

November Membership Drive

We are resorting to a once a year membership drive, to make it easier to follow on our records. Everyone will be due in November!

Please and thank you for your renewal, forward to your friends, or buy a gift of membership for those dear to you! We also acknowledge In Memoriam and legacy donations. Every little bit helps to keep our Historical Society running smoothly and pay those extra bills to serve our community and protect our past!

Any questions, do not hesitate to contact us at:
info@hamptonhistoricalsociety.org.

Drop by the Tuck Museum if you can, open Wed., Fridays and Sundays 1-4 until Dec. 7. Closed for winter repairs until April 1st.

To all, enjoy the holiday season!



GATHERINGS FROM THE GREEN

Published by the Hampton Historical Society

November, 2025

www.hamptonhistoricalsociety.org
603-929-0781

President's Corner

Dear members:

What a privilege and honor to have celebrated the 100th year of Hampton Historical Society with many of you. As we look forward to the future of HHS, we see many challenges ahead of us. We will keep strong in protecting and preserving Hampton's past, and try to maintain a higher level of education each time we think about programs and social outings for our membership. Our volunteers are still quite active, maintaining a level of excellence above and beyond. It's a fun group, and if you are interested, come join us. We promise to enlighten you with our history and comradery!

America 250 is on our minds for 2026. We hope to engage you in some interesting Hampton History in the year 1776. We thank you as always for your support.

Lori Cotter, President HHS

Speakeasy in the Barn



A fabulous late afternoon social brought us back to the days of the 1920s Prohibition. Our guests needed a password to get in, as encouraged by our doorkeepers Amy Hansen and Lisa Barreto. Appetizers and Libations provided by Mauve's Mobile Cocktail Hour, Victoria's Kitchen and Horizon Bites Catering. We enjoyed chatting around our decorated poker tables in the barn, showing off our fancy gangsta apparel, our beads and of course our flasks! We think it was a great hit...maybe again some year?

Save Our Sanford (S.O.S.)!

The combined team of Hampton Historical Society members and members of the Professional Firefighters of Hampton, Local 2664 are continuing their work in support of Project Save Our Sanford (S.O.S.). This intends to provide a permanent home for the Sanford pumper (pictured below), purchased by the town of Hampton in 1924. Additional details on the history of the firetruck were provided in the July newsletter.



Having determined that this very significant piece of Hampton history should remain in Hampton, and that the truck would be a wonderful addition to the Fire Museum on the grounds of Tuck Museum, the committee is working hard to make that happen. The new addition to the Fire Museum building, designed by Gary Grashow, will showcase the REO/Sanford Pumper and will fit nicely onto the back of the current Fire Museum across from the Recreation Center.

Creating this new home for the Sanford will require financial support, and to that end we're seeking donations from members of the community who are interested in being a part of this project to build a permanent location for the Sanford. Please see the insert (included) for more information on how you can help with this project to Save Our Sanford or contact us at saveoursanford@gmail.com.



Witches, the Bible, and Two Chronicles

It is always a plus to have unplanned publicity for the museum, so when Sean McDonald of WMUR New Hampshire Chronicle called, we were ready to welcome them to the museum to tell our history about Hampton witches. It's that time of the year when Ole Goody Cole gets dusted off and tells her story.

HHS President Lori Cotter told them that we had more to share about witches in Hampton than just famous witch Goody Cole with our recently installed shelf exhibit, "There Was More Than One Witch in Hampton."



Witchy things have been happening around the museum recently. When I was installing the new exhibit in Tuck Hall one late afternoon by myself, I heard a loud 'thunk' and got up to find that the Bible, one of the books that mentions witches, wizards and sorcerers, [Exodus 22:18 "Wizards thou shalt not suffer to live."] had fallen from the shelf. I quietly and reverently picked the Bible up and replaced it back on the shelf, where it remains today.

Lori and I also found the date and time for the interview fortuitous: month 10, day 10 at 10 a.m. The number 10 connects the physical world with the spiritual world – how appropriate to our interview.

On the day of the interview, Sean and cameraman arrived along with North Hampton artist Norma Torti, who painted *Wielding Hysteria*, the large centerpiece for the witch exhibit. All was going well except I had a coughing fit and then, as I was being interviewed, the museum phone began ringing. Those pesky witches again at work.



