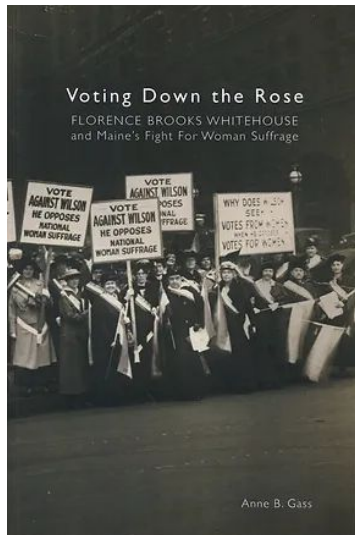
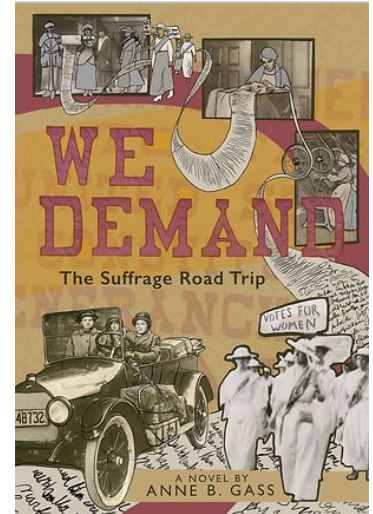


Meeting: November 13 – *We Demand: The Suffrage Road Trip* with Maine author, Ann B. Gass. 7pm, McPherson Hall, Congregational Church and by ZOOM

Ann B. Gass, describes herself as a “women’s rights history activist” - sharing what she has learned with others, and

hoping to inspire their activism! *We Demand: The Suffrage Road Trip*, a historical fiction novel based on the true story of a 1915 road trip for the suffrage cause. Her first book, *Voting Down the Rose: Florence Brooks Whitehouse and Maine’s Fight for Woman Suffrage*, is a biography about her great-grandmother, a Maine suffrage leader from 1913-1920. Anne will have her books for sale (\$10) at the meeting and will sign them, if you’d like.



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



We have a number of donated books for sale and can be picked up at our meetings. Inquire from Jan Cerabona or contact her and let her know what you would like to purchase, as quantities are limited. 207-450-6874

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President's Prattle

by Tracey Graffam-Dickson

This morning the frost was most certainly on the pumpkin! An age-old expression so familiar to many living in an agricultural community like ours. It marks the end of the growing season and reminds us that it's time to harvest our remaining crops and bring in those precious plants until next spring. Living in Maine, I love how the seasons help us stay

connected with our past as we continue to honor and maintain age-old traditions. This week, many families throughout our community celebrated the popular tradition of Halloween, once referred to as "All Hallows' Eve", based on an early Celtic celebration known as Samhain. Its roots date back over 2,000 years. Here, in New England, our Halloween traditions were heavily influenced by early Irish and Scottish immigrants who arrived in the 19th century and brought with them their customs like carving turnips and telling ghost stories. Growing up in New England, I can say there is no lack of good ghost stories. In my family, this was a favorite past-time. One of my childhood favorites is well-known, "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow" written by Washington Irving. Then there is "The Tell-Tale Heart" by Edgar Allan Poe, and of course "The House of Seven Gables" by Nathaniel Hawthorne. As I was doing a little research into ghost stories of New England, I came across a few new ones that I was not familiar with – one titled "A witch, a curse, and a stained monument" which is based on a story from Bucksport, Maine and another called "Mercy Brown and a vampire panic" which may have inspired Bram Stoker. For those of you who share in this New England pastime, I thought I would pass them along and perhaps one dark & dreary winter night, you may find them entertaining too. As I think about our New England customs and traditions, though to some, they may seem a bit silly, I am reminded how much they help us to connect with our past and how the next generation seems to enjoy making them their own. These family traditions help to keep me grounded and bring comfort and a bit of fun during difficult times, which I imagine was the case for many immigrants newly arrived in this country back in the 1700s and 1800s. I hope you, too, may find comfort and enjoyment in sharing your favorite traditions with one another. We hope you will join us each month as we share the customs, traditions and the many stories that reflect the rich history of our town here in Eliot, Maine.

