

## ELIOT HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL REPORT 2022-2023

The Historical Society had quite a busy year. Our monthly meetings are on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month, at Macpherson Hall of the Eliot Congregational Church at 7pm. Each month we have an interesting program. You can attend in person or via Zoom. We have upgraded our Zoom capabilities to provide our Zoom participants an excellent experience. Programs this past year included: 1)Blacksmiths of Eliot, 2) 400 Odd years of Eliot History, 3) The Latest on Eliot's Comprehensive Plan, 4)Maine and NH in the 17<sup>th</sup> Century, 5)Our annual "members show and tell" and 6)Books of Our Childhood. If you missed any of these programs, the video is available on our website at <https://eliothistoricalsociety.org>

The historical displays at the Elementary School were changed out several times and we also have extended our displays to include the Great Works School in South Berwick. Displays from this past year included: 1)Town Celebrations (centennial, sesquicentennial and bicentennial), 2)Blacksmiths of Eliot, 3)Veterans of Eliot, 4)Now and Then (Objects from the past such as the telephone, records, bottles and shoes) and 5)Books of our Childhood.

Our website and communication abilities are in the process of being updated and expanded. We received a Grant from the Marshwood Education Foundation to improve the seating at the #8 School. Many thanks to the Doug Herrin family for their help in this project. We have expanded our reach further into the community with hope to engage the middle school students, much as we have been able to do with the elementary school, through displays, tours, and offering to find and/or provide speakers on various subjects.

The schoolhouse was open through the summer months and by appointment and will re-open for every Saturday starting in May 2023 through September. We are always looking for volunteers who want to learn more about the history of our town and share it with others.

Our Adopt a Cemetery Program continues to provide healthy exercise and opportunity for community service, as we care for the many of the 171 ancient, private cemeteries in our town. The past

summer/fall we had several groups of volunteers who worked at the Spinney, Tetherly, Ferguson, Major Charles Frost and Fernald cemeteries. A good activity for groups of friends and families, we offer it also for high school students seeking community service credits.

The Society, with additional funding from the Mt. Pleasant and Brooks Memorial cemeteries has put together a website where the public will be able to search all the burials in Eliot for location and information and should be of help to the town in keeping track of the status of its private cemeteries.

That website is <https://mosersoft.com/cemv8/lotsearch.aspx>

In July, we hosted the Summer Program of the Maine Old Cemetery Association (MOCA). This all day event included 64 attendees from all over the state and New England. This was our first time hosting and gave us a chance to showcase the history of our Town and the accomplishments of our Historical Society.

The Society also has a liaison to the “Clamshell” group. This group, made up of area historical Societies, on “both sides of the River”, looks for ways to collaborate as we get ready for the 400th anniversary of the Piscataqua Plantation and beyond.

We thank the citizens of Eliot for their support this past year and we invite you to join us in any of our activities.

More information can be found at our website at:

<https://eliothistoricalsociety.org>

You can also find us on our Face book page:

<https://www.facebook.com/eliothistoricalsociety.org/>

Or email us at:

[info@eliothistoricalsociety.org](mailto:info@eliothistoricalsociety.org)

Tracey Graffam-Dickson  
President, Eliot Historical Society  
Eliot, ME