

Announcement!

Winter meetings will be by ZOOM! In order to keep everyone safe and connected we will be meeting virtually, until further notice. Programs will be recorded and posted on the website and our Facebook page.



We send a HUGE thank you to **Tracey Graffam-Dickson** for setting these up!

FEBRUARY 7th MEETING @ 7PM. ZOOM LINK:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89970965186?pwd=b0JaVFgyOFRnNW11WjRLZlZlVSRDNLdz09>

PROGRAM: Eliot Elementary School teacher **Ann Shisler** will join us and talk about Wreaths Across America and how the collaboration between the students and organization began.

Our first ZOOM meeting in December went very well. December was our Annual Meeting. There were 16 attending. The following officers were elected for another term:

President – Paul Johnson

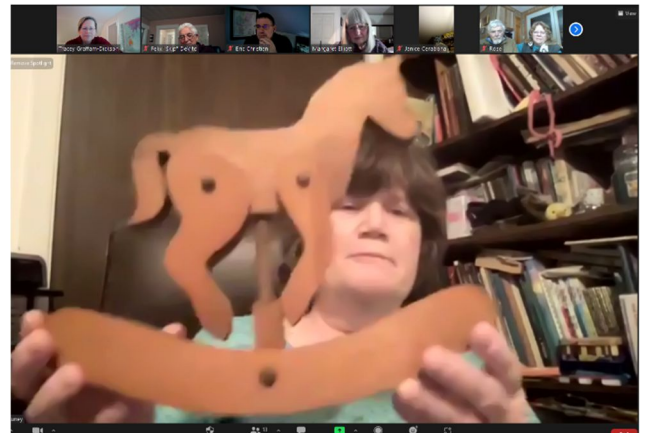
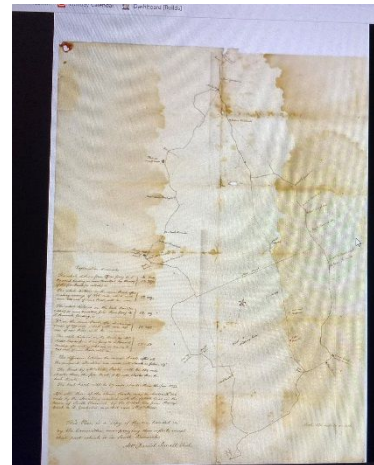
Vice-President – Dennis Lentz

Secretary – Tracey Graffam-Dickson

Treasurer – Pamela Ashley

Julie Johnson agreed to undertake the annual financial audit

Old books and a map, shoes, a bronzed baby shoe, lightbulbs, an old wedding certificate and silver napkin ring, toys, handmade items and even a visit from Santa were some of the items shared at our annual December SHOW AND TELL.



Our January meeting brought some new faces, with 19 attending. **Rosanne Adams** presented a program on “Punkintown” which hopefully will be posted soon to our website, giving you an opportunity to see it. We’ll also share in the newsletter, at some point, as space permits.



Home of Emma Pavne, Punkintown

Our Program Committee is always looking for ideas so if YOU have a subject that you have a suggestion for a future program or something you would like to share at our meeting please contact committee members Jan (748-0932) or Rosanne.



