



GATHERINGS FROM THE GREEN

Published by the Hampton Historical Society

November, 2012

www.hamptonhistoricalsociety.org

Report from Incoming President Candice Stellmach



Before looking back at the successful year, I would like to express my appreciation to all in the Society who considered "Miss Piggy" and all her antics to be a worthy candidate for promotion. And as proven by our latest production, October's Tavern Walk, the townspeople also seemed to enjoy all the excesses of our creative team of colonial characters.

I first came to the museum about four years ago to do research for my writing, as many do, and I was enticed

by the volumes of various resources and the dedication of all the volunteers, especially Director Betty Moore.

Working with those on the Society's Barn Survey Team inspired me to pursue the restoration of the Deacon Tuck Gristmill with committee members - Dave DeGagne, Chet Riley, John and Marie Stewart, Bud Palmer, and Kevin and Kim Grondin. The 326-year-old mill may soon be listed as a NH State Historic Building, with selectmen's approval, and the mill is in competition for this year's LCHIP grant to add to the funds raised by the generous citizens of Hampton.

The Trustees completed a vigorous year of activities, especially in our goal to add to our collections, and to produce more historic events and publications. Rich Hureau has been key in accomplishing our plans to digitize as much of our records as possible. We photograph and scan items, not only to create backups of documents and photographs of irreplaceable items, but also to be able to create more "user-friendly" resources and find diverse ways to share all of these. Making history available in a modern format so future writers and researchers can utilize every aspect of them

in movies, books, and theatrical productions will enhance the importance of learning history for generations to come.

Just this past week our team of "carpenters" were putting together the Christmas Float for 2012. It will be a work of art, thanks to the genius and dedication of Dave DeGagne, John Stewart, Ken Lobdell, and Doug Aykroyd, who spent a very windy morning testing some new skills to create a very unique entry.

I invite everyone to visit both the Society and Tuck Museum and meet the wonderful group of volunteers, to aid us in creating many more projects and programs, and in continuing to expand the outreach of the Historical Society so many more in the community can share in the riches of history that we preserve for the town of Hampton.

Our First "Old Hampton Tavern Walk"

By Cheryl Lassiter

Last May, Betty Moore and I decided to brainstorm an event that would be the perfect launching pad for my new book, *A Meet and Suitable Person: Tavernkeeping in Old Hampton, New Hampshire, 1638-1783*. We had three basic criteria: it had to promote the mission of the Historical Society, it had to take place out in the community, and it had to be fun. When the words "pub crawl" popped up in our discussions, we thought we had a winner.

Betty quickly enlisted the help of three of Hampton's downtown restaurants, The 401 Tavern, Old Salt, and the Galley Hatch. Their immediate enthusiasm for the project was inspiring! As the project took shape, we also welcomed the Smuttynose Brewing Company of Portsmouth, Sea Hagg Rum Distillery of North Hampton, and Sap House Meadery of Center Ossipee to provide tastings of pumpkin beer, rum punch, and mead which would complement the colonial-styled foods prepared by the restaurants. Betty worked her organizational

magic, planned the details, and marshaled the volunteers, while I designed the advertising posters and created a (hopefully entertaining) card game called "Are You A Meet and Suitable Person?" that attendees would play for prizes as they visited the three Tavern Walk locations.

We had tremendous support from Historical Society board members and volunteers. Board member Karen Raynes, a professional chef, researched the sampling menus and was our restaurant and spirits purveyor liaison. Vice President (now President) and ace seamstress Candy Stellmach made dozens of colonial costumes, which can also be used for future Historical Society events. Ann Carnaby of Tracy Theatre Originals provided at a discount several beautiful costumes for our strolling Esquires, President Ben Moore and Board member Mark McFarlin. In addition to these fancy gentlemen, volunteers dressed as townsmen and talked about Hampton's history and colonial foodways, while others performed as ticket-takers and game Bailiffs. There was also a rowdy tavern mistress, a welcoming farmer, three black-robed, white-wigged game Magistrates, and one very pathetic-looking book seller.



The fun started a few weeks prior to the Tavern Walk when Candy Stellmach and museum volunteer Elly Becotte dressed as colonial tavernkeepers and appeared before a meeting of the Hampton selectmen to ask Magistrate Henry Roby (played by real life selectman Ben Moore) to grant them a 'tavern license' for the event, which he did.



The event took place on Saturday, October 13. With apple-crisp New England fall weather setting the stage for an afternoon of food, fun, and local history, downtown

Hampton took on a festive colonial spirit. Over 150 attendees, each taking the persona of an early Hampton citizen, visited the three Tavern Walk locations to hear a bit of history, sample colonial fare, and to learn how they had "sinned" and to plead their

case before a stern magistrate. Silas the Double Agent and Olive the Tavern Wench of Portsmouth Underbelly Tours were on hand to wickedly entertain in the Old Salt's Goody Cole Room.