With Kind Regards,

Tracey

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At our October meeting Frankie Thomas gave a very lively and interesting look into the history of the clipper ship *Nightingale* at the Hanscom shipyard and the men who built and sailed her. An historian, who has done in-depth research on the subject, Frankie is also the perfect person to present as he is not only a seaman but a Hanscom descendant. The *Nightingale* was built in 1851 by Samuel Hanscom, with brother Isaiah doing the design work. Isaiah went on to a career in the US Navy as a Ship Constructor.



The keel for the clipper ship was laid in February of 1851 and she was sent to Portsmouth to be rigged out and was launched in June. It was named the *Nightingale* in reference to the great Swedish opera singer – Jenny Lind (1820-1887). As the story goes it was outfitted in great finery with the plan to take Ms. Lind,

who was in the United States, at the time, touring with P.T. Barnham, back to London for the World’s Fair. The recent movie “The Greatest Showman” touches on part of this story.



Frankie took us through the various owners. Being an “extreme clipper” she was built as a trading ship, bringing goods to and from various places, China, India, England, Australia, California. The faster the goods could be traded and brought back to the ports, the more money a ship could make. Under captain Samuel W. Mather, the *Nightingale* became the fastest of the clipper ships. In his first run he brought the ship into London, from



China, one week before the British ship arrived. Eventually there were financial troubles and around 1860/1 she was sold and became a slaver until captured by the *Saratoga*, off the coast of Africa. 900 slaves were taken off before she returned to the United States. During the Civil War, she became the

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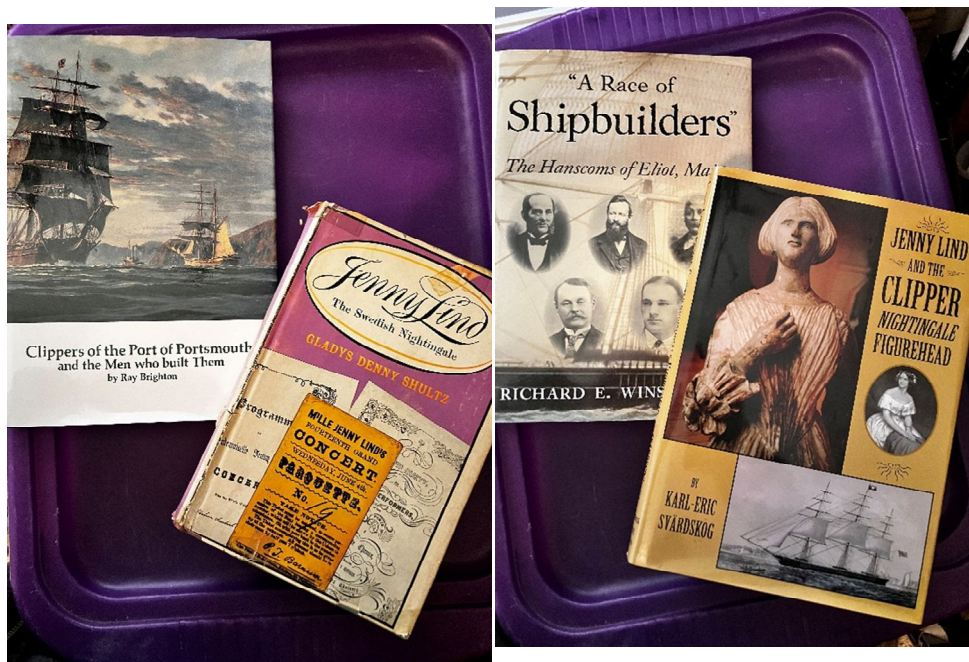
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USS Nightingale and was placed into blockade service for the US Navy, in the Florida area.
 Captain Mather


After the Civil War, the Navy sold the ship. Western Union used her for laying communication cable from Russia to Alaska. She was then sold to a Norwegian company who took off the deck house and made it into a bark to haul lumber between Norway, England, and Halifax. She was abandoned at sea in the North Atlantic in 1893, in route from Liverpool to Halifax, NS. More recently a man in Sweden found the Jenny Lind figure head, that adorned her bow, in a barn of an antique dealer who had been using it as a scarecrow.