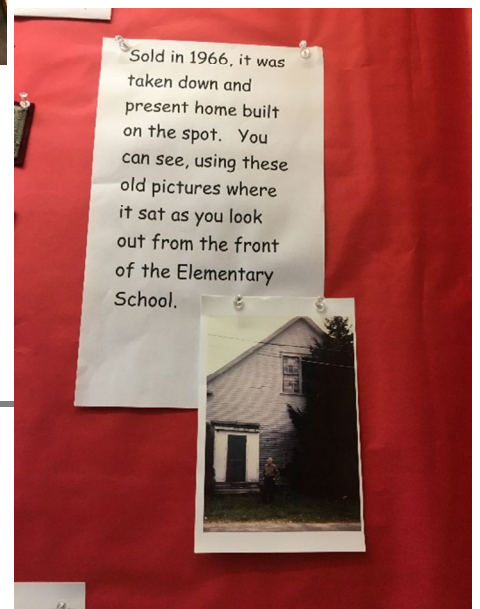
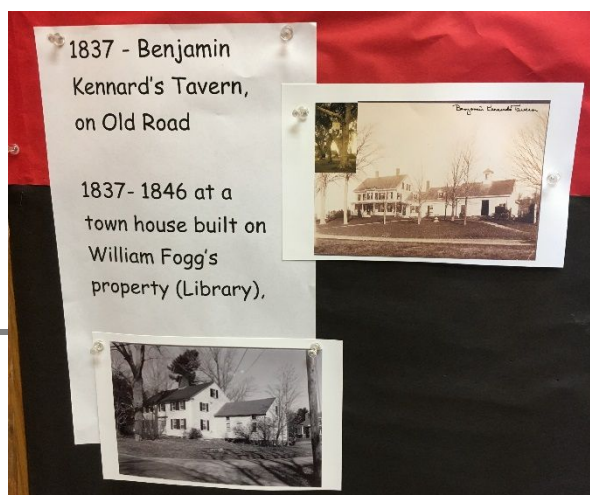
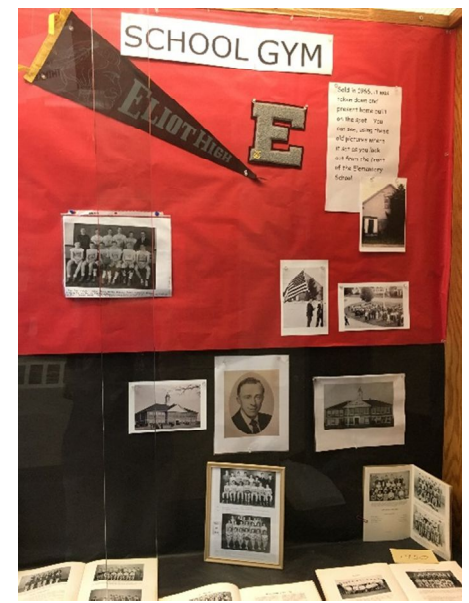
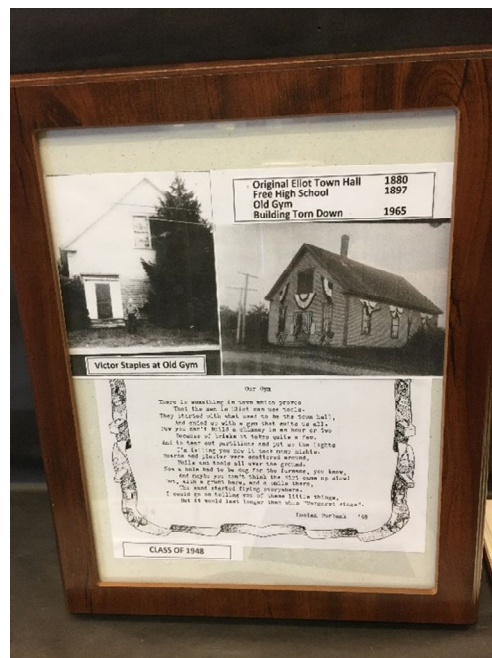
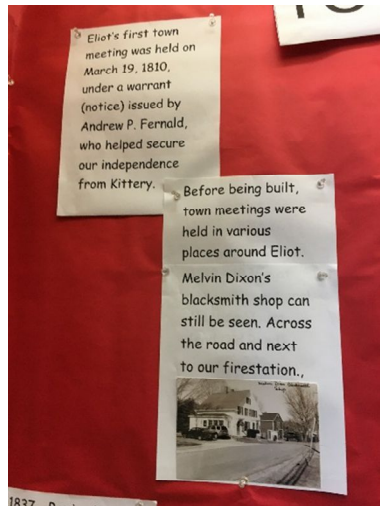
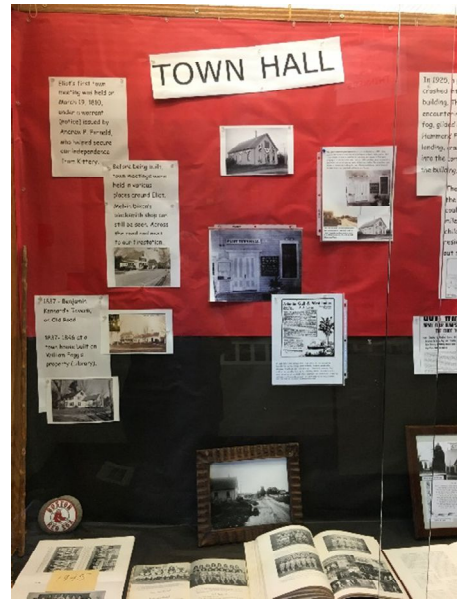
SEACOAST REPERTORY

THEATRE TICKETS!! We still have some tickets available. **\$10 each with no expiration date.** You **MUST** call the box office when you are ready to attend a show. If you bought some previously from us, they are still good. Call Paul/Julie at 439-2542 or pjrunners@comcast.net

January 6 - 15 BE MORE CHILL

- January 19 - 23 FENCES
- February 3 - 26 THE MUSIC MAN
- March 10 - April 3 A CAGE AUX FOLLES
- April 14 - June 5 ONCE
- May 6 - June 14 OUR TOWN
- June 16 - 23 ANYTHING GOES!
- July 28 - September 10 RENT
- August 25 - September 4 LES MISERABLES
- July 14 - 24 ROMEO and JULIET
- September 22 - November 4 SWEENEY TODD
- October 13 - November 5 GO-GO NUNS FROM HELL
- November 17 - December 23 A CHRISTMAS STORY - THE MUSICAL
- November 30 - December 21 JUDY’S SCARY LITTLE CHRISTMAS

The January display case at the Elementary School focuses on the old Town Hall that sat across from the school. We became a town in 1810 but it would be 70 years before we built a permanent Town Hall. Town meetings would change locations during those years and included being held at Eliot Academy, George Ireland's store, a building on the Library grounds, and in a moveable building. In the last years, before the building of the town hall, the town meetings were held at Melvin Dixon's blacksmith shop, which is still standing. Today it is used as storage for ECSD - the little building next to the fire station. Over the years this town hall was also used for a Free High School, and a gym for the high school students. If you have some memories you would like to share we welcome your stories.



