



GATHERINGS FROM THE GREEN

PUBLISHED BY THE HAMPTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

40 Park Avenue

Hampton, New Hampshire, 03842

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www.hamptonhistoricalsociety.org

Hours: Wed, Fri, Sun 1-4pm

MAY 2026

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

As we celebrate America 250 this year, it makes us think: how can we continue to preserve American History? Here's the big question: How important is it to us to teach our children and grandchildren not only our family histories, but events in the world around us? So many times, we have visitors who enter our doors looking for a connection through their family genealogy. As they look through the many notebooks we have on family names and original settlers here in Hampton, many say the same thing: "I wish I had known this earlier." For whatever reasons you look at history, we hope we can help in giving you that information. I have learned so much in delving into the American Revolution this year, especially about how Hampton's people reacted to the fight for independence. We will be sharing some stories in our newsletters this year, but please come take a tour of our museum. Immerse yourself in the history of our town and help us support the ongoing education and preservation that our work here at Tuck Museum entails. You will be glad you did!

Historically yours,
Lori Cotter, President HHS

EVENTS

*Board Meetings every first Tuesday of the month.

***Oct. 11** Annual Meeting, time to be announced, featuring Mr. Laurence Foley, local metal detector, sharing his finds from the Seacoast area dating to the 18th/19th century, with talks on what history the ground reveals!

***July 16** movie night, "1776"
Come celebrate with us on the night Hampton was read the Declaration!

***Dec 4 6-7:30 pm** Hampton Town Tree Lighting on Meeting House Green.

AMERICA 250 UPCOMING PROGRAMS



Celebrate the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence with us!

***June 4** Trolley Tour: Our favorite trip around Hampton with historical venues and Revolutionary info; 3 & 4 pm rides, RSVP by June 1 info@hamptonhistoricalsociety.org
\$20 members, \$25 non-members

***July 18 & 19, 1-3 pm** CRC Open House
RSVP by July 1 email above (FREE ADMISSION)

***Aug 22** Textiles and Treasures, **10 am – 4 pm**
Fundraiser on the MHG and Leavitt Barn
A Treasure Trove of Antique Dealers on our grounds, with demonstrations of Textile workers in our Barn (FREE ADMISSION)

***Oct 24 1 pm** Ring Swamp Cemetery tour of Hampton's Revolutionary Soldiers
\$10 non-members, Free to members



NOVEMBER, 2025

This past November was our first once a year plea for membership renewals and new members. We were somewhat successful, but there still remains a lot of members on our list who have not renewed. Unfortunately, due to rising costs, we may have to take some people off our mailing list, and this may be the last newsletter you may receive. We thank all of those who have generously continued with their membership and also included a nice donation. We cannot do this without you. HHS strives to continue our mission of preservation and education, and every little bit helps.

THANK YOU TO OUR 2026 PROGRAM

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 Hampton Area Chamber of Commerce

2026 BUSINESS MEMBERS

Galley Hatch
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 Arakelian Plumbing & Heating (APH)
 Tri-Rent-All
 John Cass, author/speaker
 Tobey & Merrill Insurance
 Victoria's Kitchen
 Casassa Law Offices
 Tom Cheney, Realtor
 Representative Nick Bridle

Bronze Level Donations:

Steve Brigandi & Alan Hartnett
 Bob Preston
 H A Casassa
 Sarah Hunter
 Carol & Bill Keating
 Patti & Glenn McKenzie
 Elizabeth Fields

Silver Level Donations:

Carol Palmer
 Paul & Denise Powell

Donations to the HHS Centennial Fund (NH Charitable Foundation):

Kristie Conrad, *(In memory of Robert Cushing Sr. & Robert Cushing Jr.)*
 Leland Brennan & Sharon Rafferty, *(In Memory of James Stellmach)*
 Lynn Larsen

Special Membership Donations (\$50+)

Doug & Elizabeth Akroyd, Carol Angelari, Ed Baechtold & Pat Swank, Lisa & Bob Barreto, The Bushway Family, Mike & Kathy Compos, Joan V Correll, The Cotter Family, The Cullen Family, Richard S Dennison, Stephen & Keaton Ells, Suzanne Falzone, Carolyn Fluke, Lisa & Gary Grashow, Amy Hansen Family, Susan Hafey, Harris Real Estate, Joanne Hobin, Rich Hureau, Jenny Iverson, Karin & Brad Jacobsen, Mary Alyce Knightly, Ken & Kathe Lobdell, John & Ruth Mason, Kathryn McLaughlin, Dean Merrill, Judith Mills, Chuck & Pat Navin, Gary & Jane Potvin, Karen Raynes, Tom & Linda Rickenbach, Diane & Chet Riley, Fred Rice, Nancy & Roger Sylvester, Don & Pat Trefethen, Paula Wanzer, Carol & Len Walker.