Several publications were mentioned, where you can find out more information on this fascinating story. Frank J. Mather, in the 1924, when he was over 90 and living in Rome, wrote the story of his brother Captain Samuel W. Mather- “A Clipper Ship and Her Commander”. The Atlantic Monthly published it in installments in their magazine. The story of the finding of the Jenny Lind figurehead can be found in “Jenny Lind and the Clipper Nightingale Figurehead”




by Karl-Eric Svardskog and the story of the Hanscom Shipyard and the Hanscom family can be found in “A Race of Shipbuilders, The Hanscoms of Eliot Maine” by Richard E. Winslow. “Clippers of the Port of Portsmouth and the Men Who Built Them” by Ray Brighton also has mention of the Hanscom clipper.

Mather - “A Clipper Ship and Her Commander” can be found online at <https://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-81209454/view?partId=nla.obj-81210885#page/n0/mode/1up>



DECEMBER 11th MEETING



ANNUAL ELECTION and HOLIDAY PARTY!

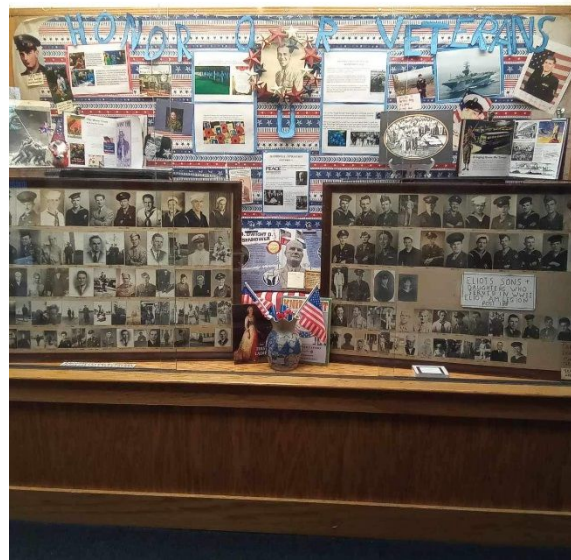
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Eliot Historical Society News

Our display at Eliot Elementary School honors Veterans. Included in the display are the pictures of Eliot servicemen, loaned to us by Eliot American Legion Post # 188; pictures of staff and student's service peoples; explanation of the evolvement of today's Veteran's Day from the original Armistice Day and the symbolic use of forget-me-nots and poppies; the role of First Ladies in the recognition of veterans and their families and some ration books, with explanation, that were used during the Second World War.



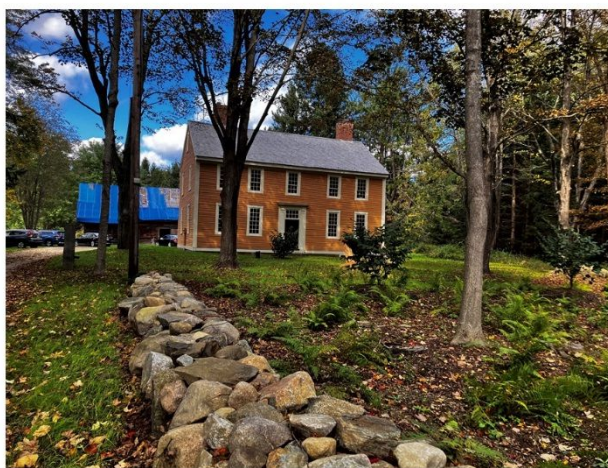
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In October we were invited to an open house at *Frost Garrisons*. This is the John Frost garrison and the property known as "Frost Garrisons" (not to be confused with the Charles Frost Garrison located on Goodwin Road, which is no longer standing). We had visited a year ago, at the invitation of John Schnitzler who was in charge of the restoration for the owner. He gave us a tour of the house and the garrison



Frost Garrisons
23 Garrison Drive
Eliot, ME



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and powder house buildings, explaining their historical context and the buildings attributes and giving us an understanding of the house and the work that was to be done.

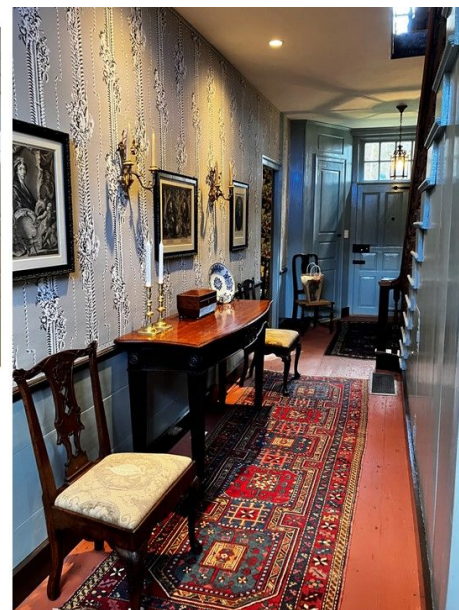
The restoration now complete, Frost descendants and the town of Eliot can be proud of this lasting treasure and we are all grateful to the owner of this property for preserving this very important historical property and to John Schnitzler, his workers and contractors for taking such care in its restoration. These pictures attempt to show the start of the work, as we saw it in 2022 and the completion. The complete set up pictures can be found on our website, eliothistoricalsociety.org under “Eliot History” “Local Images” or follow this link: <https://eliothistoricalsociety.org/local-history/>



