



GATHERINGS FROM THE GREEN

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From the President

As winter fades into spring and we look forward to the nice weather, plans are being made for all that must be done around Tuck Museum. We will be setting the new beach cottage on the ground and doing some repairs and cosmetic work on it, the grounds will need some cleaning up and perhaps a bit of new mulch, and of course we are once more focused on the barn. We have so far raised about half of the \$60,000 needed to properly see this project to completion, however we will be raising the timbers this spring. It is necessary to protect this structure and the board has decided the time is now. All donations are welcome and greatly appreciated! How about buying a peg that will hold the beams together. Your name will be carved into a peg that is then used in the building process for \$25. (Call the museum for more information.) And of course there are the various levels of higher donations recognized on the plaque. We will need volunteers for all of these projects, and more. I thank all of you who have donated your time and money to the barn fund and also to the general fund, as well as all those volunteer hours.

We could not continue to do all that the Society does without your support.

We have some interesting and fun programs coming up. I hope you will join us and bring along a friend! We also continue to do monthly beach clean ups, school programs, and the museum is open regularly. So, read on to see what is happening with your HHS.

Sammi Moe

Sloop Mayflower Document Comes Home

In 1714, two Hampton men, Caleb Shaw and Samuel Nudd, purchased a 35 ton sloop, known as the Mayflower, from William Bailey in Scituate, Massachusetts for 130 pounds. Vessels of this size were coastal traders and those locally owned usually sailed from the Hampton Landing down the Taylor River where they would make their way to Boston. Some making a round trip run each week. Samuel Nudd was part owner in many such vessels. Caleb Shaw, a third generation mariner, drowned at sea in 1715, just a year after the purchase of the sloop.

Almost 300 years later, the bill of sale for this vessel

came into the possession of Ernest Richards, Jr. of Lake Worth, Florida who discovered the item on E-bay, purchased it and transcribed it for his deep sea diving publication the PLVS VLTRA Newsletter. After using it for his research he felt that it should be available to other historians and researchers. With the help of Dr. Kenneth McKusick, they selected the Tuck Museum as the repository for the document.

In November, Dr. McKusick, his wife and two of Mr. Richards sisters visited Hampton and the document was presented to the museum. It is among our earliest documents and one of the few in our collection relating to shipping in Hampton. The Mayflower had been mentioned in Dow's History of Hampton, NH, published in 1894, so to own the original bill of sale is quite remarkable. We thank Mr. Richards for his gift.

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.

Director's Report

It's been a beautiful winter here - snowfall and temperatures have been manageable. Our brick sidewalk has been appreciated when shoveling has been necessary, and with the expanded walkway we can actually get to the outbuildings. The pace at the museum has slowed down a bit in anticipation of a busy spring with the barn raising and the repairs to the Sea Castle tourist cottage starting when the weather allows.

This has been a season of cleaning out files, drawers, closets, nooks and crannies trying to use our display and storage space as efficiently as possible and in the meantime finding forgotten treasures. Volunteers are performing an inventory, now that so much of the collection has been accessioned. We are testing to see if our system works and it does!

I have a winter project that may be of interest to some long time Hampton residents. A few months ago the library gave us boxes and boxes of photographs from the Hampton Union, and earlier in the year Harold Fernald dropped off a few hundred pictures from the 1950-60s. Many of us that work with the collection didn't live in Hampton then and do not recognize the people or subjects. I am designating Wednesday mornings starting February 22- March 29 as "Photo Mornings" to see if we can do some sorting and identification. If you know of someone that would be interested in helping please ask them to call me at 926-2543. The project would go between 9:30 and noon. It would be a very low key project-drop in any Wednesday that you are

available. I'll have the coffee ready.

Betty Moore

Old Courthouse Threatened

The Hampton District Court has moved out of its building on Winnacunnet Road, raising a question about the fate of the old courthouse, which was originally the Grammar School for the town of Hampton.

The Old Grammar School was one of two large wooden schoolhouses built in 1873. These two institutions provided both primary and secondary schooling for Hampton's children until 1922 when a larger, central school replaced both the earlier buildings. In order to make room for the new Centre School, the Old Grammar School was moved a few hundred yards down the road to a new site next to the Town Hall. It then became the home of the Hampton Municipal Court. (The other schoolhouse was rented by the town for some years and was torn down in 1940.) When the court moved to the Town Hall in 1933, the building was altered to serve as a fire station and a meeting place for American Legion Post #35, the Boy Scouts, the Red Cross, and other community organizations. Although the Fire Department maintained a station in the building until 1978, the use of the upper floor changed over the years. After the American Legion moved out in 1948, the building once again housed a school: the first public kindergarten in the region. The court once again occupied the upper floor after the kindergarten

moved to Centre School in 1952 and remained in the building until November 2005. The structure is currently empty.

