



GATHERINGS FROM THE GREEN

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www.hamptonhistoricalsociety.org

Mark Your Calendar - Pig Roast!

How time passes. Can you believe it's time for the 7th Annual Pig Roast on Saturday, August 30th from Noon until 3 PM on the grounds of Tuck Museum. It has become one of the big end of the summer community events bringing all of us together for some food, fun, and fellowship as we all help raise money for the museum.

Besides great food of roasted pig, potato salad, pasta salad, homemade baked beans, apple sauce, tasty desserts and beverage, there will be a silent auction, raffles, door prizes and music. Our prices have not changed in 7 years. Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$10 for students (ages 9-16) and children 8 and under free with an adult.

Tickets are available at the following places: Tuck Museum (Park Ave); Parks & Recreation Office (Town Hall, Winnacunnet Road); Caffe Fresco, and O'Donalds Imports (Lafayette Road). There is a ticket order form included in this newsletter (page 5) if you would like to order by mail. Call Catherine Fletcher for extra tickets or any information (926-0124).

Pig Roast Volunteers Needed

- **General Help:** Can you spare 2 hours of your time to volunteer at the Pig Roast on Saturday, 30 August? We need volunteers to work a 2 hour shift. Betty Moore has a schedule with time and jobs needed to be done, so please give her a call 926-2543.
- **Baked Goods:** Really want to help, donate baked goods for the dessert table, call Betty at home 926-2543 or at the museum 929-0781.
- **Co-chair:** We need a co-chair for the Silent Auction that takes place at the Pig Roast. Kelley McLean will be heading this up again this year. She does a fabulous job taking

care of details of the auction and set up, etc. She is looking for someone who is willing to assist her in mailing out the donation request letters, and doing some of the pre-auction legwork. If you can spare a few hours this summer, please give Sammi (929-0881) or Kelley (926-3101) a call. It is fun and the silent auction really adds something to this event! Thank you!

Membership Challenge

As we discussed in the last newsletter, the Society accepted a membership challenge from a foundation based in Milford, NH. The reward for winning the challenge is a cash donation of \$25,000, so this has really got our attention. The first place winner will be determined by both the change in membership totals over the year and by the percentage change in membership totals. The challenge ends on November 1, 2008, so we have 5 months to go. So far we have gained 62 new members for a 13.4% increase, and we really need to continue the push for new members.

Former members who have not renewed can help as well by renewing now. The loss of you as a member will hurt our chances so we really need you to send in your dues payment. **If the mailing label on this newsletter has a double XX in the upper right hand corner then you have not renewed, and this will be your last newsletter.** Please help us out by renewing today. Send your payment to:

Hampton Historical Society
PO Box 1601
Hampton, NH 03843-1601

Dues schedule- Individuals- \$15; Family-\$25; Seniors-\$10; Senior Couple-\$15; Business- \$100

Membership forms are available at the Museum and online at www.hamptonhistoricalsociety.org Consider a gift of a membership to friends and family. Thanks for all the great work so far.

From the President

Life seems to be so busy these days. So in the midst of the school year ending, and all hustle and bustle of life, I am pausing to say, "Hello!" I hope you are all enjoying the nice weather and take a few moments to relax between the many projects that the season always seem to bring.

Speaking of projects, Tuck Museum is looking very nice these days! Our dedicated Executive Director, (aka Betty Moore) and her devoted spouse, (aka Ben Moore) have spent many hours making the buildings and grounds look very nice! Ken Lobdell volunteered his time to install the new storm doors, which will help save us some energy costs next winter. We also spruced up the military room with new windows, installed by Nathan Page, and new wallpaper, and paint. Many volunteers have been working to get the museum ready for the summer events and programs. Thanks everyone!

We had a new member day at the museum and a trolley tour of the town that was enjoyed by all in attendance. Our school programs are finishing up for this school year. Spring brings us the 3rd and 8th grade classes who always enjoy seeing the buildings and exhibits, along with learning about Hampton's past. Our volunteers have done a terrific job!

The community grand opening of the barn will take place on June 22, with music and fun for all. The Pig Roast fundraiser is rapidly approaching too! We can always use volunteers, so if you have the time we have the place!

A huge thank you to everyone who keeps HHS and the Tuck Museum running and moving forward. Your dedication is greatly appreciated!

Read on for more information about what has been happening and what is coming up. I hope to see you soon!
Sammi Moe

Director's Report

As Sammi's president report states, it has been a busy few months. We have been working feverishly on projects in the main museum and the barn getting ready for our summer season. A few weeks ago we offered a historic trolley tour of Hampton, which was a sell out and has a waiting list for the next time one is offered.