Downstairs dining room off the kitchen.
On the left as you enter the front door.



Looking toward Front Door



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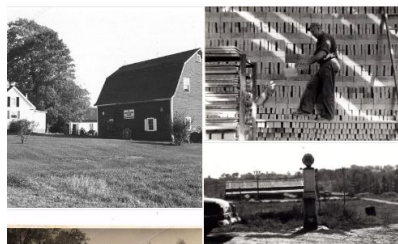


Ever been riding around and seeing a house, wondered just what it looked like inside? We've begun a new series of posts on our Facebook page that has generated a lot of interest from the public, including homeowners and has sparked inquiries and discussions. Each post contains as many old pictures as we have of a notable house in Eliot, along with pictures of the inside that have been posted by realtors during the sale of the homes.

Ever been riding around and wondered about what a house looked like inside? Realtor sites let us take a peek into homes that are or have been on the market. We'll try to share a few, along with the old picture(s) that we have. The first is the old Parsonage for the East Eliot Methodist Church on Goodwin Road. Located at 493 Goodwin Road. Check out the old picture. When you go by you're going to wonder how there ever could have been a barn next to it! It was built, in 1834... See more



The property at 141 Cedar Road is the site of the Joseph Morin brickyard which between 1930 to 1965 produced more than 600,000 to 1 million bricks during each operation. It was one of about 17 brickyards that were located near or on Sturgeon Creek and the Piscataqua River. Morin had worked for Joseph Tondreault, who came here from Canada to work and remained. Morin married Tondreault's daughter Clara. The Morin brickyard was the last brickyard in Eliot and closed in 1965. ... See more



This building, at 97 Brixham Road was the District #3 Schoolhouse, also known as the Maj. Charles Frost School. It is the 2nd, if not the 3rd building, on this site. The first was a Kittery schoolhouse standing here before the town of Eliot was formed in 1810. James Knowlton sold this piece of land, in 1873, "on which the said District Schoolhouse now stands" to the inhabitants of District #3, for \$20. That building burned in 1878 when the present building was erected and op... See more



We've also been doing posts, using pictures in our collection, of various sites in town including the Town Pound, honoring the work of Lindy Leavitt, houses along roads, the view along our roads, parades, brickyards, and identifiable houses. It's been interesting to see the comments and to learn new things, from our readers, about these places.

Town Pound - Goodwin Road. Then and now. Lindy Leavitt, who lived next door, took it as his personal responsibility to care for the town pound and was honored by EHS for his years of dedication. By 2009, the walls were even more eroded, possibly the stones that were there in 1910 were used in the road work. The Leavitt family restored, as much as possible the walls of the pound and with EHS placed a marker, in 2004.



Lanier Camp [Willis Collection]



Identifiable houses in Eliot.



Queries

Please contact us with any information you might have.

Would anyone like to venture a guess on to which family this "Rogers" family might be? Julie Johnson found this in the collection. It may or may not be Eliot, but there were several Rogers families throughout the town, including on River Road and Main Street. The serviceman in the picture might be the key? The sign reads "Here is his Sister, Old Uncle, Aunt and Grandmothers at the old Rogers Farm in Maine".



An anyone have information on "Driftwood Camp". Described as a Girl Scout Camp on River Road? [EHS Vetter Collection]

Area News and Events

November 15 - 6-7 PM "Come Get the Blues With Us!" Berwick Public Library, 103 Old Pine Hill Road. "Poor Howard" Stith and Mike "Bullfrog" Rogers bring the blues to Berwick Their program, "A Walk Through the Delta," is both educational and entertaining, mixing music and folk humor, and showing how this distinctly American music has gained international popularity.



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Edward Jones