



GATHERINGS FROM THE GREEN

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www.hamptonhistoricalsociety.org

Annual Meeting Announcement

The annual meeting of the Hampton Historical Society membership will be held on Friday, October 9, 2009 at Masonic Hall, St. James #102 Lodge, 77 Tide Mill Road, Hampton, N.H. All are welcome to attend.

There is a potluck dinner at 6:00 p.m. Bring your favorite dish to share. Paper plates, silverware and beverages will be provided.

The business portion of the evening will begin at 6:45 p.m. We will receive reports from the committees, elect trustees, appoint members to the nominating committee and discuss and vote on suggested changes to our by-laws (see article on "Strategic Plan Completed" on page 3).

A program featuring John Forti, titled "Slow Food - Sustainable Gardens," will follow the meeting and meal at 7:00 p.m. John is the Curator of Historic Landscape at Strawberry Banke Museum, Portsmouth, N.H. and is one of the founders of Slow Food Seacoast. Enjoy this exploration of artisanal practices, historically inspired recipes and regional/seasonal/local and organic American food.

If you are coming for just the meeting and program, they will be held in the Masonic Hall at 7:00 p.m. after dinner. Parking is in front of the building.

We hope to see you there!

For more information call Bill Keating 926-2813.

MISSION

The mission of this organization shall be to promote and honor the history and heritage of the town of Hampton, New Hampshire and its founders and inhabitants; and to preserve such history for future generations.

Great Food for a Good Cause

Don't forget that our 8th annual Southern Style Pig Roast will be held Saturday, September 5, from noon to 3PM on the grounds of the Tuck Museum. The pigs are cooked overnight on the premises and will be served with a variety of cold salads, baked beans and homemade desserts; burgers, dogs and vegetarian options are also an alternative. Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$10 for youth 9-16, children 8 and under are free with an adult.

Besides great food there will be a silent auction, 50/50 raffle, music, and Bubba the clown.

The silent auction is an important and fun part of the Pig roast. We are still receiving items and as we go to press this is a sample of the items that will be on sale: items and gift certificates from Accents in Glass; passes to Adventure Golf; a spa pedicure from Eccentric Hair; a bean pot from Great Bay Pottery; oil changes from JF Sands Auto Repair and Hampton Ford; a dozen roses from Seacoast Florist; restaurant certificates from Margarita's, McGuirk's, Wilbur's Family Dining, Millie's L St Café (courtesy of Tobey & Merrill), KB Bagel, and Hoaty's; two tickets to a Manchester Monarchs game; gift certificates from Hampton Cleaners, Hampton Vision Center, JaLill's LLC-Electrolysis, QuickSilver, Resee Hair Fashion, The Maids, and Tri-Rent-All.

We will also have several cases of Smuttynose beer in the auction (courtesy of Portsmouth Brewery), and a granite mailbox box, installed, from Blake Chichester at Platinum Fence.

Tickets are available at the Tuck Museum, Marelly's Market, Hampton Recreation Department, and Eccentric Hair. For groups of eight or more we can reserve a table with advance notice.

For the first time we have an event sponsor for the Pig Roast. The Provident Bank has agreed to sponsor the event. They will be opening a

branch in Hampton in the new CVS complex in the near future and we welcome them to Hampton and thank them for their support.

For more information on the event call Catherine Fletcher at 926-0124 or Ben Moore at 926-2543. If you haven't attended before, it is really a lot of fun and it supports the museum at the same time.

President's Report

In spite of a rainy start to the summer, we have kept busy on a number of projects. In June, Bud DesRochers, Percy Annis and I rebuilt the front steps to the Museum's main entrance. The old brick and flagstone steps had deteriorated to the point of being unsafe and we now have new steps made of pressure treated lumber.

On August 1 a local basketball team, Journeyman Basketball, young men 10-17, arrived at the museum to dig a trench for the stone retaining wall that will be built on the south side of the Leavitt barn (see page 5). We had removed the foundation stones from the original site of the barn and had planned on reusing them in this way. We expect to complete the retaining wall before winter.

