cemetery contains inscribed stones going back to the 1700s and then others not identified, which may go back even further, as well as more recent. Before beginning we had trouble even locating the extent of the cemetery. Thankfully the owner had kept it mowed at the “front” so the newer stones could be seen.



At the October 22nd work day Tracey and Jan had the opportunity to meet the owner of the property – Mark. He was very happy to have some help as he hadn't quite figured out just where to start and is actively involved. He is very interested in the history of the people and our start has given him the impetus, working with his son to do more clearing. It is wonderful to be able to work with landowners to help clear out these old cemeteries. Once cleared, we realize it then becomes easier for the landowner to maintain – which is the goal of our “Adopt a Cemetery” program. Great work everyone!





On between working at the Neall cemetery, Jan, Bob, Tracey and myself were invited to come along as our president Paul Johnson and friend Mike Myers tackled a very unique cemetery. Many, many, years ago the stones had been moved out of the larger, existing, cemetery (presumably because the owner wanted to have a lawn) and most of them placed in a row on a granite curbing. Three of the stones of young children remained in an area, now part of a garden, with one of them leaning on the others. No one seems to know just when this was done but there is reference to the cemetery and the old family house that was taken down, in records that we have. It is in an area that was developed in the late 1930s and we surmise the removals occurred then. The moving of the cemetery stones, of course, now makes it impossible to know where these people are actually buried. Paul, as caretaker of the Mt. Pleasant Cemetery had figured out how to upright



granite curbing that had sunken in and tipped. He was able to use these skills to tackle this project.

Noticing this unusual situation on one of his bike rides, Paul approached the present owners who were happy to have him help



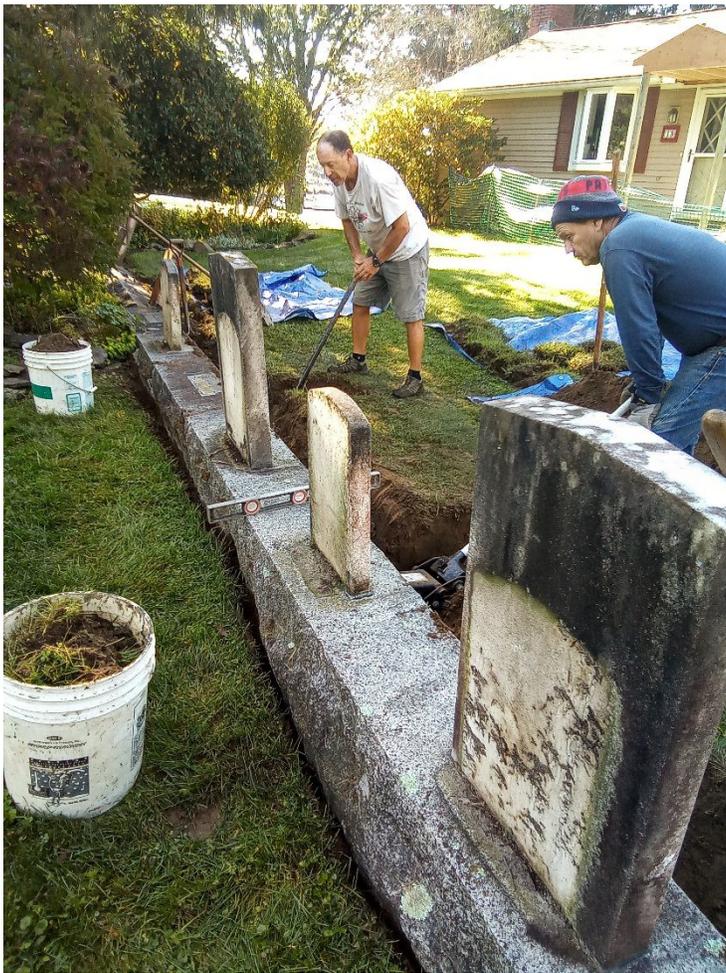
with the situation.



