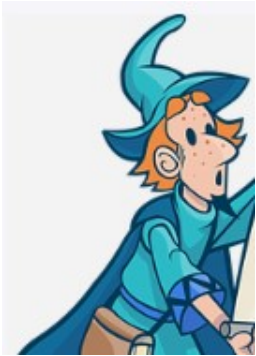


# ELIOT HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER JULY 2024

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**Reminder – there is no monthly meeting in July but we will have our annual picnic August 12<sup>th</sup> at the Eliot Boat Basin, 5 pm. The grill will be going!**



## President's Prattle

**by Tracey Graffam-Dickson**

Happy Summer! We are officially kicking it off, with the planning and packing for our annual week on the lake. For the past many years, our family has had the good fortune of spending the Fourth of July week on one of Maine's beautiful lakes in the Western Mountains; a region where many generations of my ancestor's hail from and where a number of family members still call home. One of the highlights celebrated is attending the Bridgton 4 on the 4th Road Race, which has been going for over 40 years and has donated thousands of dollars to the town's local library. What is unique about this road race and what makes it so special to be a part of, is due to the large number of kids who participate; hundreds of whom travel to Maine each summer to attend one the many legendary summer camps. Campers and counselors come back year after year from all parts of the US and abroad and make up a large number of the thousands of runners and walkers who take part in what is often a grueling hot four-mile road race. Fortunately, many of the towns' folks come out to support the runners with the much-welcomed sprinklers and water stations; in gratitude, many of the runners, provide lots of entertainment with their crazy outfits worn in celebration of Independence Day. Perhaps this event is not completely unique, as I imagine across the country there are many "4 on the Fourth" road races happening, however, with Maine's unique Summer Camp history, perhaps this race is one of a kind. Thinking about this got me doing a bit of research about Maine's summer camp history and what makes it unique. I quickly came across some wonderful pictures and information about Eliot and our own town's truly unique summer camp offerings. They included the often-mentioned Lanier Camp, the Rosemary Cottage, and the Bungalow Camp, run by Dr. Fillmore Moore. To learn more, check out the link at the [www.mainememory.net](http://www.mainememory.net) (A *Maine Historical Society Website*) and search for "Summer Camps". I think you'll find some interesting information about our own town's unique history and why Eliot and Maine hold such prominent positions as the summer destination for so many, particularly during the late 1800s and early 1900s, when city dwellers were looking to escape the sweltering heat and often unhealthy living conditions that existed in cities throughout New England. If you have some interesting summer memories to share, let us know. We'd love to hear from you. Although we are not having a monthly meeting in July, we hope to offer a few special outings throughout the summer. Keep an eye out for our emails and event notifications on Facebook and on our website. Until then, summer well! ~ Tracey

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

Newsletter  
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Edward Jones

11 Sanborn Lane ~ Eliot, Maine

# ELIOT HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER JULY 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 10am to 2 pm. If you have an hour or so and can help meet and greet guests please let Jan know. It's always fun and interesting to talk with visitors.



**T**hanks to the **Board of Directors**, and the efforts of **Paul Johnson**, the #8 Schoolhouse is now provided with cooling in the summer and heating in the fall so that we can provide comfort to our guests (and volunteers) and extend programing longer into the year.



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## Eliot Historical Society Initiatives for 2024

**Our membership has voted to undertake a number of projects, which, in order to be successful, need YOUR support.**

At the June 13<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Board of Directors and Officers, "point of contact " people were named for each of these. If you would like more information, can offer any kind of assistance at all and/or have some thoughts about any of these, please get in touch with the contact person listed.

- **Restoration/Placement of the antique snow roller and silent policeman** – Rosanne & Jan ([rma249@yahoo.com](mailto:rma249@yahoo.com) or 207-752-0174)
- **Collections Preservation and Storage** – Eric ([eric.r.christian@gmail.com](mailto:eric.r.christian@gmail.com))
- **Memory Walk/Partnership with Aging In Place** – Tracey ([tlgraffam@outlook.com](mailto:tlgraffam@outlook.com))
- **Comprehensive Plan Update** – Tracey
- **Programming** – Tracey
- **Bathroom for #8 Schoolhouse** – Jan ([jcerab2805@aol.com](mailto:jcerab2805@aol.com) or 207-450-6874)

# ELIOT HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER JULY 2024

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**EHS Summer "Road Trip"!**

**Friday, July 12<sup>th</sup>** 11am and 2pm: **Hamilton House** (40 Vaughans Lane, South Berwick) in the morning 11-12. Bring bag lunch then tour the **Jewett House** (5 Portland Street, South Berwick) 2-3pm. Tickets are \$15 (Adult) / \$13 (Senior) per person/per museum. Free for Historic New England members. Hope you can come! Please let Tracey\* know if you are coming. 1-603-498-7375.

**ALSO** – We'd like to know your interest in a trip to the Isles of Shoals on **Friday, August 9<sup>th</sup> 11am**: Isles of Shoals Trip to Star Island only. Tickets \$42 (Adults), \$39 (Seniors), Groups of 25 or more - \$5 discount. Tour is 3.75 hours long. Please RSVP to Tracey at 1-603-498-7375 . We will only proceed if there is enough interest.

\*Thank you **Tracey** for arranging these!

## ACQUISITIONS

**K**athy Porter recently gave to us some books that were part of her own collection. "Rosemary for Remembrance – the Life of Hannah Farmer", inscribed by Sarah Jane Farmer to a Miss Keating, March 20, 1893; "The Eliot Centennial" by Cole, that belonged to Harry D. Kennard\* and the 1985, reprint, three volume set of bound "Old Eliot" magazines.