The two renovated rooms are beautiful! You will read more about that in the Building and Grounds report. We are fortunate that so many talented people volunteer their time doing things for the Society. It is very heartwarming and humbling.

Last fall exhibits were moved from the former "farm museum" to the Leavitt Barn and the universal comment is that none of us can figure out how all that "stuff" fit in that little space! Percy Annis has worked on installing exhibits, with Bill Keating as his assistant. Chet Riley, Bill Darrigan and others have been busy working on the barn lighting. It has been an exciting process watching everything come together.

The community grand opening of the barn is on June 22 from 2-4pm. It will be an afternoon of celebration with a slide show documenting the progress of the barn, music and refreshments. If you can't make it then, try to stop by and see all the changes some time soon - the buildings look great!

Next, we will be tackling the interior of the tourist cabin. Bill Keating is putting together a program relating to the development of tourism at Hampton and Hampton Beach. Our yard-sale experts have found some real finds for the interior of the cabin. It's a fun project because it covers a time period many of us relate to. Is my age showing?

Betty Moore

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.



The Toppan Family Papers

By Elizabeth Aykroyd

The Toppan family were the leading family in Hampton for over a hundred years, from the mid-eighteenth century to the mid-nineteenth. The Historical Society is fortunate to have received a significant gift from descendants of a large collection of papers mostly dealing with personal and public business conducted by Christopher Toppan (1735-1818) and his son Edmund (1777-1849). Some of the papers are still tied in the bundles into which they were originally placed and have not been perused since the eighteenth century.

Christopher Toppan was involved in town affairs from a young age and served as Selectman, member of the provincial assembly, churchman, and leading businessman. His son Edmund graduated from Harvard in 1796 and practiced law in Deerfield and Hampton, served in the state legislature, and was postmaster in Hampton for twelve years. All these activities are reflected in the records which have been given to the Society.

Christopher Toppan established himself as a merchant and can be seen in the records buying goods such as fish, or deer and lambskins to ship to Boston or Salem on one of the ships which he built in Hampton. Then, in turn, he imported goods such as textiles for sale here. His main business contacts were in Newburyport and Salisbury, but there are also accounts for outfitting or building ships for Portsmouth merchants, such as Jonathan Warner and Woodbury Langdon. Although Toppan never called himself a lawyer, he acted for a number of townspeople in legal matters. Some of Christopher's legal papers in the collection include probate records, lists of marriage licenses "sold by Christo. Toppan," school accounts, and papers concerning town expenditures.

A large section of the papers are related to church business. The church went through turbulent years in the last part of the eighteenth century and ended up in a split into two separate congregations in 1796. For the next twelve years the town and the Congregational Church were embroiled in constant disputes over the income produced by the parsonage lands, which the Congregationalists felt belonged in part to them, and the town church claimed entirely.

Christopher Toppan acted for the Congregationalists, even allowing them to build their new meeting house on his land. When the dispute was finally settled in 1808, and the parishes reunited, Toppan played a large part in its resolution.

As Christopher Toppan's health failed, his son Edmund took over much of the business which had been handled by Christopher. As a lawyer, rather than a merchant, Edmund served as a magistrate, and many of the papers concern cases in which he acted. These included paternity suits, suits for debt, and some for assault or threatening, such as when one man accused another of saying, "By God, I will cut your damned brains out." Besides legal papers, the collection includes records of the Hampton Post Office during Edmund's tenure as postmaster and records of the local militia, of which he was the clerk. He was one of the original investors in the Hampton Causeway Turnpike, and there is an extensive set of records concerning its incorporation and eventual dissolution. Edmund was also known as the historian of Hampton and wrote a short history of the town. The papers include a number of notes and copies of town records which must have been used for the preparation of his history.

Besides the papers outlined above, the collection includes a number of other fascinating items, including a report on the phrenology of Mrs. Edmund Toppan, a notebook in shorthand entitled "E. Toppan's Stenography," a list of prices for silver per ounce from 1700 to 1748, and the minutes of the Washington Sedate Society of 1810. Such documents are a rare survival in this world of throwaways.



Toppan House

Buildings and Grounds

We were busy in the late winter and spring with several projects. The team renovated the Military Room and Victorian Parlor. It was a pretty complete make-over starting with a new ceiling, new lighting and replacement of the wall where the old stove pipe had protruded. We had a long debate on what to do with the remaining walls. The house is mostly plaster and lath and we were very concerned about the condition of the plaster, which of course was covered in multiple layers of wallpaper. In the end we decided on new wallpaper, but the prep for the paper was extensive. We went down to the plaster (which was, with a few exceptions, in good shape) and patched and seal-coated the walls. The paper was hung by a professional based in Maine and it really turned out well. While we were tearing apart the rooms we elected to replace the old windows for appearances and for energy savings.