The Heritage Commission won a grant from the New Hampshire Preservation Alliance to have a preservation professional assess the building and make suggestions for its adaptation for municipal purposes. Early in January, John Merkle, an architect who is well known for his renovation of the Wentworth-by-the-Sea in New Castle, inspected the courthouse and reported that the "building's historic fabric is significantly intact and ...is structurally sound.... This building needs to be saved." The exterior retains much of its original architectural details, but the interior has been altered several times over the years, leaving little original woodwork. Because of the absence of the original architecture, the interior could be renovated to serve as administrative offices or community meeting spaces, while preserving the original details on the exterior. Keeping this significant building for community use will do much to save Hampton's historic heritage, and on February 2 the trustees of the historical society voted to support its preservation.



Annual Operating Fund Donations

We greatly appreciate the donations received from the following members this year.

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Mr. William L. Wrenn

Donations to the Barn Fund

We continue to be encouraged by donations from the membership and friends of the Society towards the raising of the barn. Almost \$5,000 has been received so far in this fiscal year. The names who have recently contributed are listed below. All donations over \$100 will be recorded on a permanent plaque in the barn. In the next several months we will post the listing for the plaque on the HHS website.

Clara Arnold
Mr. Robert W. Blake
Alfred H. Carlson
Mr. Hugh J. Cassidy
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Mr. & Mrs. Tom Clarie
Mrs. Nancy Coes
Mr. & Mrs. David DeGagne
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John & Jennifer Troiano
Art & Micky Wardle
Rodney & Susan Watterson
Robert 'Bobby' Webber
Edith Webber
Mr. William L. Wrenn

New Members

We have welcomed the following new members to the Society since October 2005.

234 Lafayette Road Realty LLC
Ronald Bourgeault
Phil Bourgeault
Jack & Gloria Dion
Stanley A. Hamel
Betty Jubb
Kimball Auto Body
Scott & Christine Kingsley
Mr. Bud Manley
B J "Doc" Noel
Allen G. Palmer
Liz Premo
Seabrook Station
Arnet & Anne Taylor

Gifts to the Tuck Museum – 2005

- From Ann Morton- Books on Exeter, NH and "The Old Maps of Rockingham County 1892"
- Cookbook " Family Favorites"-Hampton Manufactured Housing Association - Ray Sheehan
- Senior Class notes 1931 & Senior Class play program 1936, photographs by Ralph Sanborn of Hampton Depot and Batchelder homestead (Exeter Rd) – Hampton Falls Historical Society
- Framed photos of Hampton Center and J.A. Lane Store- Attn. H. Alfred Casassa
- Hampton Garden Club scrapbooks and records 1924-2005, membership booklets, scrapbook of Ruth Stimson (compiled by John Holman)- Hampton Garden Club
- Collection of womens' clothing-high top shoes, stockings, jacket, capelet and camiknickers from Beverly Hollingworth
- From the Rye Historical Society- three postcards of Hampton Beach
- Harold Fernald gave photographs and negatives from the Hampton Publishing Co. 1957-65
- Postcards of the Smith and Gilmore Pier were donated by Shirley Foote
- Yellow milkglass pitcher of Hampton Beach, booklet "On this Coast", and 1969 "Sachem" were donated by Priscilla Triggs Weeks
- Elinor Yeaton gave a postcard of "Maplehurst" formerly on Exeter Rd.
- Postcard of the Mile Long Bridge, Peabody family coat of arms – New Boston Historical Society
- Book - "Black Portsmouth: Three Centuries of African American Heritage" gift of Elizabeth Aykroyd
- Brenda Manix gave a military uniform and accessories of Clarence Garvin
- Fire alarm box location chart for the town of Hampton was donated by Roseanna Wright
- Marilyn Campbell gave a model of the Odd Fellows Hall made by Bernard Campbell
- Gerald Miller presented a framed reproduction of 1806 map engraved by Aiken, booklet " A View of Hampton, NH" and booklet "Plan of Hampton 1806"
- Photograph reproductions of 1917 Carnival Week and cottages behind the Ashworth Hotel, postcards of the Lane Library and Casino and bandstand – Bud Palmer
- Museum purchase- folk art 1938 Tercentenary figure; books; "Preserving Textiles" and "Dating Fabrics: A Color Guide 1800-1960"
- Book – "Postcard History Series: Hampton and Hampton Beach" Elizabeth Aykroyd and Betty Moore
- Sally May gave a postcard - "Ocean by Night"
- Background information on the James House and other historical articles - Norma Adams
- Ann Carnaby donated the book "Consideration for the Care of Textiles and Costumes"
- "Atlantic News 2004" CD was donated by Connley Communications, LLC
- Hampton Academy Trustee minutes, proceedings, general ledger and financial records - given by the Trustees of Hampton Academy
- Lane Memorial Library donated - Chamber of Commerce photographs and scrapbooks c.1970s, collection of Hampton photos from Hampton Union, card catalogs, old newspapers (Hampton Union and Rockingham County Gazette)
- Unknown donor – panoramic photograph – cast of the "Drama of Winnacunnet" 1938
- John Holman gave the following: milk bottle caps from Hampton and Hampton Falls; EH&A St.Ry. Program 1903; booklet "Pleasure Spots for the Summer Vacationists"; menu from the Graves and Ramsdell system; menu from Christine's Restaurant at the Nudd Homestead; and a reproduction photograph of Palmer's Restaurant-North Beach
- Photographs late 1800s of Hampton Beach, Casino, Leavitt Hotel and local funeral- Seabrook Historical Society
- Framed Charter of the Hampton Lions Club 1947- Hampton Lions Club
- First Congregation Church gave a copy of the "New Testament Army Bible" (1941 WWII edition)
- "Two Wooden Nickels" certificate 1938 – Robert Eroba
- "Wooden Nickel" certificate gift of Bill and Mary Hildreth
- Photograph of Towle homestead was given by Phillip Towle
- Lynn Goodman gave the series "Biographies and Legends of the New England Indians"
- Telephone pole location maps of Hampton given by Chet Riley
- wooden egg case of Geo. H. Elkins from Percy Annis
- Wagon Jack – Lois DesRochers

