



GATHERINGS FROM THE GREEN

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"Stone-Throwing Devil" to be subject of March 28 Program

An unseen demon who threw thousands of rocks, witchcraft accusations, political intrigue, Quakers, and other religious disputes all figured in the famous incidents of 1682 in New Castle, New Hampshire, then called Great Island. The attacks on tavern owner George Walton are the subject of *The Devil of Great Island* by Emerson W. Baker, a professor of history at Salem State and an archaeologist.

On Friday March 28 at a program open to the public Mr. Baker will discuss how this local conflict had ramifications which spread beyond the island and was an integral part of the history of the Piscataqua region, including Hampton.

We will begin at 6:00 PM with a pot-luck supper in the fellowship hall of the First Congregational Church, 127 Winnacunnet Road. Bring a main dish or a salad to share, and also your own plates and utensils. Mr. Baker will speak after the supper at about 7:00. He will also bring copies of his book for those who would like to purchase one, and he would be happy to sign the book for you.

Membership Challenge

A charitable foundation based in Milford NH has issued a challenge to Historical Societies in the state to increase membership. The Robert & Karin Finlay Foundation will award 3 donations of \$25,000 each to organizations that attain the highest number or percentage of growth in the membership in the year to end on October 31, 2008. The Hampton Historical Society has accepted this challenge and we will need the help and support of all of our members to succeed.

The very first thing that will assist the Society is for 100% of our current members to renew their membership. Seventy five percent have already

done so and reminder have been sent to the remainder.

The next step is for current members to ask their friends, family and neighbors to visit the Museum and to encourage them to join.

The Trustees will also be working on special events, advertising and other activities that we trust will increase the membership in the Society. We have 460 members now and our goal should be at least 550 if we want a chance at the \$25,000 award.

We hope that our members and the community are proud of the Museum and its work and can "sell" our achievements. Membership forms are available on the web site:

www.hamptonhistoricalsociety.org or at the Museum.

We thank all members for their support in this exciting program.

Sunday Slide Series

One of the museum's goals is to have as much of the collection available to the public as possible. We are working on this in many ways. In our research area we have developed over 25 notebooks on a variety of topics like old houses, the beach, schools, the trolley era, and Goody Cole. Hundreds of our post cards from our collection are available to browse through; and our web site reaches far beyond those in our immediate area.

Another way we are hoping to get more information out is to develop a series of Power Point slide shows relating to Hampton's history. Our first show will be on Sunday, April 27 at 2 pm, where we are selecting some of the images from our glass plate negative collection. These images include a combination of beach, village and old coast guard station scenes. We will also display some of the actual glass plate negatives and explain how the process worked.

President's Report

Hello Everyone! Winter may blow snow and ice, but that doesn't stop our volunteers from coming into the museum to work on the various projects or to open the museum. Kate Pratt has volunteered to be our new "Volunteer Coordinator" and we are very grateful! Kate will be the person who calls on members who have told us they are willing to help on different programs and projects when a need arises.

Our programs committee has been busy planning some events for us to enjoy. Keep reading the newsletter for more information on the March 28th program, our June "New Members" event, the "Grand Opening" of the barn in June, and more!

The Robert & Karin Finlay Foundation has extended a challenge that we are participating in. Ben has written an article explaining this challenge. It is a great membership drive incentive, so ask your friends and family to join HHS and join the fun!

Spring is just around the corner. If we don't see you before the snow melts, we hope to see you then! Stay warm and healthy!
Sammi

Director's Report

Exciting news! A rare map of Hampton, hand sketched c.1830 was recently given to the museum thanks to Susan Grant, librarian at the North Hampton Public Library and the library board of trustees. We are fairly certain that this is one of a kind and are in the process of narrowing down the exact date it was made.

Ruth Perkins (wife of Judge John Perkins - former HHS president) gave the map to North Hampton in 1988. We are surmising that it was given to them because at first glance when the map is unrolled, it looks as if it is entitled "North Hampton." Only upon closer examination do you realize that it is designating the boundary line of the neighboring town. Elizabeth Aykroyd and I are currently investigating the map in detail, and are finding information that is filling in many gaps in Hampton's past. For instance the shape of the windmill (that was located near the area of Mill and today's High street) is almost identical to the windmill still on Nantucket. The area of Winnacunnet Road as it makes it's way around the bend past Landing Road to the beach

is referred to as "Sandy Lane," and the grist mill still located at the end of High Street is labeled 'clapboard mill'.

The map is heavy paper attached to linen backing. Currently, it is in extremely fragile condition having considerable water damage and tearing along the edges. I am searching out conservation grants for this valuable piece of Hampton's history. NH map expert, Gerry Miller, has scanned the map, so we will be able to examine the details more carefully without adding any more strain to the map before conservation takes place.



