

SEPTEMBER 12 Monthly Meeting ~ 7pm at McPherson Hall, Congregational Church, 1361 State Road and by ZOOM.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89970965186?pwd=b0JaVFgyOFRnNW11WjRLZFVSRDNLdz09>

Our Program: "Blacksmiths of Eliot"

This coming Eliot Festival Day, September 24th, the Eliot Maine (2020) Bicentennial Committee is going to be marking the old Melville Dixon Blacksmith Shop with a plaque. In recognition of this event Jan and Rosanne created a display at the Eliot Elementary School on the *Blacksmiths of Eliot*. Monday night's program will feature this display and then, for those of you who are attending in person, after the meeting we will go over and take a look.



We invite you to participate in the discussion - share your own memories, pictures, and information that you have about blacksmiths and their craft. This display only touches the surface but perhaps it will introduce you to Eliot blacksmith shops and their blacksmiths that, perhaps, you weren't aware of before! (and maybe you'll know of ones we've missed!)

ELIOT FESTIVAL DAY ~ SEPTEMBER 24th

Once again, we will join in the festivities. Our booth will feature displays showcasing the many activities of our society and there will be sales of books as well. Booths are set up by 9am and close at 3pm. If you can help with set up, man the booth for a few hours or taking things down at 3pm, we would love to have you. Contact Paul Johnson.

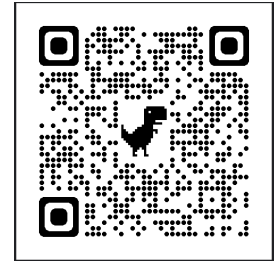


QR Codes ~ To help people easily access our websites, we've created QR codes that can be scanned by smart phones to take you right there. We will be using them on our various posters, displays, and informational materials. Try it out!



Mosersoft – cemetery and
burial search website

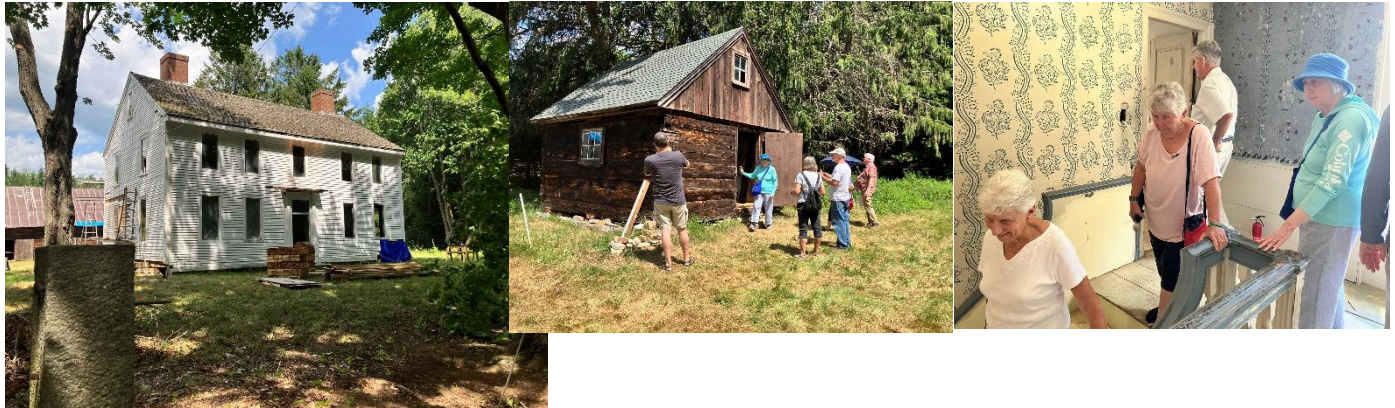
Eliothistoricalsociety.org



VISIT TO FROST GARRISONS

John Schnitzler invited members of the Society to visit the restoration work underway at the Frost Garrisons. This is the homestead of John Frost, the... of Charles Frost, whose garrison was off Goodwin road at Frost Hill. In August several members took the opportunity and were not disappointed! John took us through the house, pointing out the various features, the additions and changes made over the years and explaining the work they are doing to restore the buildings which are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. We also had an opportunity to check out the powder house and garrison. We have hopes that when completed he will come and give a talk on this momentous project.





Chadbourne Dig Reunion at Old Berwick Historical Society **August 20th**

EHS member Tom O'Leary attended a reunion meeting of folks associated with the archeological dig at the Humphrey Chadbourne 17th Century (c.1650) estate in South Berwick completed 15 Years ago. A crowd of 40 attended to hear an update from chief Archeologist Dr. Emerson "Tad" Baker, Salem University. He wanted to discuss lessons learned and new initiatives that followed the Dig.