\*Harry Delano Kennard was the grandson of William Leighton Kennard and Mary of Eliot. His parents were Charles W. (Lucy J. Lord) Kennard and he was born in Massachusetts, graduated from Somerville High School, Tufts College, and Harvard Medical School(1895). He was an allopathic doctor in Peabody, MA.

**T**he town, in preparation for an expansion project, recently turned over to the Society the many pictures, taken and donated by Edward Vetter, that you would have seen on the walls of the town hall. We thank the town for entrusting them to us and we will use them in future displays. We've been asked to help pick out historical pictures for the "new" town hall spaces.

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## SPEAKING OF CEMETERIES

We always get excited to see others in the community who are also excited to work in preserving our old family cemeteries. Kathleen and Mark Spezia were interested in helping with the Emery Cemetery, in front of the Riverview Estates on Old Road. You might remember that Laura Schontag and her husband had started work there in 2022. Working together, Mark and Kathleen came with a plan and have been meticulously



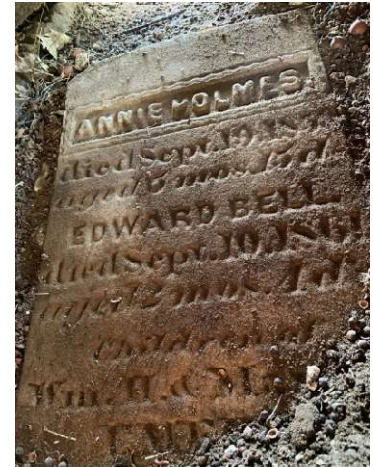
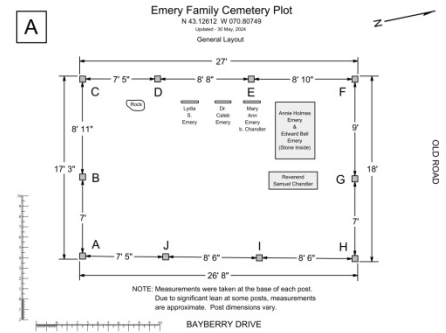
documented the condition of the cemetery, and layout, taken numerous photos from all sides and made elevation drawings. In addition, they got a nice shot of the children's stone that had been placed inside the "tomb". By taking the time to do this, they have helped to preserve the

information for future historians. There are stones down, some in pieces, the tomb is falling over and the biggest problem is the tree that had grown up on the edge and in which are embedded some iron pieces and possibly some stone, although it is unclear if it is a gravestone or part of the granite corner posts, one of which was also pushed aside by the tree. Mark and



Kathleen have been working to remove the stump. They stopped any further digging upon seeing a stone sticking up from it. Work will continue as more research is done to determine how to best restore the tomb. A cemetery preservation company has been

consulted to determine costs to restore the granite "tomb".



\* Editor note: Laura has lived here since the 1970s and remembers when the development was put in. She tells us that the plan was to dig up the cemetery and move it but she and her family were successful in having it remain in place. Two of Eliot's earliest Congregational ministers are buried in this cemetery – Rev. Alpheus Spring and Rev. Samuel Chandler. Rev. Spring was the second minister to be settled in Eliot and he was succeeded by Rev. Chandler.

# ELIOT HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER JULY 2024

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**Invitation - July 29<sup>th</sup>, 1pm** Eliot Historical Society members, family, and friends, 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 missing gate from the Shapleigh cemetery. After contacting the owner and members of the Shapleigh Family Association, a gathering has been arranged to celebrate the return of the gate. Property owner Olea Smith-Kaland will be our host and following a 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).

## AREA NEWS & EVENTS



Tuesdays, from 5:00pm-8:00pm at the Eliot Boat Basin. Live music as part of our summer concert series, food vendors, craft vendors and more! Brought to you by the Eliot Community Services Department.

July 9th - June and the Honey Badgers  
July 16th - North River Music  
July 23rd - Truffle  
July 30th - Key Elements  
August 6th - Rockspring  
August 13th - Under Cover

### July 11 - History of Malaga Island, with Kate O'Brien.

Rice Public Library. 8 Wentworth Street, Kittery. 6 pm. In 1912, the State of Maine evicted a community of African American and white residents from their homes on Malaga Island. Racism, economic struggles, and eugenics all led to the devastation of this community. The program will explore the history behind this story that was hidden for so many years. Kate McBrien serves as the Maine State Archivist, overseeing the archival preservation and management of state records at the Maine State Archives in Augusta. Previously, Kate worked at the Maine Historical Society and Maine State Museum. At the State Museum she researched and curated the award-winning exhibit “Malaga Island, Fragmented Lives”. You will need to register by 6 pm that evening either online [History of Malaga Island with Kate McBrien | Rice Public Library \(librarycalendar.com\)](https://www.librarycalendar.com) or by calling the library 207-439-1553.



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

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



**Hamilton House** is open Thursday – Sunday, May 30 – October 15. Tours on the hour 11AM -3 PM. Closed July 4. 40 Vaughans Lane, South Berwick, ME.

**Kittery Naval and Historical Museum** is open Wednesday through Saturday 10am – 4pm. Closed Sun-Mon-Tues. 204 Rogers Road, Kittery, ME.



**Sarah Orne Jewett House** is open Friday- Saturday – Sunday from May 30 to October 15. Tours on the hour 11AM -3 PM. 5 Portland Street, South Berwick, ME



## **July 26-27 Eliot Antique Tractor and Engine Show**

RAITT HOMESTEAD FARM MUSEUM  
DEDICATED TO THE PRESERVATION OF FARMING HISTORY

Home Events Membership **Eliot Antique Tractor & Engine Show**

**Eliot Antique Tractor & Engine Show**  
PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR Friday JULY 26th & Saturday 27th 2024  
Featuring Massey Ferguson Tractors and Vertical Engines  
Admission is \$8 per person, children 12 and under get in free. Plenty of free parking.

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