As Betty said later, "The Tavern Walk was truly a reflection of Cheryl's book. Part history, part adventure, and altogether a delight!" She added, "We'd never done an event of this size out in the community before, and we weren't sure what to expect. We poured our hearts into making this a fun historical event for the town, and the response from the community exceeded all our expectations. We thank the restaurants for their hospitality, generosity, and enthusiasm. Even the owners donned costumes to promote the spirit of the event! Along with our amazing volunteers, they helped make the Old Hampton Tavern Walk a huge success."

While we didn't view the event as a fundraiser, we are happy to report that ticket sales allowed the Historical Society to cover its costs and put over \$600 into the bank. Many thanks to our awesome Old Hampton Tavern Walk cast of characters who helped make that possible: Bailiffs - Sammi Moe, Katrin Grant, Lois DesRochers. Townsmen - Michelle O'Brien, Elly Becotte, Patty O'Keefe, Betty Moore, Karen Raynes, Jean Shaw, Joshua Silveira, Dann Shaw, Rick Griffin. Magistrates - Jim Stellmach, Bud DesRochers, Ken Mooney. Esquires - Ben Moore, Mark McFarlin, Dan Lanio, John Tinios. Tavern Mistress of questionable repute - Candy Stellmach. Book seller - Cheryl Lassiter.

As for me, I was very pleased to have sold a few books at the event, and I hope everyone who bought a copy enjoys reading about Hampton's colonial tavernkeepers.

Board of Trustees

President Candy Stellmach
 Vice Pres Mark McFarlin
 Secretary Sammi Moe
 Treasurer Ben Moore

Trustees

Elizabeth Aykroyd
 Bob Dennett
 Rick Griffin
 Rich Hureau
 Ken Lobdell
 Dyana Martin
 Linda Metcalf
 Liz Premo
 Karen Raynes

Executive Director's Annual Report

The individual committee reports will update members on the major work of the Society. So this year I am going to mention other things of interest that may fall between the cracks.

- At the December tree lighting at Marelli Square, volunteers made specialty ginger cookies that we gave out as refreshments. The evening has become quite an annual event, with over 300 people attending.
- Karen Raynes designed, planted, and nurtured Mrs. Batchelder's Herb Garden. It was started with a grant from the Exeter Garden Club. Karen harvested the garden at our September walking tour; everyone got to leave with herbs.
- Before the holidays, Desi Lanio, owner of the 401 Tavern, invited us to have a book signing at the restaurant, and was it popular and profitable! Also on display at the 401 are over 100 photos of old Hampton.
- Cheryl Lassiter won an award from the Association of Historical Societies of New Hampshire for her exhibit and book on Mary Page Getchel, as well as an honorable mention from the New England Museum Association for the same publication.
- History writers Elly Becotte and Cheryl Lassiter are both into their next projects. Elly is researching Hampton Civil War soldiers (photos anyone?) and Cheryl completed a book on early tavernkeepers which was published this summer and is working on her next book, on Goody Cole. (All are sold at the museum...)
- Building and grounds signage has been improved due to the Casassa Family donation. Two new outdoor sign holders and three building signs are now installed. We are researching a portable speaker system for our walking tours with the rest of the donation.
- Rich Hureau and Candy Stellmach have developed a system for photographing our scrapbooks, photo albums, and newspapers. Recently they photographed 15 years of the *Hampton Beach News Guide* from the 1920s-1930s. It is a time consuming process but it will keep us from dealing with fragile originals.
- We have been helping Joshua Silveira with his historic video productions of the seacoast. Joshua finished one on salt marsh farming and is in the process of working on the history of the fishing, clamming, and lobstering industry of the area.
- We had the loan of Charles Henry Turner pyrographic artwork for an exhibition opening from dealer Douglas Schneibel in Burlington VT.
- This year we had three interns (Vanessa Lyons, Kali Zirkle, and Kerry Bracco) for short stints. It gave them a chance to see where their skills could fit in and it was great to have fresh perspective and enthusiasm.
- Candy Stellmach has dedicated her effort to preserve the Gristmill at the end of High Street. The Friends of the Gristmill were able to get a \$32,000 warrant article passed to help with the stabilization of the building. Dave DeGagne has been a key resource for the project. John Stewart another "Friend" provides seasonal light shows against the mill which delight passers-by.
- Ann Carnaby has helped with the changing display of our costume collection.
- Bill Keating has supervised six oral histories this year.
- Candy Stellmach has also been busy sewing costumes in preparation for the TavernWalk and the 375th celebration

I would like to thank and recognize our weekly volunteers that include: Rich Hureau, Elly Becotte, Diane Riley, Linda Metcalf, Candy Stellmach, Cheryl Lassiter, Carol Keating, Thelma Hutton, and Bob Wallace. They could spend their time so many other places but are so faithful about working at the museum. Many others show up when the call is sounded – Thank you all!