The NH Chronicle program's name is *Witches Everywhere*. You can view it on WMUR's website:

<https://www.wmur.com/article/chronicle-hampton-witch-new-hampshire/69193085>

We also had Jon Rineman of WCVB Chronicle 5 in Boston come for an interview with Lori Cotter. More encompassing than just witches, they showcased the entire HHS campus. The program's name is *Accused Witchcraft*.... You can view it on the WCVB's website:

<https://www.wcvb.com/article/accused-witchcraft-historical-visits-and-a-strong-sense-of-community-in-hampton-nh/69265626>

Come visit the Tuck Museum. Perhaps you too will find the spirits engaging and informative and just a bit mischievous. The shelf exhibit will remain up till we close in December.

Karen Raynes

Holiday Beer from Local Brewery Using HHS Hops

[Throwback Brewery](#) will be releasing numerous Holiday Beers on Saturday Nov.15, 2025 from 12 - 9 p.m. One of the beers is "Remnant Rustic Lager - Kellerbier with Local Hops and Malt."

The beer showcases 100% locally grown and malted New England grains – earthy spices, soft sweetness, and hints of molasses and maple. It is balanced by floral, citrusy hops, including fresh whole-cone Cascade hops from [Mrs. B's kitchen garden](#) at the Tuck Museum.

It will be available on draft and in cans to go. Join us thirsty historians around 4 p.m. at Throwback. Cheers!

Visitors Services and Museum Outreach

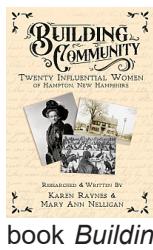
We just finished celebrating our 100th year! Our volunteers worked a record 7,267.5 hours and we had 1,322 visitors. Visitors came for the events we held in celebration of the 100 years (documentary on the history of the Hampton Historical Society, Trolley Tour of Hampton, 1880's style baseball game, Speakeasy, and more), research, and to tour the museum, fire house, 1797 barn, 1850's schoolhouse, and 1940's beach cottage. Thank you to all our volunteers. You did an amazing job!

We truly need more volunteers! Note: volunteers may do research, act as guides, garden, work on building upkeep, fundraising, events planning, grant proposals, and/or new projects, etc.

Mike Compos

Merrily we roll along...

This year's activities saw over 550 items entered into our database thanks to the work of Carol Keating, Bruce Fuller, Mary Ertl, Lynn Larsen, Ben Moore, Diane Riley and me. We are almost at the point of having most of the items catalogued and now will just need to keep up with new donations. This means that we can begin to do specialized projects that have intrigued us over the years but have never been top priority. Bruce and Lynn are new to the collection team; Carol has been doing this for almost 18 years – I'm sure she is delighted to see light at the end of the tunnel!



Karen Raynes continues to move in many directions, from the video produced for the HHS 100th anniversary with Mike Garland, Josh Silveira, and the help of many others, to writing a series of articles with Mary Ann Nelligan featuring Hampton houses for the local papers using research from our collection. The duo also published their book *Building Community – Twenty Influential Women of Hampton, NH* based on research from an exhibit and program they developed by the same name.

Speaking of exhibits

In the main exhibit area, Karen created an exhibit titled "Temperance," focusing on how the temperance movement affected Hampton, which was a tie-in to our 1920s theme for the year. She also instituted "shelf exhibits" – 2-month exhibits that rotated through our research library, utilizing artifacts and books pulled from our collection. They have included: General Moulton, Miss Hampton Beach, Baseball, curated by Lori Cotter, and The Other Witches of Hampton.

Something old, something new

All donations relating to Hampton are appreciated and here are a few of the 2025 donations highlighting what diversity we have:

- Photos, bedding, keys and stories of the Elmdale Hotel & Ben's Beach Store
- Casino Theatre broadside ca. 1920s
- Research – John Clifford 1614-1649
- Photographs of Smith Colony – North Beach
- Salesman's samples trunk
- Video – A Day at Sugar & Spice Bakery ca. 1950s



- Poster - Dance Carnival with Miss America ca. 1930



- Model replica of the Hampton hand pumper "Winnacunnet" by Mike Ellery

The 2025 conservation project was the professional binding of town and school reports.

Creative displays, well cared for collections, laughter and friendship – what more could one ask for?

Betty Moore, Collection Manager

Welcome to Our New Board Members

We have three solid new Board members, as elected at our Annual Meeting on Oct. 12th. Please say congrats to Cameron Rees, Joanne Hobin, and Jack Hafey if you see them.

Cameron brings expertise in computer technology, social programming and events. As the Community Experience Librarian and much more, Cam says he is excited to bring his expertise and volunteerism to the Historical Society as part of him adapting to his new town.