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK! HAMPTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

DONATING TO THE HHS CENTENNIAL FUND:

1. Donate online at give.nhcf.org/HHSCentennialFund
2. Check made payable to NH Charitable Foundation with HHS Centennial Fund in memo
3. mail to NH Charitable Foundation, 37 Pleasant ST, Concord, NH 03301-4006



GIFTS TO THE COLLECTION 2025

Tax receipts-Blake family; song book Chamber of Commerce – Rob Rainville
Photograph – Ansell and Rita Palmer in homemade car; English grammar textbook; Nudd Homestead sign 1938 – David Nudd
Genealogy records of the Philbrick Family – Pat Trefethen
Envelopes from “Old Home Day 1988”- Dean Merrill
Mortgage Uri Lamprey, Dr. Merrill patient account, IOU John Ordway, estate settlement of Geoge Lang – Exeter Historical Society
Photograph – Eddie Cox’s Seashore Guest House; yearbooks- Buccaneer 1956, Sachem 1967, 1972, 1974; program reunion '20 (class of 1953); negatives James House (Towle Farm Rd.); books - Portsmouth: An Old Town by the Sea, Building Portsmouth, Legendary Locals of Portsmouth – Lori Cotter
Town of Hampton Annual report 2004-25; SAU 90 Annual report 2024-25; 2024-2025 Winnacunnet Cooperative School District Annual Report; calendar Peg Duffin art; ephemera Lafayette’s Visit to Hampton- Collection Committee
Photographs – Smith Colony (North Beach); Townsendites Convention pin – Steve Brigandi
Photographs – Eagle Scout project at Founder’s Park – Hampton Parks and Rec.
Watercolor “Hay Staddles” by Ruth Stimson; time capsule research 162 Winnacunnet Rd; binder HHS 100th Anniversary 1925-2025 – Karen Raynes
Salesman’s trunk – Tom Walker
Panoramic photo 1919 Welcome Home, basketball ephemera 1971, 1976 – Carleen Keene
Flash Drive –home movie of Sugar and Spice Bakery ca. 1950s – Jennifer Lavigne
Photographs – Samuel James House, Benjamin James House; research Samuel James House – Jack DeMeritt
Supplement to Hampton Union “100 Years”; laminated news clippings – Catherine Clark Chase
Postcards – Hampton Beach (6) – Alvin Schaut
Postcard collection - Hampton related; book Hampton & Hampton Beach Postcard Series; pillowcase Elmdale, photographs Ben Hellberg, Elmdale Hotel and Ben’s Beach Shop, bedspreads & blankets from Elmdale; key tags Elmdale given in memory of Ben Hellberg – Jeanne Hellberg
Brochure – 23rd Annual Testimonial & Awards Night; Bruce Aquizap photos – Aquizap family
Book – Oscar the Herring Gull; toys - Singer Sew Handy sewing machine, Coca Cola dispenser, stagecoach set, cowboys and Indians; cowboy shirt, scarves, and chaps, bag of marbles; poster Speakeasy in the Barn; 10 research books New England related – Collection Committee
Model of hand pumper “Winnacunnet” – Gene Roaf & Sany Favara
Poster - Miss America at Dance Carnival – Tom Hallworth
Postcards in memory of Marguerite Kelly – John Kelly
Hampton High School basketball programs, sports letters (for sweaters), 1954 graduation exercises, diploma – Susannah Clarke
Research (news article) John Cliffords 1614-1694 – Cathy Hawkins
Secretary’s Record Book 1967-1971 – Sue Brooks HA & WHS Alumni Assoc.
Knowles Homestead sign, account book of Samuel A. Towle – Lloyd Graves
21 historical documents (warrants, indentures, attachments, depositions, agreements) – Michael Toppan
Script – Minstrel Show Marston School – Steve Ells
Demo record of Bill Elliot – David Doss
Books – Arti-Sands at Hampton Beach, Salt Marsh Destiny; calendar Arti-Sands – Carolyn Fluke
Girls Uniforms – volleyball, track, soccer – HAJH Athletic Dept.
Yearbook – Sachem 1965 – Dan Coughlin

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS!



Looking for a way to keep yourself busy? Come join us at the Tuck Museum. Currently we are looking for volunteer tour guides, educational field trip guides, and grounds work people. We also love to have student interns!

