

ELIOT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER JULY-AUGUST 2026

Editor message: Looking for a new editor for our newsletter. If you are interested, in either taking over completely or would like to use your creative skills in putting it together (with pictures and possibly text provided) and sending it out, or any combination of the aspects, please contact me and we can talk about it! – Rosanne info@eliothistoricalsociety.org

Upcoming meeting – August 10th @ 5:30PM at Eliot Boat Basin – ANNUAL “BYO” PICNIC Come bring your picnic supper and join us for our annual get together. Everyone invited so grab your family and friends!

UPCOMING EVENTS

AUGUST 5TH & 8TH – Celebrating our 30th Anniversary

On May 30, 1996 the town turned over the old #8 One-room Schoolhouse to us. We will be celebrating this at the #8 Schoolhouse, 67 Greenwood Street, which is open 10-2 each day. On Saturday, the 8th, **Larry Hosack**, Eliot singer-songwriter will be at the schoolhouse to share his music and maybe a sing-a-long. We will have materials out showing the restoration and activities we have hosted during the past 30 years. Please stop by.

The #8 One-Room Schoolhouse Museum is open 10-2 on Wednesdays and Saturdays through Eliot Festival Day (the last Saturday in September) and by appointment.

AUGUST 7TH & 8TH – Historic Fogg House Tours

We are partnering with the William Fogg Library in opening the William Fogg House, located on the Library grounds, to the public. This special opening is in celebration of the 250th birthday of the United States, and recognition of the Dunlap Broadside (first printing of the Declaration of Independence) that is presently making its way around Maine, visiting every county.

Not many realize this document came from Eliot, Maine. It was donated as part of a larger collection from Dr. John Samuel Hill Fogg (1826-1893).



Following the broadside's stop at the Brick Store Museum in Kennebunk, the Fogg Homestead, located on the grounds of the William Fogg Library will be open from 10am

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to 2pm on Friday August 7 and Saturday August 8. Visitors are invited to take a look at the home of Dr. Fogg and his father, William Fogg.

On August 8th, the Eliot Historical Society will bring local artist **Leona Hosack**, to the Fogg House. She will demonstrate the old art of silhouette cutting and will be cutting and mounting your portrait as you wait.

Admission is FREE for all events. Donations are welcome.
These events are being underwritten by **Kennebunk Savings Bank**.

The William Fogg House, located on the grounds of the William Fogg Library, was built 1819-1821. On display is a portrait of William Fogg by John Brewster, a collection of Dr. Fogg's personal books and his desk, Masonic apron and papers, and medical instruments, along with many family household items.



William Fogg (1790-1859) was Eliot's first postmaster. Appointed in 1824 by President Monroe, the post office was located in the ell of this house for 23 years (1824-1847). William and his wife, Betsey Deed Hill (1790-1846), had 5 children, born in this house, of which Dr. John Samuel Hill Fogg (1826-1893) was the third. Dr. Fogg attended local schools and Eliot Academy, going on to Bowdoin College and later studying medicine at Harvard Medical School, graduating in 1850. He worked as a general practitioner in South Boston until becoming paralyzed in 1875, possibly from polio or a stroke. During these later years he collected over 5000 signatures dating back to Ferdinand and Isabella in 1492. This collection includes a complete collection of the signatures of the signers of the Declaration of Independence, the members of the Stamp Act Congress, the Aides de Camp of Gen. Washington, the Major Generals of the Revolution and hundreds of others, including duplicates. He also collected over 1000 volumes of books ranging in topics from regional history to national history, including the US and other nations, and genealogy, which are on display. His signature collection and other papers, including the Dunlap Broadside, were given to the Maine Historical Society per his will, upon his death. Dr. Fogg was also the benefactor for the public library, leaving the land and an endowment for the building of a library in honor of his father William Fogg. While here, the Library will also be open and visitors are welcome to come in to see this beautiful 1907 building with its

Storytime at the Schoolhouse

67 Greenwood Street

August 26 - 10 am



We will be reading this book by Jeanne Russell

Craft and snack following the reading



Children must be accompanied by an adult

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collection of original paintings and volumes of area genealogy and history.

Eliot resident, Leona Hosack is a professional artist, book illustrator, writer, music performer and songwriter, caricaturist, portrait artist and silhouettist.