I am always amazed at the important pieces of history that are still "out there." This is a good reminder that if any of you are going through old documents or have old items and are not sure of their value (intrinsic or monetary) check before you toss them out. I field many questions as people go through their parents estates, and I try to help them locate the best place for items that may be of historic value. In many instances, it is not the item's monetary worth, but how it fits into an area's local history. In the case of this c.1830 map, Susan had contacted Hampton librarian, Bill Teschek, who in turn told us about it. We appreciate Susan's and the library trustee's recognition of the importance of returning the map back to Hampton!

Percy Annis, Dave DeGagne and Bill Keating are busy getting the barn in order for two summer events; one a thank you to donors and the second for the general public. Bill and Percy are installing exhibits and Dave is making signage for the barn and tourist cabin. In the main building, we are inventorying our collection files and "rehousing" fragile documents in acid free protectors, as we make sure everything is in order.
Betty Moore

Joseph Dow and The History of Hampton

By Elizabeth Aykroyd

"It is many years since my interest was first awakened to collect material for a history of the town of Hampton." So begins the Author's Preface to the monumental history of Hampton which Joseph Dow spent over forty years compiling and which was not quite complete when he died in December 1889. The task which Dow set for himself was to tell not only the course of the town's history but also to relate the story of as many of the early families of Hampton as he could, making this work not only a valuable record of the town but also a useful genealogical resource.

Joseph Dow, son of Hampton's long-time town clerk, was born in 1807 and graduated from Dartmouth College in 1833. He was a teacher and taught, among other places, at Hampton Academy.



After his retirement in 1860 he devoted his time to legal work and to the amassing of material for his book. It was at this time that the town meeting voted to allow Joseph Dow to take home the old town records to copy out some of the sections. Dow also

served as the clerk of the Congregational Church for many years, so he had access to its fine collection of records. It is clear from a reading of his History that he had read every available early record, both public and private. Historians of today will generally discover that, whatever obscure fact about Hampton may turn up in a study of the records, Dow was there first and had already noted it.

Joseph Dow was also a surveyor who prepared the map of Hampton which the town published in 1841. He also produced maps for other towns, such as the plan of Exeter of 1845. A valuable addition to the genealogical section in his History was to note where people lived, a feature which has been invaluable to researchers of the history of Hampton houses since it was updated to 1892 and can be compared with the map of the town published that year.

Despite his prodigious work, Dow had collaborators. In his preface, he acknowledges the help of his cousin Josiah Page, who did much of the work on the genealogies, as well as collecting other material for the history. Others, including Amos Tuck, a Hampton native and later a lawyer in Exeter, and John Wingate Thornton, a descendant of Rev. Nathaniel Gookin of Hampton, provided historical information. Thornton, in particular, was interested in local history and was an early supporter of the historical museum of his home town of Saco, Maine, to which he gave the iron hourglass holder from the old Hampton meeting house.

Dow, however, never mentioned his most important co-worker: his daughter, Lucy Ellen. A teacher who never married, she gave up her post in 1870 when her mother died and returned to Hampton to work with her father. It was she who took over the task of preparing the book for publication after her father fell ill and then died in 1889.



It is known that she revised a number of chapters and updated all the genealogies and historical happenings to 1892. She called herself the editor and not a co-author, although that would have been a more accurate description. She merely says that the "greater part" was in Dow's hand and that she hopes that in carrying it on that "something of value" will be found.

The History was published in 1894, and Lucy, who had published a short history of Hampton in her own right, died in 1896, apparently leaving the rights of publication to her friend, Lucy Marston. It is not known what happened to the mass of documentation which Dow must have collected. Perhaps Lucy Marston inherited it, but it is certain that at least some of the material found its way to the Historical Society. Some of our documents are clearly in Dow's hand and must have been notes which he took for his book. Others seem to be copies of town records which may have been discarded after recording in the town record book. Although Dow died long before the founding of the Historical Society, he would be pleased that his work is being preserved and carried on.