Special thanks go to the Hampton Parks and Recreation Department. The Tuck Museum sits nestled between two playgrounds and the town playing fields. We have a great working relationship with Director Dyana Martin (who is one of our trustees), and her staff Bob Fuller and John Yeaton, who maintain the local fields and buildings. These guys do an outstanding job of keeping the area looking terrific!

Betty Moore, Executive Director

Building & Grounds Report

The 2012 season continues to find many projects underway at Tuck Museum. Our Monday morning work team of Ben Moore, Doug Aykroyd, Bill Keating, Jason Moore, and Ken Lobdell continue to tackle each project as time allows. In addition, our many gardens and flower beds are maintained by Karen Raynes, Candice Stellmach, and Betty Moore. As always, anyone wishing to help is welcome.

Most projects have been weather dependent, but a few were completed for indoor needs. These include a thorough cleaning of the main building basement, installation of old Hampton signage from the workshop archives, and creating a permanent display for the horse drawn sleigh in the barn. Other projects range from maintenance level to major in scope, and cover exterior trim painting on the barn and cottage, repairing windows and siding, and painting bathrooms. Visitors may have also noticed new outside display boards showing the Tuck Museum grounds and building locations.

On the unforeseen major list appear two projects that were not uncovered until spring of 2012. The beach cottage roof started leaking and had to be replaced. Ceilings had water stains and were painted. Exterior siding and floor joists on the north side were found to be rotted and were replaced. Once final repairs and painting are completed, the cottage should be in good shape for many years.

Our 1854 school house was found to have severe water damage due to failed flashing on the chimney. Removal of interior plaster uncovered a large critter nest site and rotten beams surrounding the fireplace. Extensive review of repair options and building conditions by the HHS Board and members resulted in approval to remove the chimney. The original school house did not have a chimney, as it was added to the site for another building that was pre-existing - hence, no effect on the historic accuracy of the schoolhouse. Our challenge for this fall is rebuilding the wall and making it weather tight before the winter sets in. Next spring will allow interior finish work and a new roof.

One major item completed during 2011 worthy of mentioning again is the handicap ramp installed as a BSA Eagle Scout project by Ryan Lamers of Troop 177. Ryan has earned his Eagle rank during 2012. Tuck Museum has supported and benefited from scouting projects and we look forward to the next one.

Your continued membership and added donations make these types of repairs and maintenance possible. A sincere "Thank You" from the volunteers at HHS!!

Ken Lobdell

Business Members

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

234 Lafayette Road Realty LLC
Art Experience
Eccentric Hair
Galley Hatch Restaurant, Inc.
Hampton Police Association, Inc.
Kingfish Trolley Lines, LLC
Lamie's Inn & The Old Salt Restaurant
Bluejay Motel
Mackensen & Company Inc.
Neville & Associates Financial Services
Northeast Auctions
Preston Real Estate
Remick & Gendron Funeral Home-Crematory
Marilyn Rishkofski
NextEra - Seabrook Station
Seacoast Florist Inc.
The 401 Tavern, LLC
The Provident Bank
Tobey & Merrill Insurance
Tracy Theatre Originals
Law Offices of William Trafidlo
Unitil Corp.
Len & Carol Walker
Windjammer By The Sea

Audit Committee

Thanks go to Tom Bridge for his services as auditor for the financial statements of the Society. In an effort to share our financial results with the membership and public our IRS filing, Form 990, will be available on the web site, www.hamptonhistoricalsociety.org

Mission

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.

Adult Education Programs Report

The 2011 annual meeting was held at the Tuck Museum where 40 members and guests heard Gus Reusch bring the person of the famous Quaker poet John Greenleaf Whittier to life through readings and storytelling. Gus is the curator of the Whittier Birthplace in Amesbury MA, where he loves sharing his knowledge of Whittier with others. It was a memorable meeting.

In March the "world premier" of the documentary *Salt Marsh Farming on the New Hampshire Seacoast* was presented at the Lane Library with 80 people in attendance. Teacher and film maker, Joshua Silveira, gave the audience insight into the making of the documentary before the video was shown. Photos and objects from the Tuck Museum's collection were among those used, as well as interviews from Hampton residents. Our own members Chet Riley and Ben Moore helped to provide the narration, and Harold Fernald was one of the interviewees. The cover for the video case and poster were designed by Cheryl Lassiter.