The sod was carefully removed and the soil dug out from one side of the granite piece. Two earthen "ramps"



were also dug out so that the jacks could be placed under the granite. Then the granite (with many of the headstones attached!) was lifted by jacks, leveled, and then the soil and sod put back. There are two pieces of curbing that required this work. The next step will be to place headstones back in their holes on the curbing. It was fascinating to watch!





Also in October, Society member George Remick alerted us to more work being done at the Remick cemetery, that the youth group cleaned this summer. He was joined by a friend and a neighbor to clean the Remick monument and a few other stones as we picked up some fallen limbs. This cemetery will require much more work as some of the graves are sunken, and many stones are down or tipping.

Town of Eliot Cemetery Website

Did you know that there are about 166 cemeteries within the town limits of Eliot? We all (or most of us) know of our two big cemeteries: Mt. Pleasant and Brooks Memorial. But there are some 164 other small family cemeteries strewn about the homesteads of Eliot. The details of all these cemeteries were painstakingly documented by our old friend and EHS member, the late Joe Frost along with Rosanne Adams. Realizing that this information is not easily accessible to the public (along with the details of Mt. Pleasant and Brooks Cemeteries), Paul Johnson and the Eliot Historical Society (EHS) have been trying to set-up a website for anyone to search for people buried in all of Eliot Cemeteries.



Paul had approached the Town of Eliot to fund this effort but with funds being tight, this project was an easy cut during the Budget Process. Now the Eliot Historical Society has partnered with Mt. Pleasant & Brooks Cemeteries to fund the development of this software to set up this website. At this point, we have forwarded the Database and map of Mt. Pleasant Cemetery to the developer. We have developed a new detailed Database and map of Brooks Cemetery. We will be forwarding that info to the developer after the Database is updated as a result of the "Accuracy Audit" conducted this past weekend. Many thanks to all those who volunteered for this Field Audit which required volunteers to walk through the cemetery and record info from the headstones. Lastly, we are about 1/3 of the way through the other 164 small cemeteries. We will forward that info upon completion.

When this website is finished, anyone (with internet access) should be able to search for a name and see where that person is buried in Eliot. All known info will be presented such as Birth date, Death date etc. and hopefully a picture of the headstone and GPS reading. Searching for a specific small cemetery will result in a list of everyone who is buried there.

We will keep you posted on the progress of this project. A newly formed EHS Cemetery Committee will help in the development process. - Paul Johnson/Rosanne Adams

Update: Paul recently organized a group of volunteers, eager to get into the Halloween spirit, who walked through Brooks Cemetery and methodically noted and recorded the burials and their transcriptions.

NEWS AND EVENTS

November is **American Indian Heritage Month** and the Rye Historical Society is presenting - *A Celebration of Eastern Woodland Native Peoples*. Thursday, Nov 18, 7-8:30PM at the Rye Congregational Church. Tickets are required - they are FREE- and attendees are asked to wear masks as it will be indoors. For tickets, info <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/a-celebration-of-eastern-woodland-native-peoples-tickets-195251070207>



A Celebration of Eastern Woodland Native Peoples

Ed Bullock and Ken Hamilton present a primer on Native American song, dance, culture, stories, and history



Wednesday Wanderings and Hikes

Registration for all hikes is required: info@gwrlt.org, 207-646-3604. State protocol for COVID precautions followed, masks required. Outings limited to 15 people and guardians must be present with children.

Wednesday Wandering, Nov 3, 10am-11:30am
Bauneg Beg Conservation Area, North Berwick

Sunday, Nov 14, 9am-3pm
Three Hills Hike, Mount A

Sunday, Nov 7, 10am-noon
Newichwannock Woods, Berwick

Wednesday Wandering, Dec 1, 10am-11:30am
Kenyon Hill Preserve, South Berwick



Memories of Maine Magazine is published 6 times a year and is free and available on newsstands, variety stores, grocery stores, diners, cafes, banks and other public places. Each issue covers the history and nostalgia of a different region of the state. The December issue will include an article on Moses Gerrish Farmer, who lived the last years of his life here in Eliot. Be on the lookout for it!