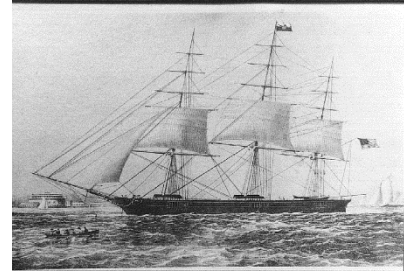


Meeting: October 9 – “The Nightingale”.

Frankie Thomas will share with us the history of this famous clipper ship, built at the Hanscom Shipyard, here in Eliot, Maine. 7pm, McPherson Hall, Congregational Church and by ZOOM



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

**President's Prattle**

by Tracey Graffam-Dickson

Autumn in Maine is my favorite time of year and when I feel most grateful calling this place my home. As I write this, we are making plans for apple picking and finding our next hiking destination. The leaves have not yet started to transition; however, the morning air is certainly crisp and fresh and filled with the new arrivals and departures of the seasonal bird song. Fall for me has always brought a renewal of energy and focus. I certainly felt that renewed energy during our recent EHS Board Meeting where we addressed a full list of topics. A number of these included projects and collaborations with other organizations in Eliot with a focus on enhancing our community with historically important information, artifacts, and welcoming spaces. Our hope is that in the development of these spaces throughout our town they will lead to meaningful connections and create a sense of community. With so many demands and interests, we appreciate the challenge to engage community members and maintain and increase membership so we can carry out this important work. The need to collaborate with other local organizations will help us be successful. As we continue to work with the Town on the updating of the Comprehensive Plan and make relevant the historic and archeological heritage goals for the coming years, we will look to our members, our community, and collaborations to help us in making them achievable. We will keep you updated over the coming months and hope you will support our efforts in any way you can, by providing your input, sharing information with others, and participating in our upcoming meetings, programs, and events. To all our members - your support makes all the difference, and we thank you!

With Kind Regards, Tracey

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 Phone: 752-0174 (Rosanne)

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Eliot Historical Society News

President Tracey Graffam-Dickson, along with Society members, Sylvia, Bud, Rosanne, Jan, and Gene met with the Select Board recently to discuss with them, keeping the *Silent Policemen* and displaying them in the town. Tracey presented a letter along with photographs, stating that *“The Historical Society feels that it is very important that these historical artifacts be preserved. We would like to see one of these “Silent Policemen” be kept and preserved in our town as a historical marker of our history where train travel was an important means of transportation and harkens back to the era of the electric trolley as well. It is a nostalgic artifact that not many communities have and that our youth and visitors could connect with.... The Historical Society is willing to take on the responsibility to work with the town and to identify a suitable location that would provide a meaningful connection to our town’s history’.* We also suggested the other be loaned to



Berwick, ME

the Seashore Trolley Museum in Kennebunkport. After some discussion the Select Board voted to hold off loaning one of them and to have the Historical Society come back with recommendations on a suitable place, in Eliot, for both of the items (if possible). We will be discussing the locations at an upcoming meeting. If you have any thoughts on possible locations please contact Tracey or email us.



Our Board of Directors and Officers have been in discussions with our collection chairperson, Julie Johnson, as to how to best ensure that our collection is taken care of, after experiencing moisture and other issues. A plan is being developed. More information to come!



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#8 Schoolhouse Museum

67 Greenwood Street

October

Open by
appointment
Contact Jan
@
207-450-6874



**MONTH OF OCTOBER
EXTENDED SALE!**

HISTORY OF THE ELIOT
CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION -
1910 (2008 REPRINT)