The grand opening of the Turner Room was held in April, along with a program on Charles Henry Turner, with an appearance by Turner himself (portrayed by John Stewart). For this event, a pyrographic picture done by Turner was loaned to the museum by collector and dealer Douglas Schneibel of Burlington, VT.

In June we presented "J. Frank Walker's Hampton Beach." The program was inspired by a donation of glass plate negatives from the Kittery Maine Naval and Historical Museum. It sparked research on J. Frank Walker by one of our interns, and from that we assembled all the pictures Walker took at Hampton Beach that we had in the collection. The subject matter varied, showing events like Carnival Week, businesses, biplanes, and the 1915 fire at Hampton Beach.

Through the NH Humanities Council, we presented a program in July on New England connected farm buildings. Retired architectural historian and Professor Thomas Hubka made a trip to Hampton during his summer vacation in Maine to lecture from his book *Big House, Little House, Back House, Barn*, using examples from our local area in his talk. He was really impressed with the adaptive reuse of the Leavitt Barn.

Betty Moore

Communications Committee Report

- The "look" of the HHS website was completely redesigned.
- Other modifications were made to the website, most significantly the addition of the 18th Century Historical Garden set of pages. Also several new books were added to the Museum Store ("John Greenleaf Whittier in Hampton," and "A Meet and Suitable Person - Tavernkeeping in Old Hampton, New Hampshire, 1638-1783"), both with PayPal purchasing.
- The Tuck Museum brochure was redesigned and printed, with color pictures and graphics.
- Several Newsletters were published, now in color, and a typical number of email reminders were sent out about various HHS events and programs
- Fast Internet access was added to the museum.

Rich Hureau

Pig Roast Report

The 11th Annual Pig Roast was a banner success. From 12-2:30 on Labor Day weekend, we offered entertainment, family games, and even a face painter. Returning were "The Fiddling Thompsons" - a father-son duo, and "Miss Piggy," who added to this wonderful day in such perfect weather.

Ticket sales increased this year by 4.6%, bringing our receipts to \$11,609, and our profits to over \$10,000 for the first time. The 50/50 table and buy-it-now auction is always popular and set a new record for income this year. Thanks to everyone who donated items and enjoyed the festivities with us. A special thanks goes to the smiling crew of returning volunteers, who do their very best to make this so enjoyable for the nearly 300 dinner guests, and also to the generosity of so many, especially the restaurants and businesses, who help make this day so festive each year.

Dyana Martin



2011 - 2012 Volunteers

Over 100 Hours

| | | |
|---------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| Elly Becotte | Cheryl Lassiter | Betty Moore |
| Rich Hureau | Ken Lobdell | Karen Raynes |
| Bill Keating | Linda Metcalf | Candice Stellmach |
| Carol Keating | Ben Moore | |

25 - 100 Hours

| | | |
|-------------------|--------------|-------------|
| Elizabeth Aykroyd | Dyana Martin | Liz Premo |
| Doug Aykroyd | Sammi Moe | Diane Riley |
| Dave DeGagne | Jason Moore | Bob Wallace |
| Bob Dennett | Cliff Pratt | |
| Mark McFarlin | Kate Pratt | |

Other Volunteers

| | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Judy Ashenden | Maggie Ginieres | Ken Mooney |
| Fred Ashenden | Biff Grafton Eaton | Kate Portrie |
| Ina Bambury | Katrin Grant | Joan Rice |
| Tocky Bialobraski | Rick Griffin | Chet Riley |
| Kerry Bracco | Amy Hansen | Christine Reusch |
| Nancy Brady | Whit Hansen | Theresa Ryan |
| Ginny Bridge | Ann Hansen | Gloria Robinson |
| Sandy Buck | Dick Hansen | Ken Sheffert |
| Sharon Buck | Thelma Hutton | Dann Shaw |
| Ann Carnaby | Bev Hollingworth | Jean Shaw |
| Janet Caylor | Vanessa Lyons | Jim Stellmach |
| Janice Deibert | Deb Knowlton | Nancy Stiles |
| John Deibert | Dennis Kepner | Sandy Taube |
| Margaret Dennett | Susan Kepner | Priscilla Triggs- |
| Ryan Dennett | Guy Larivee | Thoen |
| Bud DesRochers | Sue Launi | Skip Webb |
| Lois DesRochers | Larry Marsolais | Liz Webster |
| Dawn Emerick | Marie Matthews | Chuck Weinhold |
| Tracy Emerick | Ada Merrill | Karen Weinhold |
| Bob Fuller | Russ Merrill | Martha Williams |
| Bill Gilligan | Jim Metcalf | Kali Zirkle |