- Photographs of Seabrook Station & old newspapers, WWII ration books and holder, Red Cross postcard and WWII censored letter – Larry O'Brien
- Ernest J. Richards, Jr. and the McKusick Family Association – 1714 bill of sale for the sloop "Mayflower"
- Wally's Pub key chain, five postcards from Hampton Beach – Doug Aykroyd

Programs 2006:

March 10: Our first program this year will be a Pot Luck supper and program at the First Congregational Church, 127 Winnacunnet Rd. Elizabeth Colburn, from Historic & Distinctive Properties in Portsmouth, will present a program on "Discovering the History of Your Older House". The approach is from the architectural and documentary roadmap basis. Bring a dish to share, drinks will be provided. Dinner will be at 6:00p.m. / the program to follow. Hope to see you there!

April 19: The Society will host the program "On the Abenaki Trail " 7 PM at the Lane Memorial Library. The program will be presented through the education department of the Museum of NH History. Using artifacts and maps we will explore the shelter, hunting methods and family life of the New Hampshire Woodland Indians This program is suitable for adults and students. The meeting will be held in the Lane Room. Refreshments will be served.

May 20: (Tentative) "Almost a Barn" Dance-A-Thon and Supper. This program is still in the planning stages. An intergenerational fundraiser with dinner and dancing. More information will be available soon.

June, July, August: We have left these months open for barn building and any other possibilities that come along this summer.

September: 5th Annual Pig Roast – more information will be in the next newsletter.

October 14: Annual meeting – Dinner at the Masonic Lodge with author and humorist Rebecca Rule.

November: TBA

For more information on any of our programs please call the Tuck Museum, 929-0781.

Beach Cleanups

We continue to do monthly cleanups of our area of the beach, in spite of the weather. We were lucky to have a beautiful January day, and soon the weather will be just right for a nice walk along the beach. It usually takes about an hour or less to do the section we "adopted", which is from Ross Ave. to Boar's Head. All supplies are provided to us and we report back to the Blue Ocean Society. Last year, just from June through October, we removed about 350 pounds of trash from our area. We are doing our part to preserve a small area of the beach while giving important information to Blue Ocean, which uses it for their marine debris survey. If you would like to join us or want more information please contact Sammi at 929-0881.

Education Committee

Did you know that HHS provides an educational experience to almost a thousand school children each year? The children start coming to see us in first grade and continue through junior high school on a regular basis. We are available to students of all ages, home schools and scouts, students from the alternative high school, history and genealogy researchers, and more. You can see that we have quite a diverse educational responsibility. We are the main source of information for the third grade Hampton history lessons. We need more volunteers for our education outreach, which means we need you! We will be hosting the 8th grade class on March 10, and later this spring the 3rd grades will be visiting us. If you think that you would like to help with this, but you don't feel qualified, call me. I promise you will learn what you need to know, and we will have a good time with the kids. Sammi Moe, 929-0881

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