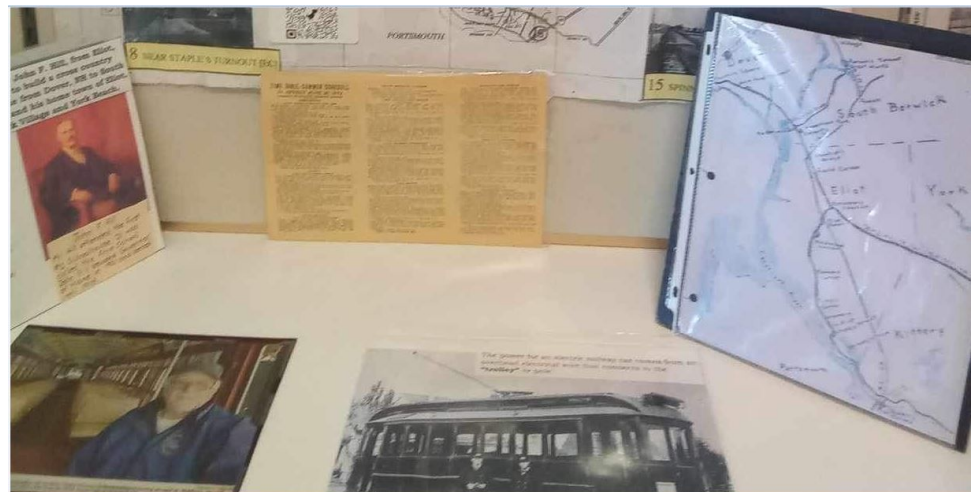
\$10 EACH OR 2/\$15

Message us to coordinate
pickup/delivery.



If you are interested in learning more about Eliot’s history there are two excellent resources available – ***History of the Centennial of the Incorporation of the Town, of Eliot, Maine 1910*** and the collection of the ***Old Eliot*** publications produced 1897-1909. Bound copies of *Old Eliot* can be found at the William Fogg Library.

Our display at Great Works School, in South Berwick, focuses on the Electric Trolley lines that ran from Kittery and then on through Eliot and South Berwick.



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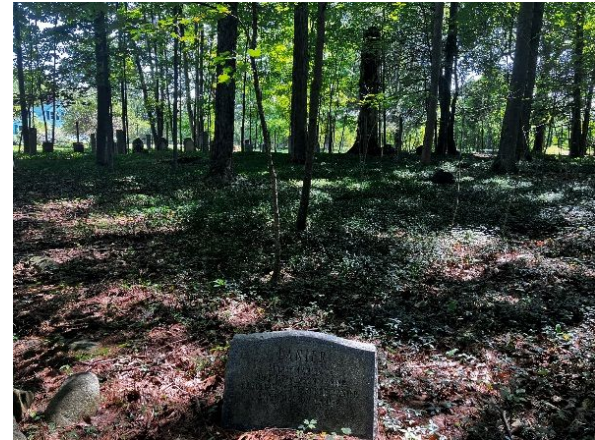
Shown was the path the trolley took as well as the Kittery and South Berwick car barns, where the trolley cars could be worked on and stored, when not in use. The various stops in Eliot and South Berwick were shown and the childhood memories of teacher **Mildred Obrey** were featured, along with the

restoration work, in progress, at the *Seashore Trolley Museum* in Kennebunkport. **Jan Cerabona** put together the display for us and **Helen Sullivan** loaned a wooden replica of the original Rosemary Junction Station (waiting room) in Eliot.



Speaking of Cemeteries

Cemeteries evoke a sense of history. Within them are not only our “Founding fathers” and families but those generations of residents who helped to shape the place we call home. **The Parish Cemetery of the First Congregational Church** is one of these. This cemetery is most important



because it is the resting place of Rev. John Rogers (1692-1773), Eliot’s first minister. He served the congregation for 54 years! His grave, along with his wife Susanna Whipple, is marked with a



marble stone, placed during our Centennial Celebration, in 1910. It was a gift from ex-Governor John F. Hill, who also placed 5 others around our town – Eliot Academy, First Public Library, William Everett’s Tavern, First Quaker Meeting House, Home Capt. Samuel Leighton.

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Also, in this cemetery, are members of the Leighton and Hammond families, who intermarried and lived in this area. The old Leighton/ Hammond home is marked “William Everett’s Tavern” and is, right next to this cemetery. The earliest dated stone in the Parish Cemetery is that of Samuel Alcock, 1708. The most recent stones are those of the Lanier family who came to own the old Leighton property and ran what is known as “Lanier Camp”.



The area where some of the Leighton graves reside is enclosed with granite posts and iron rods.



Jan and Rosanne had the privilege of cleaning this cemetery. With its covering of myrtle, in a wooded setting, it only required the cutting and moving of brush and tree limb pick up. There are some very old stones in need of being up righted but, for the most part, the cemetery is in very good shape.