Send us an email if you are interested:
info@hamptonhistoricalsociety.org

HAMPTON'S NAUTICAL HISTORY

The town of Hampton has a fascinating chapter of nautical history during the Revolutionary War. Hampton's coastal citizens were worried about exposure to British naval attacks. The British redcoats could land on the sandy Hampton shore by boat, or send a large naval force into Portsmouth harbor. In early 1775, the British had launched multiple large cutter ships from Boston. The cutter ships, 47 feet long and weighing 78 tons, increased Hampton's fears of a possible coastal invasion. Captain Henry Elkins of the Hampton militia was ordered to launch 2 whaleboats and to sound an alarm if a British military ship was sighted. The approximate 19 foot long whaleboats were powered by a small sail and made from white pine trees. Further coastal defenses were added to thwart the British enemy in 1775. Four men were placed on guard duty to patrol the beach. Lieutenant James Philbrick listed 153 men who participated in guarding our vulnerable coastline. The surnames of the shore patrolmen included several Blakes, Dearborns, Drakes, Leavitts, Moultons, and Nudds. A guardhouse was erected on the northern side of Great Boar's Head.

The vantage point from this high promontory of land provided an excellent vista to watch for any British naval maneuvers. If any British warships were sighted, the Hampton sentries were to send an alarm to General George Washington. After the British left Boston in March 1776, there were ongoing concerns of a coastal invasion. The decision was made to create 3 separate companies of 80 men to guard our seacoast. Although there are no records indicating that the British ever attacked our beloved Hampton shoreline, the ongoing vigilance of the Hampton colonists must be honored and appreciated.

Bruce Fuller



"VOICES OF LIBERTY"

On Thursday, April 16th, we held our annual poetry event entitled Voices of Liberty as we celebrate Poetry month across America. In keeping with the theme of America 250, it was wonderful to hear poems inspired by the people and places of Hampton's Revolutionary spirit. Mr. Roger Lathbury, member, read and explained Robert Frost's poem "The Gift Outright," member and poet Lisa Barreto read her own poem entitled "Voices of Liberty," followed by our 7th and 8th graders with poetry they researched and created for this event. Thank you to the teachers, students, parents, members and all for attending this terrific evening!



CHARITABLE GAMING DATES

Stop in at the Beach Club Casino at Hampton Beach on **July 25-29, 2026** for a little entertainment and help us raise funds for our Historical Society. Many Thanks to the Beach Club Casino



NH GIVES FUNDRAISER

Breaking News! We are now an approved non-profit for the NH Gives! Our Board has decided to dedicate this day to raising funds for preserving and protecting the 1923 Hampton Sanford Fire Truck. June 9-10, 2026, please join us in donating to our community cause! See nh.gives.org



MISSION STATEMENT

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.



Photo by Rich Hureau

TEXTILES AND TREASURES

Join us for fun on the Green! This event will take place on Saturday, **August 22, 2026, from 10 am - 4 pm**. We will showcase textile demonstrations in the Barn: weaving, spinning, and rug braiding, as well as highlight some of the finest antique dealers in the Seacoast area with items for sale. Stop in and let some gifts from the past catch your eye for the perfect spot in your home. Free admission, donations greatly appreciated.

If you are an antique dealer, or have an antique collection to share or sell, please contact us to buy a table for this event. \$40 per 10 x 10 space, (must bring own tables, chairs and tent.) All proceeds go to funding the maintenance of our Tuck Museum and operating costs.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR MEMBERSHIP AND DONATIONS



venmo



Hampton Historical Society's own documentary videographer Mike Garland passed on January 26, 2026 at 76 years old from heart surgery complications. Mike had created for the Historical Society three documentary videos; Hampton Voices from WW1, The Saga of the Submarine Squalus, and History of the Hampton Historical Society – A Documentary, to celebrate the HHS 100th Anniversary. He was very proud of his documentary work as all of us were pleased and proud of his participation. All videos may be viewed at www.hamptonhistoricalsociety.org

I first met Mike Garland at Marelli's Market. He would come in and talk, share and contribute to the group of regulars who gathered at the round table in the store. He was a person who easily spoke of a multitude of subjects, including some jokes that he and Nathan Page would entertain us with. When I found out that he was a videographer I asked if he would be interested in collaborating with the Historical Society. He was ready, willing and able to take on the tasks at hand, researching, writing and putting together documentaries for the Tuck Museum and community. His documentaries are part of his legacy through which others may know him. Listen to his voice and learn from the stories he tells. Mike was a true friend. I was so lucky to have had the gift of knowing and working with him.

Karen Raynes, March 2026

Our member and volunteer Lisa Barreto has put together a wonderful display of artistic history.

Named "The Art of Place: Preserving Hampton's Creative Legacy", Lisa has provided us with a rich walk through time.