Gardening maintenance has gone on throughout the spring and summer (at least on days when it wasn't raining), and thanks goes to Betty Moore, Bud DesRochers and Bill Keating for their help. The Town's Parks and Recreation Department also works on the grounds and we thank Al Mason for organizing the pruning of the lilac hedge on the north side of the property.

The Strategic Planning Committee under the direction of Elizabeth Aykroyd completed its work during the summer. Her report on that plan will be in future newsletters, and the plan itself is posted on our website. Certain changes to the bylaws are suggested by this committee and have been approved by the Trustees. The membership will be asked to approve these changes at the Annual meeting in October.

We have had some excellent programs this year, the most recent being "Hampton - Then and Now," presented by Betty Moore and Elizabeth Aykroyd in June. Bill Keating and the program committee are now at work on the programs for 2010.

Betty also collaborated with the Heritage Commission and presented a tour of the Pine Grove Cemetery in July. She did a great job and the proceeds from ticket sales will go toward preservation of the remaining gravestones in the cemetery.

We have also been hard at work on the 8th Annual Pig roast. This is our main fundraising event of the year and the proceeds provide 40% of our annual budget. Rain or shine the event is on for September 5, and as in years past I look forward to a delicious meal and a fun day.

We have a number of projects to complete before snow flies and we always can use more help, so please call or drop by the museum to see what we are up to and find out how you can assist.

Ben Moore

Cemetery CD to Aid Researchers

One of the topics we get the most requests for is assistance on where ancestors are buried. We have a useful booklet, *Markers of Pine Grove Cemetery*, that was part of an Eagle Scout Project. The town has the research from another Eagle Scout project that was done on the Ring Swamp Cemetery. But the information has never been easily accessible.



Marge Crean, looking for a volunteer project, has compiled a CD with all the research she could find from Hampton cemeteries, excluding High Street. She has included a spread sheet (which opens in Excel) that combines information from Pine Grove, Ring Swamp, Elkins, James, Bride Hill, Landing Road, Sanborn, Batchelder, and Shaw cemeteries. She became interested in Hampton soldiers and has included burial locations on veterans up to the Civil War. Also included are photos for some of the smaller cemeteries, and links to others. Thorwald's Rock located at the Tuck Museum even gets mentioned.

The CD will be available shortly and will sell for \$15. For more information email us at www.info@hamptonhistoricalsociety.org. The booklet, *Markers of Pine Grove Cemetery*, is available for \$5. Postage and handling is extra for both items.

Strategic Plan Completed

The Board of Trustees, by a unanimous vote at its meeting of August 9, accepted the plan submitted by the Strategic Planning Committee. In this document the Committee laid out its vision of the direction which the Society should take over the next few years. The goals envisioned by the group seek to increase our active presence in the community and to expand our services to our members and visitors, in person or electronically. The group also committed itself to helping to aid in the implementation of the plan.

As part of its deliberations, the group reviewed the mission statement and the committee structure as laid out in the Bylaws. The Committee revised the mission statement to reflect the more dynamic role which the Society takes in the community now, and new initiatives to be considered for the future. The proposed mission statement is clearer:

The mission of the Hampton Historical Society is to increase public knowledge and understanding of the history and cultural heritage of the town of Hampton, New Hampshire, from its earliest inhabitants to the present generation. We will communicate that history through an active museum, educational programs, and a resource library.

The group also felt that a new, more comprehensive, committee structure would serve well as the Society moves into the future. Suggested committees are as follows:

1. Museum Committee to have oversight of collections, exhibitions, and the library
2. Education Committee to plan and conduct both adult and school programming
3. Buildings and Grounds Committee to care for the Society's buildings and the grounds
4. Communications Committee to be in charge of newsletters, the website, publicity, and other types of communication with our members and the community as a whole.
5. Membership and Volunteers Committee to recruit and manage both members and volunteers

6. Fundraising Committee to plan for the finances needed for expanded activities

7. Strategic Planning Committee to plan for the future of the Society and to aid in implementation of goals and strategies

8. Audit Committee to conduct an annual audit of the Society's accounts

9. Nominating Committee to recruit candidates for the Board of Trustees and report to the membership at the Annual Meeting.