First and foremost is a major exhibit from of the dig finds (40,000 pieces and chards of 17th Century home decor, tools and hardware were discovered). Many are beautifully displayed at the society's Counting House Museum &.

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headquarters. To compliment that, a companion Catalog of the Dig and Exhibit has been published “FORGOTTEN FRONTIER, Untold Stories of the Piscataqua “. Herein, Dr. Baker repopulated the Chadbourne home at Newichawannock, as a merchant/settler and he described historically with vignettes of eight fascinating folks who lived there around 1650. It was certainly a time of diversity, adversity and our early Kittery regional history.

Dr Baker was happy to announce the Chadbourne dig put South Berwick on the map as a historic destination. Further lessons learned included links to other cultures, colonies and Nations. New technological advancements and tools now available to the field of archeologists. Of note are three new applications: (1) the lider drone for above dig photography with annotations; (2) dendrology science to facilitate dating wood artifacts; and (3) pollen cone environmental sampling in swampy areas.

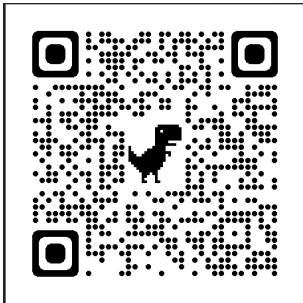
With grant money a new initiative is being developed called “Landscapes of Indenture” opening a door for investigation of early settlements of groups of immigrants e.g. the Scottish POWs shipped here in 1650s to our York-Eliot district. Similar study opportunities may arise in Saugus Iron Works (c. 1643) area.

This message is an extended invitation from officers of The Old Berwick Historical Society to members of EHS to come visit the Counting House. We, in Eliot, have a shared history with South Berwick, also a former parish of Kittery. You won't be disappointed. Tom felt very welcome and was told EHS members had also visited.

Note: Tom O'Leary is an EHS liaison to other historical societies in the Piscataqua region. An Alliance called *Clamshell* was established this year and nine communities are now sharing ideas and solutions to issues faced by societies. It has been productive and recently met with UNH history department as a resource. – Report by Tom O'Leary

Reminder – the # 8 Schoolhouse is open to visitors in September from 10-2 on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays and by appointment.

SPEAKING OF CEMETERIES



ADOPT A
CEMETERY
QR

August 15th, Paul Johnson joined descendant Barry Bernard of Portland to straighten out his ancestor's stones while Wendy Watts, Julie Johnson, and Jan Cerabona cleaned up the cemetery.

August 24th, the **Herrin family** and **youth group of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints** cleaned up the Ferguson Cemetery on Goodwin Road, while Jan and Rosanne cleaned up Ambush Rock. We thank them for their yearly cleanup visits!



Ferguson Cemetery during



Ferguson Cemetery after



Ambush Rock

On Election Day in November of 2019 the Eliot Historical Society and community members, as part of Maine’s Bicentennial Celebration, participated in the “Daffodil Tribute”, planting daffodil bulbs in Eliot, to bloom in 2020 in recognition of the adoption of the 19th Amendment by Congress. Maine has created the Maine Suffrage Centennial Trail with markers across our state, relating to a person or activity that led to women getting the right to vote. Maine currently has 7 markers. This trail is part of the National Votes for Women Trail with over 250 sites across the country. The newest of the State’s markers was recently erected in Augusta to acknowledge the action of our legislature, on November 5, 1919, when they ratified the 19th Amendment. September 13, 1920 women first voted.



Green Acre, Eliot c. 1918



The marker is located on the south side of the fountain between the Cultural Building and the Maine State House.



QUERIES

Do you have information or leads you can suggest? Please contact us at info@eliothistoricalsociety.org

- The new owner of 277 Goodwin Road (Melville Hanscom property) is looking for the location of their old dug well. Anyone have any information on this for them?
- Looking for information on Fred E. Dexter (1862-1887), he is buried with the James M. Raitt family in the Brixham Road cemetery, here in Eliot. Looking for more birth and death information. Fred married Margaret Raitt, the daughter of James M. and Nancy Y. Raitt of Eliot in October of 1882. The marriage certificate says he was born in Lawrence, Mass. They had two children, Myra (1884-1895) died of whooping cough at age 11 and James (1887-1926) who died of lead poisoning at the age of 39. The family moved from Eliot to the Alton/Farmington area sometime between 1884 and 1887, and that's where Margaret is buried.
- The new owners of the old "Eliot Meat/Meet Market" are looking for information and especially historical pictures of the place (inside and out) to aid in their restoration work and decorating. They have plans to bring it back to a 1930s era general store. If you can help in their quest to find pictures, information, or items please let us know!
- Anyone have information on the origin of Johnson Lane, off Goodwin Road? We'd like to hear from you!