AUGUST 19TH Eliot native, Historical Society member, and re-enactor **Walter Hanson** will be joining us at the #8 Schoolhouse on Wednesday, August 19th and sharing with us his colonial display. Walter has been a reenactor since 1976 and has an impressive collection of replica items that show what people might have had in their homes during the colonial period. Among the many items you will be able to see and hear about are

- Colonial Coinage
- Bullet Molds
- A Button Mold.
- A Map
- Books



NEWS

May 29th we joined the teachers and children at Eliot Elementary for their “Trolley



Back in Time”. Second graders were given a tour of 8 Eliot historical sites by the third grade students describing the sites. The trolley riders were greeted by community members as they stopped at the Moses Farmer house and workshop, Green Acre, and the William Fogg Library.

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(Leona Hosack)

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Inside of EES in the Library and hallway were displays of the works of the classes in their study of Maine and Eliot history. We were also treated to a musical performance by the students who sang some of our favorite “Eliot” songs.



We started off the summer at the **#8 Schoolhouse** on June 10th & 13 with displays that took a look at the electric trolleys that used to travel through Eliot and to York Beach and Dover. **“Trolley Through Eliot for Adults”**, was look at the history and route taken when first introduced in 1902. Those who stopped in to chat had a great time talking about the old pathways and stories handed down. The display materials are at the Schoolhouse and can be brought out for anyone interested. On the 4th Wednesday in June and July the school hosted **“Children’s Story Times”**, featuring Maine authors. June 24th we read “Happy Birthday Maine” by Lynn Plourde, July was “Blueberries for Sal” by Robert McCloskey and in August we will be reading “How I wish that I could Fly” by Jeanne Russell. Each of the readings is followed by a craft and refreshment.



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July 4^h we joined **Eliot/Kittery American Legion Post #188** at their dedication of a monument to those who served in the **Vietnam War**. The event was held at



Hammond Park with over 100 attending. Some very moving stories and remembrances of those who had served, vocal rendition of God Bless America by Rosemary Staples and Larry Hosack and live vintage Vietnam era music. The memorial also pays tribute to native Americans and those of all faith communities. The final location of this memorial has not yet been determined.

This was followed, on **July 8th** with a reading of the **Declaration of Independence** at the #8 Schoolhouse in recognition of the country's Semiquincentennial. This event, commemorating that first reading in Philadelphia, PA. on July 8, 1776, is part of the Eliot Historical Society's 250th events. Attendees were invited to make a beaded keepsake, following the reading. This craft will be offered throughout the summer. At the start of the summer people were invited to help us put together a puzzle of the "Declaration". Recently, Kathy Runey stopped by with her husband and visiting friend and she and Jan put in the LAST piece!



July 15th a "Meet and Greet" was held for educators Terry Johnson and Gerry Burnell. The reunion celebration, with retiring principal Jerry Burnell, former teacher Terry Johnson and members of her 3rd grade class, brought together, once again, parents and former students who had a special connection with Terry and Gerry. Terry Johnson's 3rd grade class, hearing about and wanting to support the restoration effort of the old schoolhouse, embarked on a service project in 1996. They made a quilt, which was auctioned off, in 1997, becoming the first fundraising effort for the restoration! The winner



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donated the quilt back and you can see it, on permanent display, at the schoolhouse.



July 18th it was standing room only at the William Fogg Library as writer/performer Rita Parisi of Waterfall Productions, presented *Women of '76*. She gave us a look into the lives of five women who experienced the Revolution, a mix of Loyalists and Patriots. Prudence Cummings Wright a minutewoman, from Pepperell, Mass who hearing of the coming of British troops, gathered together and commanded a female militia; Mary Katharine Goddard, a printer and postmistress of Baltimore, whose newspaper was read all over Maryland and