Statement of Activities

Fiscal Year Ended October 31, 2012

Unaudited

Operating Account

| | |
|--------------------------------|---------------|
| Revenues, Gains, Other Support | |
| Dues | \$4,645 |
| Donations - unrestricted | 3,526 |
| Museum Gift Shop Sales | 5,790 |
| Fundraising | 19,960 |
| Interest and Investment | 1,489 |
| Endowment Funds | 1,849 |
| Program & Other | <u>713</u> |
| Total Revenues and Support | <u>37,972</u> |

Expenses and Loses

| | |
|----------------------------|---------------|
| Tuck Museum Program | 2,111 |
| Buildings and Grounds | 11,684 |
| Public Programs | 985 |
| Publicity and Website | 296 |
| Membership and Newsletters | 319 |
| Fundraising expenses | 4,315 |
| Gift shop purchases | 3,101 |
| Management and General | 640 |
| Technology | <u>498</u> |
| Total Expenses | <u>23,949</u> |

Change in Unrestricted Net Assets 14,023

| | |
|-------------------------------|--------|
| Restricted donations received | 4,055 |
| Restricted donations expended | -5,079 |

Net change in liquid assets 12,999

Liquid Assets, Beginning of Year 80,470

Liquid Assets, End of Year \$93,469

Calendar of Events:

- **November 30** - Tree Lighting, Marelli Square
- **December 1** - Event - Float in Hampton Christmas Parade
- **December 2** - Event - Holiday Open House at the Tuck Museum; Community welcome ; 2-4 PM; free

Report from the President

We enjoyed another year of progress for our Historical Society as evidenced by the reports of the committees. We were saddened by the loss of Catherine Fletcher but in her honor we established yet another financial record for the Pig Roast which she had nurtured during her time on the board.

Our goals are multi-faceted. We have a large collection that we work on to insure its preservation, we have multiple buildings, some of which are collection items in their own right, that we maintain and improve and we offer programs to both children and adults through the year. This work is made possible by an outstanding team of volunteers.

We have, over the course of nearly twenty years, debated the need for addition space to better address these goals and to prepare the Museum for the future. In 2012 we established a Building Committee to begin the detailed work of planning for that expansion.

It is not going to be easy. While we have built up a small nest egg that can be used for the addition, I suspect that the costs of the space will be much more than our available balance. Whether we can build the space will ultimately depend on our members and their donations. In 2013 we will announce the plans and costs and hope that you will be willing to assist in making the plan a reality. You can donate to the Building Fund in our annual appeal.

After the election of Trustees at the October 5 annual members meeting the new board meets and elects the officers for the next year. I am delighted to report that Candy Stellmach agreed to accept the position of president at that meeting and was duly elected. Candy will bring new energy and perspective to the president's job and I look forward to continuing to work with her. Bob Dennett who has served as treasurer for 23 years retired from that position and will continue as a trustee. I was elected to serve as the treasurer and will work to fill Bob's shoes in that role.

I have enjoyed greatly my time on the Board over the last twelve years and my time as President and look eagerly to the future of the Society and Museum.

Ben Moore
President

Education Committee Report

The Education Committee is a sub-committee of the Programs Committee, coordinating the schools' programming, and all that might entail. We offer educational programs to our local public schools, private schools, home schoolers, and any others by request. Our standard annual programs include the first grade classes from Centre School and Sacred Heart enjoying the story of "The Ox Cart Man," which incorporates the book and a demonstration of tools in the barn; our third grade program for Marston School, with a half day program of stations around the entire museum and grounds, Founders Park, and a picnic lunch on our Memorial Green; and our recent addition of a program for North Hampton fourth graders, in cooperation with the North Hampton Historical Society.

We have great volunteers for these programs, and can always use more. We encourage anyone interested in learning more about what we do, and anyone interested in helping with these programs to join us. You need not be a subject expert to participate. I know I learn new things often, and enjoy seeing the kids and the adults who come with them light up with the excitement of learning about our town's history.

Call the Tuck Museum, Sammi Moe, or Betty Moore for more information about these or other programs. Thank you!

Sammi Moe, HHS Education Committee



Dave DeGagne works on the HHS Christmas parade float. For more pictures, see the next page.



Betty Moore and Cheryl Lassiter work on painting the float



Ken Lobdell and Dave DeGagne do woodworking on the float



Ken Lobdell, Bill Keating, and Dave DeGagne admiring their work