Joanne Hobin spends most of her time in Florida but says she is happy to assist us in the spring and summer for any special events, programs, and learning more about HHS. She has a background in Business Management and has donated her time to several nonprofits, from Historic New England to the NHSPCA, as well as Toys for Tots in Florida.

Jack Hafey is the first ever Board Member elected who is still a student! Jack has been with us since the 7th grade, and is now a sophomore at WHS. He is definitely our “Jack of all trades!” Jack has taken the time to learn how to give tours, solve computer problems, research, run the trolley event as our conductor, and is a number one volunteer both at the museum and at our special events (see the photo below of Jack at the 2024 Tree Lighting on the Green event). He is his own business entrepreneur, but always carves out some time to help us “old folks” when he can. He is an invaluable volunteer and we are so appreciative of his work with us. Thank you to all!



Board of Trustees and Officers, 2025-26

Officers

President - Lori Cotter
Vice President - Ellen Ornaf
Co-Secretaries - Amy Hansen; Joanne Hobin
Treasurer - Ed Baechtold

Trustees

Pat Bushway
Mike Compos
Jenne Demac
Tracey Dewhurst
Gary Grashow
Jack Hafey
Betty Moore
Cameron Rees
Heidi Taracena

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES 12 months ended October 31, 2025

Operating Account

Revenues, Gains, Other Support	
Member Dues and Donations	8,150
Visitor and Operating Fund Donations	2,791
In Memory Donations	975
Collection Fund Donations	400
Fire Museum Fund Donations	10,020
Museum Gift Shop Sales	1,347
Grants	1,650
Charitable Gaming Proceeds	12,553
Tuck Museum Centennial Fundraising	9,650
Interest	1,383
Investments	24,003
Endowment Funds Income	5,513
Programs & Other	200
Total Revenues and Support	78,635
Expenses and Losses	
Tuck Museum	2,635
Buildings and Grounds	18,221
Collection Research Center (CRC)	5,915
Tuck Museum Centennial Programs	3,765
Legal Fees	1,852
Membership, Newsletters, Publicity	265
Charitable Gaming Expenses	60
Fire Museum Fund Expenditures	0
Gift Shop Inventory	391
General and Administrative	1,263
Technology, Website	2,233
Improvements	15,093
Total Expenses	51,693
Change in Unrestricted Net Assets	26,942
Liquid Assets, Beginning of Year	295,379
Liquid Assets, End of Year	322,321

Treasurer's Annual Report

The 2024-25 fiscal year was profitable, due to revenue from membership dues and donations, charitable gaming, Tuck Centennial fundraising, NH Charitable Trust Fund distributions, and other donations. The investment portfolio grew by 10.2%. The organization is in good financial shape. The continued generosity of HHS members is critical for the future.

Ed Baechtold

Audit Committee Annual Report

The Society thanks Joanne Castiglione for her services as auditor of the HHS FY 2023-24 financial statements. The audit was a success, and no significant issues were found. Joanne pointed out some ways where the bookkeeping could be made more efficient, and those recommendations have been implemented. In an effort to share financial results with the membership and public, the HHS IRS filing, Form 990, will be available on the web site soon after it is submitted in December.

Consider Donating to the HHS Centennial Fund

The HHS Centennial Fund in the NH Charitable Foundation provides an annual distribution of the Fund earnings to HHS each year. Next year's annual distribution is expected to be \$3,500 to \$4,500.

If you would like to help ensure that HHS remains viable financially in the future, consider contributing to the HHS Centennial Fund. Here's how:

1. Make your donation online at the following web address:
<https://give.nhcf.org/HHSCentennialFund>
2. Write a check and mail it directly to the NH Charitable Foundation. The check must be made payable to "New Hampshire Charitable Foundation" with the name "HHS Centennial Fund" in the memo field. Mail the check to: NH Charitable Foundation, 37 Pleasant Street, Concord, NH 03301-4005.

Important Note: Do not make the check payable to the Hampton Historical Society and mail it to HHS. HHS cannot accept your check and add it to the Fund, as the Society is prohibited from doing that. Only individuals may add to the Fund, and they must contribute directly to the NH Charitable Foundation.

The Hampton Historical Society is enormously grateful to its members for their ongoing generosity, and to Betty and Ben Moore for endowing the HHS Centennial Fund.

Thank You to Our 2025-2026 Business Members!

Bliss 360 Salon, Spa & Fitness
Three Bearings Fiduciary Advisors
Newburyport Bank
Las Olas LLC
Hampton Rotary Club
Ring's End/Johnson's Paint
Service Credit Union
Casassa Law Office
Tobey & Merrill Insurance
Jenna G Fitness
Victoria Inn
Tri-Rent-All
Beach Club Casino
John Cass
Quadripoint Investments
Arakelian Plumbing & Heating

Thank You to Our New Members!