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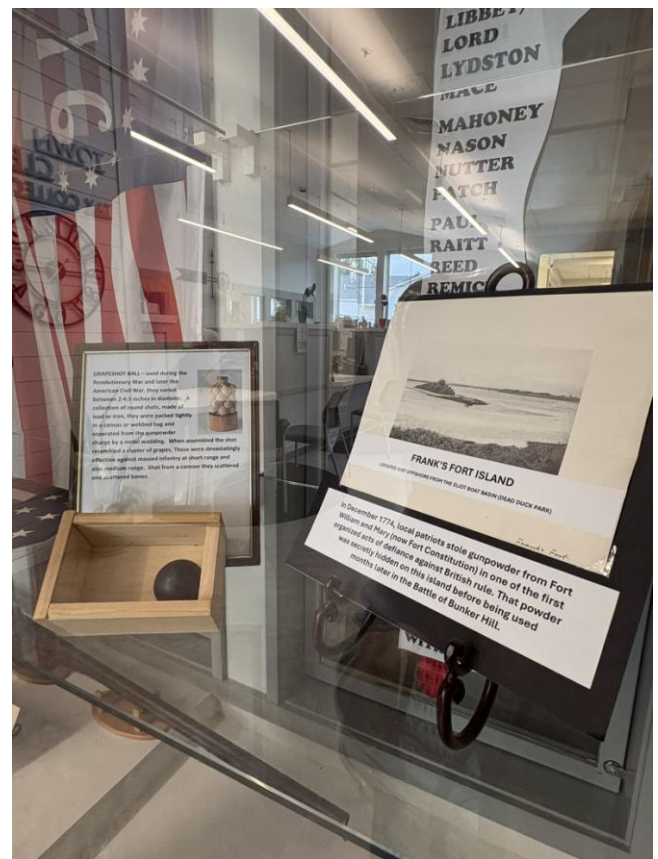
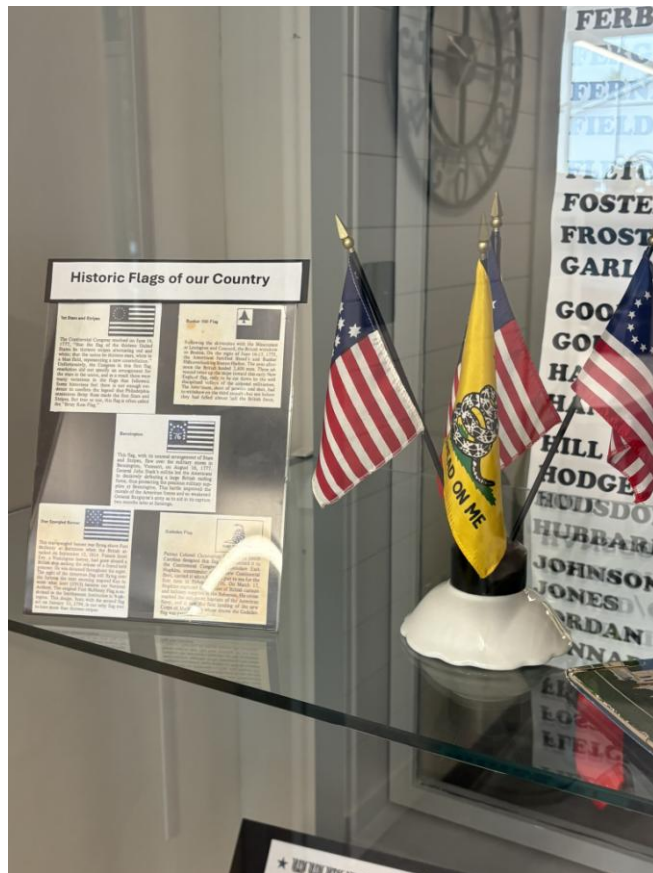
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beyond, offering a balanced view of the Revolution and was asked by the continental congress to print a broadside of the Declaration of Independence; Mary Gould Almy, a Quaker in Newport, Rhode Island, married to a patriot but didn't believe in the cause. She kept a journal of the struggles of her family during the Siege of Newport; Baroness Frederika Von Riedesel, German born and supporter of the English King's right to rule over its colonies. She wrote about her everyday life in the British camps and as a prisoner of war; Nancy Morgan Hart, a frontiers woman and sharpshooter, born in North Carolina and lived along the Broad River in Elbert County, Georgia. During the war, in retaliation for the Tories who were harassing the local Whigs and lurking about her home, she showed them her patriotism at the end of a musket barrel. Eliot Historical Society and the Library collaborated for this event which, as all our activities this summer, was underwritten by a grant from Kennebunk Savings Bank.



Catching up on our displays at the Town Hall - In the spring, Julie Johnson featured the framed prints given by Keith Searles to the Society from old postcards of Eliot scenes and some and some of the models of buildings in Eliot, some of which are no longer standing. The present display is in honor of our country's 250th birthday. Included are historic flags, surnames of those from Eliot (then Kittery) who served in the Revolutionary War, a musket from the 1812 period, grape shot, copy of a letter written in the Revolutionary time period and the story of Frank Fort Island and its role in the siege of Ft. William and Mary.

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