

# ELIOT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## JUNE NEWSLETTER 2024

---

**Monthly Meeting – June 10th:** 7:00 PM: In person and by ZOOM @ McPherson Hall, First Congregational Church, 1361 State Rd. This is our Quarterly Business meeting, so, in addition to a short program, we will be taking up business of the group and discussing further plans for the year.

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



### President's Prattle

by Tracey Graffam-Dickson

*Feels like summer has arrived early this year! Wow – what a gorgeous first weekend of June – with many thankful families and backyard celebrations for high school graduates throughout the area. It's a wonderful tradition celebrating such a significant life event, transitioning from childhood school days to a future of independence and new adventures that adulthood brings.*

*In thinking about school day traditions and the important milestones they represent, I think fondly about our wonderful #8 Schoolhouse Museum that is dedicated to celebrating this important history of not just one of our town schools, but a history that many of our ancestors shared here in New England. These past weeks, Jan has been busy getting our beloved Schoolhouse ready for summer visitors. Open every Saturday and Wednesday, throughout the summer and by appointment, Jan looks forward to welcoming visitors from near and far, who will be surprised to find so many interesting artifacts and memorabilia that will surely take them back in time and perhaps remind them of some of their own school day memories. This year, thanks to Paul's foresight and efforts, the schoolhouse will be cooler and more comfortable too – with the installation of a new heat pump that will provide dry and cool air and will help maintain an even temperature and preserve the collection inside and will allow us to keep the Schoolhouse open in the cooler months as well.*

*This summer looks to provide some additional opportunities for us to gather, whether it be helping with some cemetery cleanups, perhaps a museum visit or two and our annual picnic at the Eliot Basin on August 12<sup>th</sup>. For more information, you can check out our website and our Face book page and we plan to discuss more details at our next Business meeting scheduled for Monday, June 10<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. Don't forget you can join us via zoom if you can't meet with us in person. We hope to see you there and at one of our summer events! Until then – stay well!*

~ Tracey

*Books for Sale – in addition to our own publications there are a number of donated books for sale at the #8 Schoolhouse, for a donation.*



1

Address: PO BOX 3, Eliot, ME 03903  
Website: [www.eliothistoricalsociety.org](http://www.eliothistoricalsociety.org)  
Phone: 752-0174 (Rosanne)

Newsletter  
printing  
courtesy of

Edward Jones

11 Sanborn Lane ~ Eliot, Maine

# ELIOT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## JUNE NEWSLETTER 2024



**O**ur #8 One-room Schoolhouse Museum is now open for the season, with some new displays and history. Please share with your neighbors and friends. **We are open on Wednesdays and Saturdays 10 am to 2 pm.** Stop by and say hello, and if you have an hour or so and can help meet and greet guests please let Jan know and she'll put you on the schedule. It's always fun and interesting to talk with visitors.



**T**he second grade classes from Eliot Elementary School made their annual visit to the Schoolhouse where **Jan Cerabona**, acting as "school teacher" had them participate in various activities that would have been a part of the curriculum during the 1800s and early 1900s.





# ELIOT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## JUNE NEWSLETTER 2024

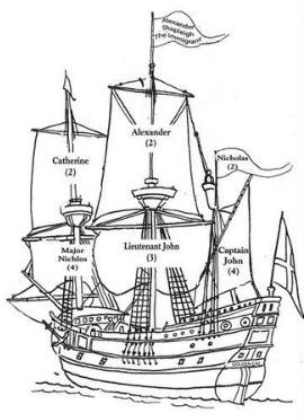
---

### SPEAKING OF CEMETERIES

We'd like to thank member **Denise Forsyth** for coming to the aid of Susan Frost and cleaning up her cemetery before Memorial Day. She did a spectacular job. Susan (and we) are so appreciative!



### *Shapleigh Family Reunion 2024*



Sunday, July 28 -

5:30 PM  
SHAPLEIGH  
REUNION  
DINNER

Monday, July 29

- 1:00 PM  
GATHERING IN  
LEBANON,  
MAINE

**July 29<sup>th</sup>, 1pm** Eliot Historical Society members and interested persons are invited to the Shapleigh Family Association reunion event on Monday, July 29<sup>th</sup> at 1 pm at the Shapleigh/Bull cemetery at 419 Shapleigh Road, Lebanon, Maine. Last year the Historical Society was contacted about an iron piece with the “Shapleigh” name on it. The owner did not know what it was. Rosanne and Eric were able to discover that it was the gate that had gone missing from the Shapleigh cemetery, several years before. After contacting the owner and members of the Shapleigh

Family Association, a “re-dedication” event has been arranged to celebrate its return and shed light on the importance of cemetery preservation. Property owner **Olea Smith-Kaland** will be our host. Following the program, at the cemetery, featuring representatives from the Lebanon and Eliot Historical Societies, Maine Old Cemetery Association and the Shapleigh Family Association, there will be light refreshments served and tours of the homestead. Reservations are requested by July 10<sup>th</sup>. Please contact Rosanne ([rma249@yahoo.com](mailto:rma249@yahoo.com) or leave a message at 207-752-0174).