EHS WEBSITE: Tracey Graffam-Dickson has been working with **Eric Christian** (our webmaster) and **Rosanne** to update our Historical Society website and expand our capabilities to reach a wider audience. We are also exploring other social media avenues including Instagram, in addition to our Facebook page and seeking an easier way to send out newsletters and notices.

If you know of anyone who would be interested in receiving our newsletter and/or meeting announcements please direct them to our website where they will find a “Sign up button”.

If you have any thoughts or ideas or content you would like us to add (ex: family pictures, stories or history) please send them along. You can write info@eliothistoricalsociety.org

CLAMSHELL GROUP

As we reported last month, an area historical society group called the “Clamshell” has been organized by Rye Historical Society Museum director Alex Herlihy. **Tom O’Leary** has volunteered to be our liaison. We are hopeful that this collaboration, with the various historical societies in the Piscataqua region, sharing a common mission and readying for the 400th anniversary celebration of the “Piscataqua Plantation,” will yield some great results and new ideas that will benefit us all. Alex Herlihy was given a tour of our #8 Schoolhouse in December, before the winter school break, and then met, over the holiday break, with Jan Cerabona and Ann Shisler to talk about the process of our collaboration with the schools.



From left:
 Betty Moore - Hampton
 Jim Cerny (oval) - New Castle
 Beverly Mutrie - Hampton Falls
 Alex Herlihy - Rye
 Eric Small - Seabrook
 Missing from picture are Cynthia Swank - North Hampton; Tom O’Leary, Eliot Hist. Soc.; Leslie Hume, Kingston Hist Soc.; Karen Mason, Greenland Hist. Soc.; Lulu Pickering, Newington

Rye Historical Society – Clamshell group taken Summer 2021

MEET NEW EHS MEMBER, TOM O'LEARY - Tom is a retired Army Engineer Officer. (Combat & Facilities) serving (1966-1988) 4 years active, and 17 years with the Army Engineers, retired with rank of Major and is in reserve status. He moved to Eliot in April of 2021 from Andover Mass (after 50 years). He served on Andover Affordable Housing Committee as well as Andover Historical Commission. Retired, in 2002, from Essex County Mass. (Salem, Mass) as the Essex County Planner and GIS Director at the County Registry of Deeds. While there, he supervised a large-scale deed instruments scanning. Noticing 25 Native American original deed documents, these became the focus of a 5-year Website Project called *Native American Deeds of Essex County (1630-1700)*. <https://salemdeeds.com/NAD/> He researched, supervised the format, and wrote the text for the website which creates a comprehensive historical reference from the 17th Century to 21st Century, and, coincidentally, links Essex County Mass with 17th Century Maine. He has also done Antiques appraisal work.



We recently put out a message on our Facebook page looking for help in locating the Hodgdon Cemetery that is in the vicinity of State and Worster Roads. At the same time a descendant was looking for the grave of his ancestor Alvin Rowe who happens to be buried there. Using the information we provided and doing his own research descendant **Jacob McManus** located the cemetery and even took a picture for us! We are helping Jacob research Alvin Rowe and his brickyard. If you have any information and/or pictures please let me know. - Rosanne

Historical Society member **Donald Ketzler**, who spent most of his childhood growing up in Eliot, celebrated his 90th birthday by giving a special concert for family and friends on September 26, 2021 at the First Calvary Baptist Church. North Andover, Massachusetts. He has prepared for us some wonderful memories of growing up in Eliot, which are available on our website under Eliot History-Eliot Memory Project- 1940's. You can view his birthday concert here -



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MLliPR11SWE&t=1362s>

NEWS AND EVENTS

October 13th the **Eliot Elementary School** the **Eliot Police Department** and **Eliot Fire Department** hosted a visit from **WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA** – the last stop as they left Maine on their way through New Hampshire and Vermont and then on to Arlington National Cemetery to place wreaths on the graves of our soldiers. The caravan was greeted by large crowds waving American Flags, as it made its way down Route 236, past the Middle School, and then onto Depot Road and State Road to its stop at the Eliot Fire Station for a special ceremony.





Following the ceremony, *Wreaths Across America* gave our Fire Department 500 wreaths to place on the graves of our veterans. The call went out over social media and residents responded. Gathering on December 17th – *National Wreaths Across America Day* - they helped Jay and members of the Fire Department in the placing of the wreaths at Mount Pleasant Cemetery.