2007 Acquisitions of the Tuck Museum

- **Books:** *Fashion: A History of the 18th to 20th Century* /Kyoto Costume Institute and *A Perfect Fit* - Ann Carnaby; *Before Columbus - Early Voyages to the Americas* - Lerner Publications; *Hot Stuff-Firefighting Collectibles, Firehouse Memorabilia, NH Then and Now, and Haunted New Hampshire* - museum purchase; *Rye and Rye Beach: Postcard History Series* - Betty Moore; *Documentation of the Ring Swamp Cemetery Hampton NH*, Kevin Buckley Eagle Scout project - Boy Scout Troop 177
- **CD** - *Atlantic News and Beach News 2006* - Connelly Communications
- **Costume collection** from Philbrick family (30 + pieces); Samuel Philbrick's **powder horn** - Betsey Davis
- **Deeds:** deed of gristmill (High Street) from Reuben Lamprey to Moses Leavitt - Allen Palmer; deed from Sarah Moulton to Nathaniel Carter 1788 - Christine White Dalbec
- **Dr. C.B. Bailey's medical journal** c.1930s, clam license - Virginia Bailey
- **Gavel** from Hampton Academy & Alumni; **model** of whaling boat - Pat Triggs Weeks
- **Hampton Beach Environmental Report** - Gayle Sweeney
- **Hampton house history** research and photographs - Helen Hobbs
- **Military related items:** AWS Observer arm band, Army Air Force Recognition Certificate-Allen Palmer; Civil war records Jacob T. Godfrey, Godfrey/Palmer correspondence, Godfrey family photos; book *History of the Civil War* - Allen and Donald Palmer
- **Monday Club** records and memorabilia including: silver tea service, silver chest and teaspoons, sketches by Bernice Palmer, GFWC pin, presidents gavel, guest books, photo albums, records, programs 1997-2007; selectmen proclamation - Hampton Monday Club
- **Perkins Homestead** items including: Orderly book of the First Company of Infantry in the Third Regiment NH Militia, boot jack, tags, soap boxes, drop shot bag, pounce , bias reliefs, books and song books, farmers almanacs, sheet music, -Ann Carnaby
- **Pins:** Grange Past Master and Jr. Order of Mechanics - Russell Merrill; Marine Memorial (Lion's Club)- Micki Wardell; Memorial Park Dedication (2)- John Holman
- **Plaques:** Bicentennial Park, 335th Anniv. of Cong. Church, Paul Revere's Ride- Natalie Hockenull
- **Photographs:** Hampton Beach Casino c.1910 - Doris Anderson; Rockywald/Rainbow Village c.1950s - Barbara Cunningham Paterson; Hampton baseball team c.1950 - Elizabeth Aykroyd; Elliot Photograph Collection (aerial photos, seawall construction, Colt News, beach, class of 1925 photos)- estate of Bill Elliot
- **Postcards:** Young's Motel and Cabins (2) - Museum purchase; aerial of state park area - Lynn Goodman; postcards of Hampton and Hampton Beach - Mrs. Marie Kearns and Mary Leary; stereographic card - Boars Head Hotel- Mary Leary; beach - Denis Edeline
- **Rubber stamps:** 1938 Tercentenary rubber stamp - Town of Hampton; Exeter & Hampton Street Railway - John Holman
- **Silhouettes** by Lillian Clark - Museum purchase
- **Slides of Hampton:** 1976 Bicentennial, postcard reproductions, area views, houses;First National "bill paid" machine, Winnacunnet pennant and pins, WHS gym shorts - John & Connie Holman
- **Souvenirs:** Hampton Rose Medallion and Town of Hampton medallion - Mrs. Frances Nownes; Bicentennial medallion, Odd Fellows Building Recovery fund raiser popcorn bag -Micki Wardell; barn raising commemorative t-shirt - Brad Jacobson; souvenir plates (2), bicentennial medallion, souvenir vial of Goody Cole "dirt" - Ken Munsey; matchbook cover Lamie's Tavern - Elizabeth Aykroyd
- **Tools:** radius plane, nail starter, draw knife, plane, 3 adzes, nail puller - Donald Howe Brown
- **Wedding dresses:** dark purple wedding dress c. 1880 - Betsey Davis; Mrs. Luigi (Celestina) Marel-li's dress c.1910 - Marcia Buber; wedding dress of Mrs. John (Connie) Holman- Connie Holman

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.

Annual Operating Fund Donations

The annual appeal for donations to the operations of the Society and Museum was very successful. The donations received will help to insure an active year of programs, preservation and improvement to the properties. We extend our thanks to the members who answered the call for donations.

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2008 Program Schedule

- **March 28** 7PM Pot Luck and Program "The Devil of Great Island" - First Congregational Church - bring place setting and a main dish or salad to share
- **April 27** 2PM Sunday Slide Show: HHS Glass plate negative collection; Betty Moore
- **May 18** 1PM New Member Welcome
- **May 18** 2PM Hampton "Then & Now" Trolley Tour (\$15 non-member, \$10 member, \$8 student)
- **June 1 noon** Invitational Donor's Celebration - Grand Opening of Barn
- **June 22** 2PM Community Grand Opening of Barn
- **June 22** 3PM Jeff Warner performing "Songs of Old New Hampshire"
- **August 10** 2PM Tourist Cabin Grand Opening Program "Hampton Hotels, Motels and Guest Houses"
- **August 30** 7th annual Pig Roast - Noon to 3PM
- **September 21** "Tool Time with Dave" 1-4 PM demonstration and hands on activities Families welcome
- **October 17** Annual meeting - details TBA
- **November 9** 2PM "What's at the Tuck" Overview of Collections Presenter - Bill Keating

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GATHERINGS FROM THE GREEN

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