8 SCHOOLHOUSE VISIT

Tracey Graffam-Dixon and family members were recent visitors to our schoolhouse. Jan had a wonderful time hosting the lively group and by all accounts the children had a great time!





PEBBLEDENE

For those of you who live in the Eliot area you have probably seen the story about the fire, on May 13, that destroyed the upper story of a house at Evanston, York Beach -

Pebbledene. This historic Queen Anne home, circa 1865, on Freeman Street, is on the National Historic Register and is described as "the last major example of a turn of the century cottage in the Evanston area of York Beach" and is representative of the type of building of the upper middle-class visitors. News came recently in the papers, when the deadline for the owner to secure the building was approaching and the

town is threatening to tear it down. It interested me, not only because it is an historic structure but also because the owner has a tie to Eliot.



Pebbledene was the summer home of the Edwin A. Rogers family of Boston. Edwin Rogers (1829-1907) was a native of Eliot, Maine, the son of John Pray (1803-1843) and Elizabeth Hammond Rogers and grew up at the homestead on what is now part of the Green Acre property. Edwin's wife Sarah

(1834-1932) was the sister of Hannah T. Farmer, the wife of Moses Gerrish Farmer, the electrical inventor. Edwin and Moses Farmer were involved in various enterprises. Daughter Daisy (1865-1933), who legally changed her name, in 1893, to Marguerite, was their only child.

As you may be aware, Dr. William F. Channing, in 1845, joined with Farmer in developing the first practical fire alarm telegraph system which was then installed in Boston in 1851. Farmer was the first superintendent of that system. In 1855 John N. Gamewell, convinced of the possibilities of such a system purchased from Channing and Farmer the rights to use their inventions in the southern and western states and four years later purchased all their patents. Gamewell began manufacturing immediately after the close of the Civil War.

Edwin Rogers joined up with Moses Crane, another man working on electro-magnetic alarms, in 1869. Two years earlier, the firm of Converse and Crane was manufacturing fire alarm apparatus for John Gamewell. By 1875 Crane and Rogers had joined with John Gamewell, patenting a very complex fire alarm repeater and Moses G. Crane & Co. became an agent for the Gamewell Company. Edwin Rogers became the general agent and then president of the Gamewell Fire Alarm Telegraph Company of New England, going from an inventor to businessman.

1879 MOSES CRANE BOSTON GAMEWELL FIRE ALARM TELEGRAPH BOX



Sarah and daughter Marguerite (Daisy) summered at York Beach, often joined by Edwin. Following the death of her husband, Sarah and daughter Daisy lived with Sarah's cousin Emma Hammond at her home on State Road, at the corner of what is now Post Office Drive and State Road. Daisy spent the last years of her life at Pebbledene.



Hammond home, Eliot, as it looks today, with a 2-story, 4 room addition

As we follow the news it is hoped the owner/caretaker will be able to salvage the house and rebuild. Only the third floor was badly damaged and the second and first floors remain intact. The York Code

Officer is working with the caretaker and reported that 4 dumpsters of debris have been removed from the house, but it is a slow process. The York Select Board has said they are not eager to tear the building down but without a restoration timeline provided by an architect or engineer, based on state law they would have to demolish the site by September 23rd.

Notes on Eliot Maine History

Random investigations into the history of Eliot, Maine and the Piscataqua River region.

Editor Note: Eric R. Christian, who describes himself as “software engineer by day, amateur local historian by night” has started a series of BLOGS which is sharing with the community via the Historical Society’s website. Hope you enjoy them as much as we do! You can also find them at <https://eliohistory.blogspot.com/>. This blog concerns the survey he shared with us at our annual January “Show and Tell” program.



This survey of existing and proposed roads is from about 1817. The proposed roads are in a slightly lighter brown dotted line. It is interesting to note the proposed new road from Mark Fernald's house over the Eliot line in Kittery to the intersection of what is now Beech Road. This became the long stretch of State Road that goes past the Mt. Pleasant Cemetery. Before this new stretch of road existed, everyone travelled on what is today Leach Road to Bolt Hill Road, to Main Street and Moses Gerrish Farmer Road to get from Kittery to the where the center of Eliot is today. Also notice the proposed road that would have existed just north of where Hanscom Road is today and come out around Fernald Lane continuing across to Littlebrook Lane and on to the sharp corner of Goodwin Road at Frost Hill. The last two things to note are Beech Road is named New Road, and the section of State

Road between the Grange Hall and the end of Fore Road does not exist and wasn't even proposed at this time.