We appreciate your membership and so glad you could join us...
Jeanne Helberg
Joseph Kilduff
Catherine Hawkins
Richard Carey
Jeff Grip
Judith Hayes
Charlotte Phelps
Jeff Rocen
Victoria LaBonte
Catherine Wojtkun

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.

Greetings from the Program Committee!

Like so many of the HHS members and volunteers, the Programs Committee focused on the wonderful events in celebration of the 100th anniversary of the museum. Members of the Programs Committee joined the quilt team and made a quilt square of their choosing. Other members helped with the various events when and where they were needed. Now, after our year in support, the committee has reconvened and we're excited to present our tentative schedule of events for 2026!

As 2026 will be the celebration of the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, we're kicking off the program year in March with the "Women of 76" by actress Rita Parisi of Amesbury, MA. Ms Parisi will introduce us to some of the women, loyalist and patriot, American born and foreign, who witnessed and, in some cases, changed the course of the American Revolution. The event will recognize both Women's History Month and the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence and will be held on March 26 **24** at 6 p.m. at the Lane Memorial Library.

April is National Poetry Month, and we'll celebrate with our annual Poetry Event featuring Hampton Academy students presenting their own original work that will also focus on the 250th anniversary. The students will select, research, and create a poem about a topic from Hampton history in the time of the Declaration of Independence. The students will present their work at 6:30 p.m. on April 16th in the multi-purpose room of the Recreation Center across from the museum.

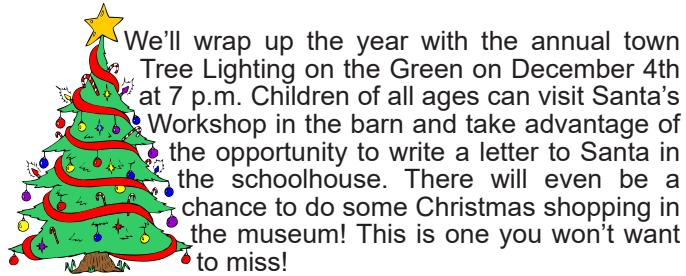


And, since the Trolley Tour for our 100th anniversary was so popular (photo on left), we've decided to do it again next year! Plan to join us on June 4th for this narrated tour of historical sites in Hampton and learn more about our community. There will be two tours, one at 3 p.m. and one at 4 p.m. to accommodate all who want another opportunity to see and learn more about Hampton.

As a number of folks have expressed an interest in seeing the behind-the-scenes work that goes on at the museum's Collection and Research Center (CRC) located on Lafayette Road, we'll be having an Open House there on July 18th and 19th from 1 – 3 p.m. This event is free, but we will ask that you RSVP so that we can ensure everyone has a good opportunity to see the historical treasures that are located there.

On August 22nd, we'll have a full day of interesting things to do and see on the museum grounds that we're calling "Textiles and Treasures." In the barn we'll have a textiles exhibit that will include a quilt display and a spinning and weaving demonstration. After enjoying that, visitors will have the opportunity to explore and possibly buy antiques and collectibles that will be displayed on the Meeting House Green. Stayed tuned for more information on this fun and interesting day!

As we continue to commemorate the signing of the Declaration of Independence, there will be a tour of Ring Swamp Cemetery on October 24th at 1 p.m. This tour will focus on veterans of the Revolutionary War and will also include some very interesting stories about some of those that are at rest there.



We're excited about our events for the upcoming year, please watch for updates. We hope that you'll join us to commemorate the anniversary of the Declaration of Independence and continue to expand your knowledge of Hampton history.

Pat Bushway

Calendar of Events 2026 – Tentative Schedule

- **March 26 **24**** – 6 p.m. – *Women of 76* by actress Rita Parisi; the event will recognize both Women's History Month and the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence; Lane Library
- **April 16** – 6:30 p.m. – *Poetry Night at the Museum*; 7th and 8th grade students from Hampton Academy read their poetry about Hampton in 1776
- **June 4** – *Hampton Trolley Tour* – 2 tours - 3 p.m and 4 p.m. Tuck Museum
- **July 18; 19** – each day 1 - 3 p.m. – *CRC behind the scenes tours*; RSVP, please; Tuck Museum
- **August 22** – time TBA – *Textiles and Treasures* ; Tuck Museum
- **October ?** – date and time TBA – *Annual Meeting and program*
- **October 24** – 1 p.m. – *Ring Swamp Cemetery Tour*; starts at Tuck Museum
- **December 4** – 7:00 p.m. – *Tree Lighting on the Green* ; Tuck Museum

Buildings and Grounds Committee Report 2025

Beginning in November 2024 and continuing through September 2025, our volunteers worked Wednesdays and Fridays and completed many projects.