The membership will vote on the changes to the Bylaws at the Annual Meeting on October 9. To see a copy of the Strategic Plan and the suggested changes to the Bylaws, visit our website at www.hamptonhistoricalsociety.org or stop in the Museum. We hope that members will join us as we plan new initiatives for the future.

Barn Survey Project



The New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources for several years has been collecting data on the barns and agricultural buildings that exist in the state. Towns throughout the state have been encouraged to conduct surveys to list the barns and out-buildings that still remain in their communities and many have completed the work.

The survey of Hampton barns has been started, and it is our goal to complete the survey by next spring.

We will need volunteers to assist in the work. The survey consists of measuring and photographing the buildings and noting construction features and any history known about the barn. We would like volunteers for photography, measurement, and typing up completed forms. We will also want help in putting together the final report. We should have a lot of fun with this project as we discover more information about the agricultural history of Hampton. We will begin in September.

If you would like to work on this project or have any questions please call Ben Moore at 926-2543 or Chet Riley at 926-5453. You may also email Ben at BFMoore@comcast.net.

Director's Report

Christmas came in July this year. We were the recipient of a unique grant through the Institute of Museum and Library Services known as the Connection to Collections Bookshelf. It is a set of conservation books and resources coordinated by Heritage Preservation to help museums care for their collections. The grant was partnered by the Getty Foundation, the Henry Luce Foundation and the Samuel H Kress Foundation. Information on a variety of topics including media storage, emergency response, archives, photography and legal issues is included. Two publications I found of great interest are the *National Trust Manual of Housekeeping* (a 950 page tome) and a two volume *National Park Service Handbook* for museum management. Seeing all these books in one spot inspired me to pull out all our professional books and materials, and now they are located in an area that is more accessible to all the volunteers, and will be a great resource to us and the community at large.



In July, I conducted a tour of the Pine Grove Cemetery for the Hampton Heritage Commission to raise awareness for restoration work of gravestones that needs to be done in the town's oldest burying ground. Weather, age and vandalism have taken their toll on the markers, and an effort needs to be taken to preserve this important part of our history. Pine Grove is one of the four oldest cemeteries in New Hampshire, with a collection of carved headstones ranging from home made to Boston-produced. It is one of Hampton's most valuable treasures!

On the topic of cemeteries - a member, Marge Crean, had provided a terrific service to us by pulling together information on some of Hampton's oldest cemeteries, as you will read in the article on page 2. If old cemeteries interest you, check out www.gravematter.com. Photos can be found from a great number of New England cemeteries, including ones in Hampton. Well worth the virtual visit!

I'm off to peruse the bookshelf.

Betty Moore

2009 Programs in Review

The year to date has been very successful and I believe for many of you informative and entertaining.

We started our journey with Gerry Miller, who gave us a more interesting view of maps than the cut and dry of "shortest distance" or "shortest time." He gave us what may be the most important view, that of hindsight. Jere Daniell proved that political wit is genetic to our New England soil, and those of you who recently enjoyed Betty and Elizabeth's presentation on the changing images of Hampton, well, their presentation spoke for itself and needs no further words.

The topic of our annual meeting on October 9 is one of America's obsessions and, at times, questioned blessings - food. John Forti, Curator, Gardener and - above all - Educator, will talk about food as your mother once did, at the kitchen table, at home and from your family garden. Go to the Society's web page and see the February 2009 Issue of "Gatherings From The Green" for more information.

While at www.hamptonhistoricalsociety.org, scroll a little and see what a gem you have on Park Avenue (thank you, Rich, webmaster summa cum laude).

In closing, I would like to highlight our recent and first joint meeting of the Society's Adult and Children's Program Committees. The outcome, we think, will be immediate and positive.

There is one change to our upcoming programs: my program in November is moving to the spring of 2010, and we will be offering an interesting tour of the Tuck Museum in October (see the article on page 6, "Are You Smarter Than a Third Grader?" for more info).