The notes included with this drawing indicate that these new roads were being proposed as a way to reduce the travel distance between Rice's Ferry in Kittery up to the South Berwick Landing. This was most likely an appeal to the State to build these roads to make commercial transportation between these two hubs more efficient.



AREA NEWS & EVENTS



September 18th Landowner Appreciation Day

Volunteer to clean up illegally dumped trash on Landowner Appreciation Day The *Keep Maine Clean Program* started in 2013 to give outdoor users a tangible and fun way to show landowners their appreciation. Each year, volunteers and game wardens have picked up 36,000 to more than 200,000 lbs. of trash including 1,000-2,000 tires on 100+ sites. Volunteers who pick up the most truckloads of litter win prizes. Clean up locations are statewide. Interested in joining a group or starting your own clean up group? Or know of a club or organization who might want to volunteer? Learn more + sign up by calling or emailing Virginia Vincent at (207) 287-5240 or Virginia.Vincent@maine.gov

September 24 41st ANNUAL ELIOT

FESTIVAL DAY 8:15 am Flag Raising. Booths open from 9am to 3pm. You can access the Eliot Festival Day website here. It has all the information you'll need about the schedule, vendors, race, parade, activities and forms, if you need them.



https://eliotfestival.com/parade/?utm_campaign=meetedgar&utm_medium=social&utm_source=meetedgar.com&fbclid=IwAR1MxwFhGii2NjE00dy2Pn1ZsQEMq8ddhONytsDHv6pj5QYrcxIdFoL38_g

September 24 11am-

4pm **COLLECTORS | CURATORS | COOKS**

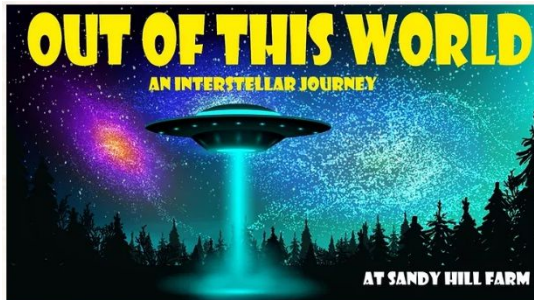
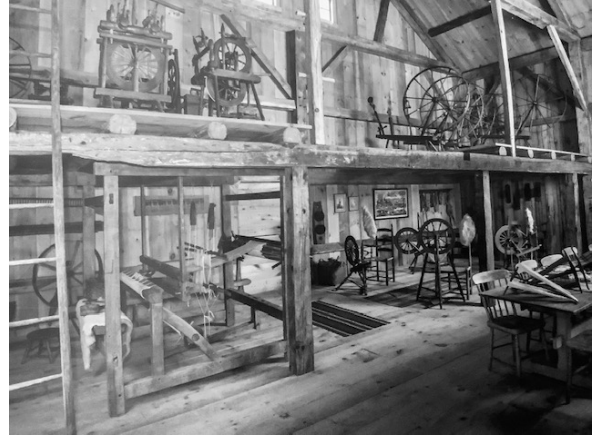
Behind-the-Scenes Tours at the Counting House Museum & Tare Shirt Farm

Hosted by Nancy & Peter Cook, Guest Curators of Material Culture

Old Berwick Historical Society guest curators, Nancy & Peter Cook will welcome guests to a behind-the-scenes introduction to the exhibition, *Material Culture: Domestic Cloth-Making in 18th-Century New England* at The Counting House Museum. Curator Ruth Greene-McNally will

contribute insights into the selection of objects and exhibition installation process. Tour guests will then travel in their own vehicles to nearby Tare Shirt Farm, a working 18th-century farmstead with heirloom orchards, heritage breeds of domestic livestock, and a restored 18th-century vernacular home complete with period furnishings. The excursion continues with a signature lunch and an in-depth tour of the Cooks' extensive textile, decorative, and fine arts collection in the couple's historic period home and the spinning barn, along with a walking tour of the pastoral landscape. \$95, OBHS Members \$90. Tour limited to 30 guests. For Itinerary and Tickets:

<https://www.oldberwick.org/programs-fundraisers/fundraisers/collectors-curators-cooks.html>



September 29th - October 29th

Sandy Hill Farm

Visit Sandyhillmaine.com for tickets. We have frozen our prices to match last year!

Ages 4 and up are \$13

Ages 3 and under are free!

Join us for a magical journey around the universe! Friendly visitors have crash landed and they are ready to.....PARTY! If we show them a great time, they will take us on a trip around the solar system, through the Earth and warp speed from galaxy to galaxy. Tighten up your Kuiper Belt, this 3/4 of an Earth mile trail will abduct your mind and unleash your imagination to cosmic proportions! - **Sandyhillmaine.com**