The work in the rooms was completed by Dave DeGagne, Chuck Weinhold, Ken Lobdell, Bill Keating, Sammi Moe, Ben Moore, Bill Darrigan and Bud Coutu. Special thanks go to Nathan Page and Percy Annis for installation of the windows (and for Percy's woodworking), to Jim and Dave Margarita for the finish carpentry, to Dann Shaw for the drywall work and to Betty Moore for the wall prep and finish painting. Doug and Elizabeth Aykroyd and Ben and Betty Moore receive thanks for getting the exhibits back in order after the turmoil.

The Barn received attention as well with the installation of lighting and outlets. Bill Darrigan, Chet Riley, Percy Annis and Ben Moore completed that phase of the Barn project in mid May.

Continuing on an energy theme, we ordered three new storm doors for the Museum and Ken Lobdell has been busy installing them, two down and one to go. They should improve on the 'tightness' of the building and additionally they greatly improve the appearance of the property.

Bob Wallace, Betty Moore, Carol Keating and Ben Moore have spent a little time in the grounds removing weeds and leaves, edging the flower beds and planting the flower boxes. There is always more to do (sounds like home) if you would like to help, call the Museum at 929-0781 to join the next work party.

Vintage Vacationing



August 10 will be the unveiling of the Tuck Museum tourist cabin. This little building has been a work in progress since the fall of 2005 when we moved one of the cabins from the Sea Castle on Ocean Boulevard to the museum grounds. It was built in the 1930s and was known as Young's Cabins. The exterior was completed in 2006, but last summer it took a back seat as we focused on raising and finishing the Leavitt Barn for June 2008.

Those of us working on the building have fallen in love with it – it has the original pine kitchen seating area, combination sink / stove / refrigerator from the 1950s, and postage stamp bathroom. To our delight we uncovered the original floor of speckled linoleum. It is a nostalgic look at past vacationing and it is being furnished as it may have looked in the 1950s.

Last fall Dave DeGagne built a small porch on the front as a viewing area so that it can be seen from the outside when the museum is not open. Bill Keating has been researching the development of the tourism industry at the beach and town, and will be presenting a program on the early hotels and guesthouses in Hampton. After the grand opening you can enjoy the program and refreshments in our cool main museum building. The activities start at 2PM. For more information contact Betty Moore 926-1543.

Leavitt Barn Grand Opening June 22

An afternoon of music and celebration is set for June 22 as we open the Leavitt Barn to the public. There will be a slide show of the barn from dismantling to adding the finishing touches, refreshments and entertainment. The barn is now exhibit space for many of the museum's agricultural and early industry artifacts. But the beautiful post and beam framing is the real jewel of the collection.

Talented musician, Jeff Warner, will be presenting a program, "Songs of Old New Hampshire" at 3 PM in the barn. Jeff specializes in 19th century music and performs in museums, schools and festivals and has toured nationally for the Smithsonian Institute. He plays a variety of instruments including banjo, guitar and concertina. The afternoon will be great for all ages.

We'd love to have you join us.

Board of Trustees

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Hampton Historical Society
PO Box 1601
Hampton, NH 03843-1601
603-929-0781

Pig Roast Ticket Order Form
 August 30, 2008

I would like to order tickets for the Hampton Historical Society Pig Roast

_____ Adult tickets at \$20 each _____
 _____ Advance Sale Member tickets at \$18 each _____
 (Must be ordered by August 1)
 _____ Student tickets (ages 9-16) at \$10 each _____
 _____ Table for eight at \$150 per table _____
 Children 8 and under free when accompanied by an adult
Total _____

Checks made out to Hampton Historical Society
Mailing address P.O. Box 1601 Hampton, NH 03843

Ticket options (select one)

_____ Mail tickets directly to:

Name: _____
 Address: _____

or

_____ Hold my tickets at the serving line. But notify me for confirmation
 Phone # or email address _____

UPCOMING EVENTS

BUSINESS MEMBERSHIP

- June 22** 2PM Community Grand Opening of Barn
3PM Jeff Warner performing "Songs of Old
New Hampshire"

- August 10** 2PM Tourist Cabin Grand Opening
Program "Hampton Hotels & Guest Houses"

- August 11** 7PM Hampton Community Band
concert

- August 30** Noon to 3PM - 7th annual Pig Roast

- September 21** 1-4PM "Tool Time with Dave"
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

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

- 234 Lafayette Road Realty LLC
- Dion Construction, Inc.
- Eccentric Hair
- Hampton Eyecare Associates
- Kimball Auto Body
- Kingfish Trolley Lines, LLC
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HAMPTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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