Bill Keating, Adult Program Committee



Community Volunteers

We received an email in late June from Journeyman Basketball, a sea-coast basketball program for 10 to 17 year olds, asking if we had any service projects that they could help with. We rapidly replied, since we usually need volunteers for any number of projects. They agreed and we set a date of August 1 for a shovel project- digging the trench that will be the base for a stone retaining wall on the west side of the Leavitt barn. They expected that 10 to 12 of the players and parents would participate.



The motto of Journeyman Basketball is Character, Commitment, and Community and that was apparent on August 1 as 35 players and parents arrived ready to work. It was obvious that the trench project wasn't large enough to keep the group busy, so we expanded the list and the group dug trenches on three sides of the barn - one for the retaining wall, and on two sides a trench for stones that will catch rain water dripping from the roof. They also attacked weeds growing in the junipers on the property, and collected trash on the green, Founders Park and the Town playground adjacent to the Museum. They finished off their morning with lunch.

It was a great group of kids and adults; we thank them for their efforts and, of course, look forward to working with them in the future. Thanks also to Percy Annis for being a Historical Society volunteer that morning (and on so many other days) and keeping the trenches straight. The parents and players who worked that morning are:

JP Sanborn / Pres., Jeff Murray, Charlie Coffey / VP, Kelsey Leonard, Liam Murray, Zach Brown, Robert Lamprey, Jo, Krista and Michael Lamprey, Troy Carpentier, Ed and Bailey Nasser, Keegan Kerby, Chris Loch, Alex Stough, Luke Megna, Cody Lowe, Phil Sheehy, Brian Taetzsch, Zoe Picanso, Chris and Zach Galipeau, Kevin and Eames, Dianne and Conor Quinn, Ben Loch, Joshua Price, Sean Kates, Patrick Lamprey, Dave and Liam Benshemer.

Update on the Stage Road Bridge Project

There is a cooperative effort between the residents of Hampton and Hampton Falls to repair and rehabilitate the historic Stage Road Bridge as a pedestrian walkway between the towns and as a scenic link between conservation efforts in both towns - the Hurd Dairy Farm and Applecrest Farm. This double arch stone bridge connecting the two towns was on the main road used before the causeway was built across the marsh. Along the bank of the Hampton Falls side was the old Coffin sawmill.

Plans are to cover the surface deck and structure with the only covered walkway in southern New Hampshire. This bridge is being built without the use of taxpayer dollars, and the budget for this project is \$40,000. To date they have received \$25,000 in donations with an additional \$12,000 in pledges. The project has received another \$35,000 in donated labor materials and equipment. Retired architect, Jack Fermery has done the engineering drawings. Recently, the Seacoast Youth Association has started with the clean-up of the area in anticipation of the start of the project.

Waketa Campground, located in Hampton Falls, has donated pine that will be used to build the bridge. A microburst went through their campground in 2003, destroying a large area, and those trees are being milled by owner Charlie Savage, on site at a sawmill that has been on the property since 1952.

The group is within \$4,000 of their goal of restoring the bridge so that it is safe and functional for walking, running, fishing and bicycle riding. If you are interested in helping them out, checks may be made out to the Town of Hampton and mailed to 100 Winnacunnet Rd. Hampton, NH 03842. Put a note on the check in the memo area that it is for the Stage Road Bridge. Labor and materials are also welcome. For more information contact Judy Wilson at 603-929-0533.



News from the Membership Committee

Many thanks to everyone who recently renewed their membership with the Hampton Historical Society! We are glad and grateful that you have once again chosen to support the Tuck Museum. It is with your help that we are able to maintain and display the museum's wonderful collection and present the many interesting and informative programs that we offer to the public.

But there's another way you can help: Encourage your friends and family members to be a part of the Hampton Historical Society, too. Not only will they be joining you and others in supporting a local treasure, but they will also be offered a chance to win a very special gift basket just for becoming new members.

The gift basket, which will be on display at the annual HHS Pig Roast fundraiser on Saturday, September 5 from 12-3 p.m., includes a green and white commemorative plate of Hampton, a beautiful HHS Christmas ornament, a copy of "The Hampton Cookbook," and a white linen towel with local landmarks printed on it in blue.