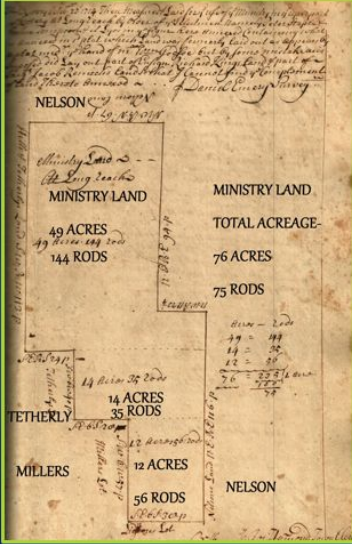
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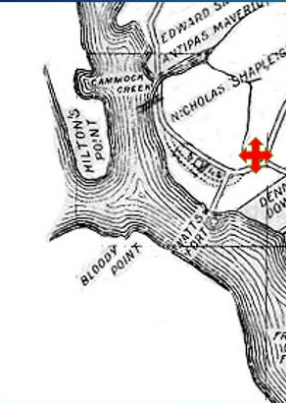
From a paper done by Eric Christian (available on our website), we learn that the Congregational Church was organized on June 22, 1721; however, its first meeting house was built much earlier, in 1699.



Eliot's 1st Parish Meeting House (and cemetery)
"Church in the Woods"
 General location: Clark Road



A marker, at the corner of Greenwood Street and Main Street) directs you to the general location of the site of the first church.



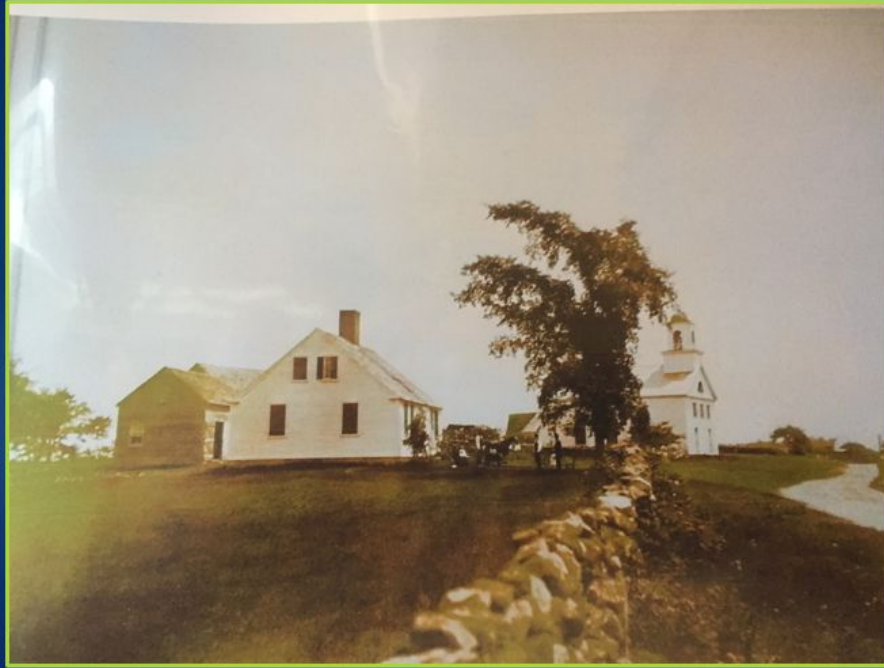

2nd Parish Meeting House
(John Rogers' church)
 Corner River Road and Leighton Lane

The 2nd meeting house was built, in 1715, at Cram's Corner (corner of Old/Fore/River Road. This was the meeting house where Rev. Rogers preached, and is considered to be his first church, following his ordination.

A marker, placed in 2008, marks the spot. Back during Rev. Rogers' time, it appears you would have been able to look across what is now Leighton Lane to the fields beyond and see the Parish cemetery.



c. 1910



3rd
**Congregational
 Meeting house
 dedicated in
 1833 and
 destroyed by
 fire 1880.**

**Located State
 Road, near Old
 Libbey Lane**

The 3rd Meeting house was built in 1833, next to Old Libbey Lane, on State Road. It burned in 1880 and the present Congregational Church was built further up the road at the present location.