# ELIOT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## JUNE NEWSLETTER 2024

---

### AREA NEWS & EVENTS



#### **Old Berwick Historical Society's Counting House Museum & Landing**

is now open for the season. They will be incorporating the textile theme in demonstrations and activities to compliment their main exhibit – **Material Culture: Domestic Cloth-Making in 18<sup>th</sup> Century New England**, with guest Curators and Berwick residents Peter and Nancy Cook. The exhibit is presented in collaboration with curator Ruth Greene-McNally.

**Berwick Begins** is their new permanent exhibit. It looks at the founding of the Berwicks almost 400 years ago. A quarter-century of local archaeology and historical research tells the story of lives uprooted and rebuilt on Berwick soil in its turbulent first century. Curated by Dr. Emerson Baker and Nina Maurer in collaboration with Dr. Neill DePaoli.

**Village Voices: Tales of Enterprise and Endurance**, their second floor permanent exhibit, chronicles 400 years of enterprise in the South Berwick region through the lives of residents who have shaped key trades including shipping, shoemaking, leatherworking, small business, textile manufacturing, ship building, sawmilling and agriculture

Museum hours: Sundays 100-4:00 pm, June through October and year round by appointment. 2 Liberty Street, South Berwick, ME [www.olderberwick.org](http://www.olderberwick.org)

**Hamilton House, 40 Vaughn's Lane, South Berwick.** DAYS & HOURS: Thursday – Sunday, May 30 – October 15 Tours on the hour- 11 AM – 3 PM. Closed July 4<sup>th</sup>.



**Kittery Historical and Naval Museum, 204 Roger's Road, Kittery.** Open Wed thru Sat, 10am-4pm. Closed Sun-Mon-Tue

**Sarah Orne Jewett House, 5 Portland Street, South Berwick.** DAYS & HOURS: Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays May 31 – October 15, Tours on the hour 11 AM – 3 PM





# ELIOT HISTORICAL SOCIETY JUNE NEWSLETTER 2024

Start the summer with some silly games, food & fun with your neighbors & first responders!

## Summer KICKOFF

Saturday June 8 11am-2pm  
Eliot Boat Basin Pavilion/Dead Duck

**COME JOIN FOR:** Kids & Adult silly obstacle course • Red's Good Vibes Food Truck  
kickball • cider donuts • face painting • ice cream • large ball soccer • popcorn  
caricatures • dunk tank • cornhole • Kona Ice BIG bubbles • street hockey • art  
book swap • wiffle ball • seed planting • library storytime • crafts

Free for all! All donations will go to support our Eliot Connects community giving programs and events!

 ELIOT CONNECTS



**August 25-28 & August 25-31:  
2024 New England Heritage  
Conference on Star Island.** If you are fascinated by local murders and mysteries, NEH is hosting “Up to No Good: Murder, Mayhem, and Misbehavior in New England”. Your choice of either a 3 or 6 day “adventure” where you will be exploring the history of true crime in New England from colonial times to the modern era, and will delve into the dark and infamous stories of New Englanders not being their best selves. Some of the topics to be covered at the conference include Lizzie Borden, the Sacco-Vanzetti case, the Smuttynose axe murders, and other less well-known but equally fascinating cases. Conferees can also take advantage of the many tours, cruises, and other recreational activities offered on Star, or just relax in a rocker on the veranda. For more information, visit [www.starisland.org/neh](http://www.starisland.org/neh). Discounts are available for conference first-timers and for those who invite friends to attend with them. Details can be found at <https://starisland.org/discounts/>



Up to  
No Good

*Murder, Mayhem and Misbehavior in New England*

2024 New England Heritage Program  
Star Island, Isles of Shoals, August 25–28 or 31

Explore the history of true crime in New England from colonial times to the modern era. From breaking the Sabbath to robbery and murder, including cases both cold and controversial, notorious and little known, we will dive into the dark and infamous stories of New Englanders not being their best selves through talks, demonstrations, workshops and other activities.

Featured speakers and topics include:

- Cara Robertson, author, *The Trial of Lizzie Borden*
- Ken Sheldon, author, *Deep Water*, the unsolved murder of Dr. William Dean
- Leslie Rounds, author, *I Have Struck Mrs. Cochran with a Stake: Sleepwalking, Insanity, and the Trial of Abraham Prescott*
- Christopher Daley, *Viva l'Anarchia*, The Sacco-Vanzetti Case
- Ann Beattie, *The Smuttynose Axe Murders*
- Bethany Groff Dorau, “I Would Be the Death of Him”: Community Conflict and Witchcraft Accusations in the Essex County Quarterly Court
- Frances Glessner Lee and the Nutshell Studies of Unexplained Death

5

Address: PO BOX 3, Eliot, ME 03903  
Website: [www.eliothistoricalsociety.org](http://www.eliothistoricalsociety.org)  
Phone: 752-0174 (Rosanne)