That's not all. There's also a copy of the program from the Hampton Tercentenary celebration (1638-1938), post cards (published by the Colt News Agency), a \$20 gift certificate from the Galley Hatch restaurant, organic tea and a mug, and a few other fine goodies as well.

Tell everyone you know that the annual HHS Pig Roast offers a great opportunity to join (have them visit www.hamptonhistoricalsociety.org, click on the "Membership" link, and follow the instructions found there.)

By the way, businesses are also invited to sign on as new members of the HHS. Thanks again for all your support; see you at the Pig Roast!

Liz Premo
Membership

Are You Smarter Than A Third Grader?...

The Hampton Historical Society will present a program for everyone based on our 3rd grade history program. Come find out about Hampton's early days, and explore the grounds and buildings of the Tuck Museum. The program guides will take you back to 1638 and bring you up through the 20th century. Learn about Founder's Park, The Meeting House Green, fire-fighting through years, our beach cottage, school-house, and the main museum building and its collection. (We might even throw in a little about Goody Cole!) At the end of the presentation you might be able to say you are at least as smart as a 3rd grader.

The program will be on October 25 at 2:30 p.m.

September 20 Program

Please mark your calendars for the September talk by Steve Taylor. Mr. Taylor's program, sponsored by the New Hampshire Humanities Council, will be on cows, more specifically "Cows and Communities - How the Lowly Bovine has Nurtured New Hampshire through Four Centuries." In this program, Steve explores the impact of cattle on New Hampshire's past, present and future. "Cattle were essential to the survival of the earliest New Hampshire settlements and their contributions have been central to the life and culture of the state ever since..."

The program will be presented in the Leavitt Barn on Sunday, September 20 at 2:30 p.m.

Board of Trustees

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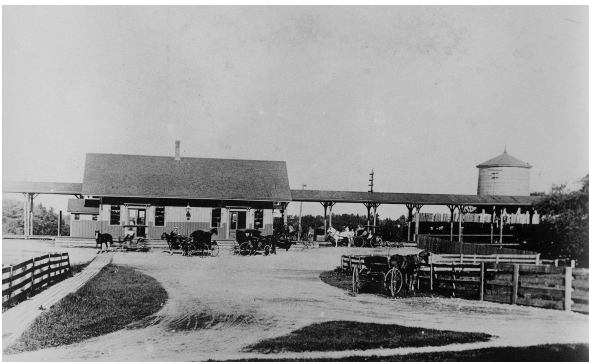
Change is inevitable, but it is always fun to see the "what was." In this issue we have selected a few scenes of Hampton taken from the June "Hampton Then and Now" program. Enjoy!

Wingate-Toppan Garrison



This lovely home was built c.1720 by Colonial Joshua Wingate, and was originally fortified to be used as protection against Indian attacks. It stood until 1900. The house was located on Lafayette Road and the site is currently under construction and will be the home of CVS and Provident Bank. The door to the house can be found on the schoolhouse at the Tuck Museum.

The Railroad Depot



The original roof of the train depot can be seen in the "now" photo. Rail service was available in Hampton from 1840 to 1965. Wagons and stagecoaches were used to transport people and goods to the beach until the trolley was built in 1897.

Coast Guard Station



In 1889 a US Life Saving Station was built at the end of High Street as a result of shipwrecks off the NH coast. It closed in 1965, and the property was purchased by the town in 1969. The building was torn down in 1975 and today is the site of Bicentennial Park.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- September 5 Noon to 3 pm
The 8th Annual Pig Roast
- September 20 2:30 pm
"Cows and Communities"
Steve Taylor
- Leavitt Barn
- October 9
6 pm Pot Luck supper
6:45 - Annual Meeting
7 pm "Slow Foods- Sustainable Gardens"
John Foti
- St. James Masonic Lodge
- October 25
2:30 pm "Are You Smarter Than a Third Grader"
Sammi Moe
- Tuck Museum

BUSINESS MEMBERSHIP

We thank the following business members for their support of the Society:

234 Lafayette Road Realty LLC
Dion Construction, Inc.
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Fairpoint Communications
Hampton Eyecare Associates
Kingfish Trolley Lines, LLC
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