We started the year working in the museum. Nearly (75) lightbulbs were upgraded to energy efficient LEDs. By adjusting the color temperature and the intensity of the light, the new bulbs helped to unify each room and eliminate harsh glare.

The meeting room needed a makeover. We repaired the ceiling and restored the plaster walls. A new wall color brightened up the space.

Spring arrived and work began on the museum's front steps, its handicap ramp and railings. The cottage front landing was repaired too. Upon completion of the work, all areas were re-stained.

There's always more to do. Many exterior doors were painted, and any necessary upgrades were addressed. Several broken windows were repaired.

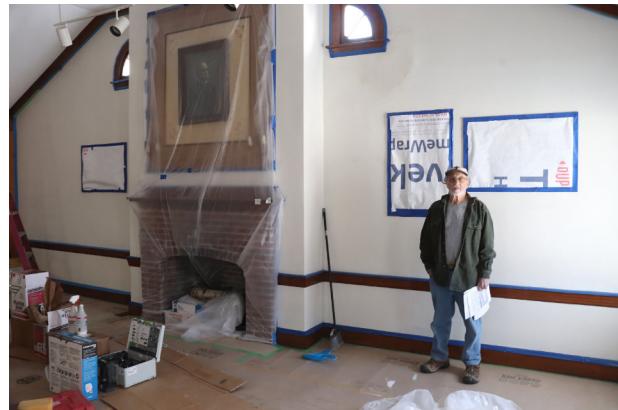
Lots of limbs were removed around the property and the gardens were attended to masterfully.

Thanks to everyone who volunteered. Consider joining our work crew in the coming year. Learn new skills and make new friends.

Respectfully submitted,

Gary Grashow

Buildings and Grounds Chair



Membership Campaign

This November marks our annual campaign for 2026 membership dues. As mentioned in the last newsletter, we are transitioning to a once-a-year membership renewal to help keep our records tidy, and give our patrons an idea of when a renewal is needed. This is why all our past and present members are receiving a mailing and a new membership form due by Nov. 30th.

Please take a moment to fill this out, update your membership, and mail to us at PO Box 1601, Hampton NH 03843 or stop by the museum to drop off with us before the close of our museum for winter by Dec 7th. Or, if you choose, we have tried to make it easy to update membership online through Paypal or Venmo. Make sure to write dues on the byline and indicate the type of membership (example: dues-family or dues-senior couple.)

Thank you for being patient with us as we go through this change. We have had to increase our dues just a little to accommodate rising mailing, PayPal, and operating costs of our Museum. We hope you understand. As always, extra donations help our cause to provide historical programs, education, gatherings, and building repairs. We thank you for anything you can do! Any questions about your membership, email us at

info@hamptonhistoricalsociety.org

If we do not receive a renewal by the close of our museum in Dec., we will have to remove you from our mailing list. Life members will continue to receive mailings and info from us...we do appreciate any extra help!

Membership Benefits

As a member, you will get 3 newsletters a year: spring, summer and fall. You can choose to receive digital copies or links to newsletters online and eblasts on our upcoming events. Membership gives free access to various tours of the building and grounds for you and your family. You will have access to genealogical data, a personalized researcher to help with family genealogy and or historical info around town. Our fundraisers or special events may also include discounted tickets. Business members will receive acknowledgment in our newsletters, on our web site, and as advertised on our social media pages. Renew your membership today and help the future of our Historical Society!



Celebrating 100 years 1925-2025

As we look back on the fun times we had ringing in our 100th year as a historical society, we are grateful and blessed to be able to share with so many of you wonderful members. The Documentary of Hampton Historical Society (bottom left), the swingingly good time at our Roaring Twenties Jazz Dance (below), the Historical Trolley Ride (pg. 6), 1860s Baseball on Tuck Field (below), and our Speakeasy in the Barn (below and pg.1)... as well as a huge thank you to Roger Lathbury, guest speaker on the American Twenties, at our Annual Meeting.

We still have smiles on our faces from these events, and we look ahead to another 100 years of good times sharing our history with you. Check out the pictures on this page and from all of these events now on our [website!](#)