What we now call art as something to admire; art began in Winnacunnet and later Hampton as a necessity. Creativity was not separate from daily life. It was part of survival. Every object required skill and knowledge. This art of survival was created by many who have gone unrecognized. With material culture, objects left behind tell stories. A spinning wheel tells of labor. A gravestone tells of belief. A book tells us of memory. Join us at the Hampton Historical Society to view these artistic objects through time. From Indigenous stewardship to colonial industry and modern art, Hampton's identity has always been shaped by the act of making.

The Art of Place honors Hampton's legacy. It invites visitors to see Hampton not only as a scenic destination, but as a living workshop—where making has always been a defining act. By studying and preserving these objects, the Hampton Historical Society ensures that the story of Hampton's makers continues to inspire future generations.



SAVE OUR SANFORD

Our mission has started! The Hampton Historical Society has teamed up with the Professional Firefighters & Fire Officers of Hampton L-2664 to save Hampton's first motorized fire pumper—our town's 1923 REO Sanford. We look forward to this being a community effort to preserve and protect our history. The monies raised will help fund an addition on to the Seacoast Fire Museum, currently housed on the Historical Society grounds, 40 Park Avenue, Hampton, NH. Stop by for a visit at Tuck Museum... we will show you the Fire Museum and all we have protected in the past, and the plans for the future of the Sanford Truck. With your help, we can get there!

We Thank Our Recent Donors (as of this printing):

Ben & Betty Moore, Lyn Larsen, Elly Becotte, John & Anne Tirrell, Charles Baebyn, Diane Shaw, Stephen Post, Chuck & Pat Navin, Amy Hansen, Lori Cotter, Joann's Uniforms, Susan & Rod Watterson, Linda Quinn, Cheryl Lassiter, Chet & Diane Riley, Jeffrey Grip, Hampton Firefighters Charitable Organization, and the Purcell Family.

Members of our Sanford Committee attended the Business After Hours for the Hampton Chamber of Commerce and were able to introduce our Sanford Truck project. Jason Newman, Betty Moore and Pat Bushway are shown discussing their strategy!

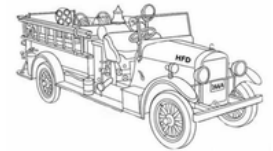


BUY A BRICK!

Leave a lasting memento with your name engraved in a brick that will show you care.



Buy a T-Shirt or Sweatshirt! Information can be found on our website at www.hamptonhistoricalsociety.org



BUILDING AND GROUNDS UPDATE

Lots of work has been done thanks to all of our members. We have had new electrical put into the Tuck Hall, and CRC track lighting repaired. New projects include paving a new parking space for handicapped access to the Museum. We have a transom window on the barn that will need repair, along with regular maintenance of new paint, heat and A/C equipment. A big expenditure will be updating the combo A/C and heating units at the Collection Research Center, as they are reaching their usable life. Included in our update is our major project of adding on to our Seacoast Fire Museum to house the 1923 Sanford pumper truck. Groundbreaking will happen the beginning of June, and we hope to get enough donations to the Save Our Sanford initiative to complete this addition within one year or sooner!

Gary Grashow





12 PEOPLE WHO HELPED SHAPE THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

The best way to understand a time in history is to meet some of the people who actually participated in an event. The American Revolution is full of interesting people who persevered with sheer dedication to an ideal-

Liberty! At the entrance to the Tuck Museum is a banner that will introduce you to twelve men and women from the Revolution, husbands and wives.



There is: George Washington and Martha, John Adams and Abigail, Benjamin Franklin and Deborah, Alexander Hamilton and Elizabeth, Benedict Arnold and Margaret, Marguis de Lafayette and Adrienne.

All are real people who together made the America that we celebrate the 250th anniversary of in this year 2026. So come walk into history and get to know more about the colony that became the United States of America. Perhaps this view will help you to learn more about each of these people of the revolution. They are all fascinating portraits from history.

Exhibit curated by Karen Raynes

TROLLEY THROUGH HAMPTON HISTORY

We have a **3:30 pm** and a **4:30 pm** ride scheduled, leaving **Thursday June 4th** from 40 Park Ave (in front of the museum.) Tickets are \$20 for members and \$25 for non-members. RSVP at info@hamptonhistoricalsociety.org. Seats are limited! Venmo, Paypal, checks are welcome by June 1st.

See and hear about:

- *The James House and early Revolutionary History
- *The General Jonathan Moulton House
- *Our marshes and Hampton River
- *Hampton's North Beach and history of our Life Saving Station
- *Our two oldest cemeteries, and much more!



We would also like to thank Seacoast Trolley for supporting this event.

THANK YOU TO OUR PROGRAM SPONSORS:



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