Present Congregational Church, c. 1910

Paul Johnson, our cemetery guru, joined members **Denise Houde-Forsyth**, **Jeanne Houde** and **Jan Cerabona** in two sessions to finish up the Gould



cemetery on Worster Road. They have been having quite an exciting time, uncovering buried stones and stone pieces, as they reset the row of stones along the back fence. Their final two work days, again, didn't disappoint! Previously we reported the finding of the footstone for Nancy Rackliff, near the line of gravestones, and





also some other stones to the back and outside the fencing. When preparing to level the long base stone that had split in two, a beautiful stone, that was being used as a shim under the first corner was found.

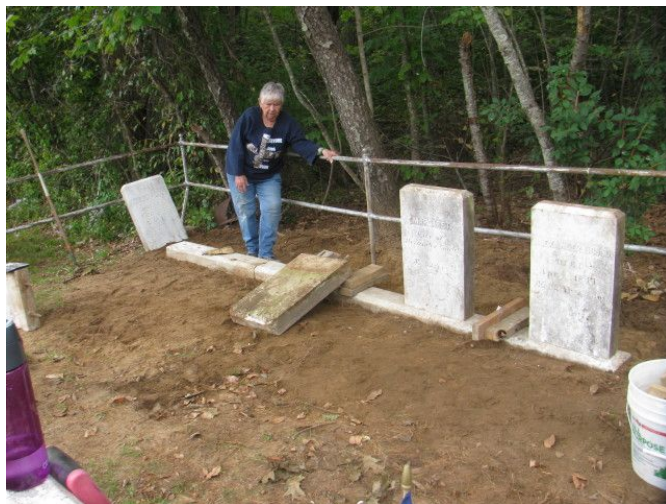


It was the stone of one Jeremiah, the son of John and Ellen Sullivan, who died in 1872, at the age of 25 years. A truly lovely stone, it is so detailed that you can even see the fingernails on the hand holding the cross! The names of John and Ellen Sullivan and son Jeremiah have not yet been found in any records for Eliot, so it is unclear just where this stone belongs, but it doesn't appear to have been a burial in the Gould cemetery. The final day yielded another surprise on the other end of the

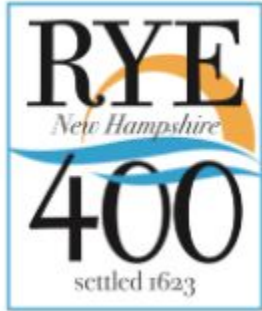
long base stone. They found half of another gravestone, this time for one Mary Ann Davis, the wife of Richard Davis along with some other pieces of what appear to be gravestones. Preliminary research seems to place Mary Ann and Richard Davis in South Berwick. The date on her stone,



matches that on an obelisk in the Portland Street Cemetery the names of her husband and some of their children's names are inscribed. The work to restore the cemetery has been concluded but now the search to uncover the reason behind the newly found gravestones begins. Be assured, we will leave "no stone unturned" in that search!



Area News and Events



Rye, NH has been very busy with their 400th activities, as have been the other towns that made up the Piscataqua Plantation. **Alex Herlihy**, one of the founders of the **Clamshell Group** of which EHS member **Tom O'Leary** is our liaison, has now put together a website: **Ryehistoryrocks.com**. As town historian, he has been sharing narratives that he has written, as part of a project with Rye Junior High students and teachers, highlighting pieces of Rye's history. There are about 90 such topics, and the list is growing. He is also working on a new book on Rye, NH history which he hopes to publish next year.

Billy Boy by Jean Mary Flahive. Inspired by a true event, this is a story of Billy Laird of Berwick who enlisted, along with his friends, in the Union Army's 17th Maine Regiment, at the start of the Civil War. A lad, with a disability, he is watched over and helped by his friends until separated from



Some of the Civil War discussion group recently visited William R. Laird's grave. William was the focus of a book written by Jean Flahive called "Billy Boy" which was set in Berwick off of Cranberry Meadow Road. Left to right are Nancy Guptill, Sherry Weisberg, Roberta Ryan, Betty Butland, and Barbara Fitzmaurice.

them and then has to make his own way. He runs off, meets up with another runaway – the enslaved Elijah, and together they make their way North, each to his own fate. Jean is also the author of *Teddy Roosevelt*, *Millie*, and *the Elegant Ride*.

