



# GATHERINGS FROM THE GREEN

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[www.hamptonhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.hamptonhistoricalsociety.org)

## President's Report

As the days begin to warm, the daffodils and tulips are poking through, gardens begin to regenerate themselves, and so do we. Our two month "break" enables us to restore our energies for our Museum and Historical Society. Opening Tuck Museum on March 30th, we begin to resume our normal schedule of Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays, from 1 to 4 pm.

Behind the scenes, however, our Programs Committee has been hard at work arranging interesting and dynamic events for all our members. The Collections Committee has managed to find days to keep up with our ever-growing donations. Research has been ongoing for several displays, contributing to our newest special exhibit about General Jonathan Moulton of Hampton.

We have started to revise and update our Bylaws to accommodate the new museum organizational structure, and our Kiosk committee is working hard at procuring new informational boards that will provide information on the buildings that sit on our grounds. The Building and Grounds Committee will be starting up shortly to continue the wonderful renovation of our one room school house. New fundraising opportunities have had many of us learning how to run Bingo games!



We manage to keep ourselves busy for the love of this Historical Society. And as we move into our public opening, we encourage you to look at how you could help us with our mission. Come find out what we are all about. Attend our events listed in this newsletter. Encourage a friend or relative to become a member. Volunteer when and if you can.

Mark your calendars for our upcoming major events such as the dedication of our new and improved schoolhouse on Sept. 17th, from 2-4 p.m, Fall Festival Oct. 9th, and our Annual Meeting on Oct. 16th at 2 p.m. We hope to hold all these events live and in person but reserve the right to make changes due to ongoing health and safety precautions.

As always, we are grateful for you, our members. Give us a call, stop in and visit when you can. We hope to have a fun and active summer at Tuck Museum of Hampton History, and look forward to seeing you!

Lori Cotter

## What's At The Tuck?

What do a man of mystery, a dollhouse, and an abandoned trunk have in common? All three are featured exhibits that can be seen at the Tuck Museum.

*Jonathan Moulton, The Man and the Myth* showcases the life of one of the richest and most powerful men in New Hampshire – who, both admired and despised, has had many stories written about him. From being memorialized by John Greenleaf Whittier in several poems, to being included in Ripley's Believe It or Not, Moulton stories have entertained generations, and we will try to separate fact from fiction. After all, how many people are accused of making a pact with the devil?

Delighting all ages, the dollhouse is the work of miniature enthusiast Priscilla Emery Walker, who spent years fashioning dollhouses and room dioramas. This example is complete to the tiniest detail – from flypaper hanging in the kitchen to a dollhouse in the attic. (Also see page 6.)



Continuing from last year, a mid-1800s trunk is the center of the exhibit *How History is Written*. The trunk belonged to Joseph Dow, the author of the 1892 publication of the history of Hampton. Joseph died before the book was completed, but his work was continued by his helpmate and daughter, Lucy, who saw the book to publication.

Using some of the 300-piece collection of Dow research, Hampton records, and early founding family genealogies discovered in the trunk, the story evolves as the writing of *History of the Town of Hampton New Hampshire from Its Settlement in 1638, to the Autumn of 1892* is documented. Neither Joseph nor Lucy would believe that their book has had a third reprint and is now available to download online.

Dow's trunk has its own story. It was unearthed in an abandoned storage unit in Ketchum, Idaho. The how and why of the trunk ending up across the country has piqued the interest of several researchers. This year, one person's persistence may have uncovered how this important piece of Hampton history ended up cast aside. Visit and see if you agree.

While here, you can check out the work being completed on our one-room schoolhouse, which we plan to have finished this summer.

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## Community Engagement and Calendar of Events for 2022

Our year of events began in March with a presentation on the restoration of the Wood Island Life Saving Station. Sam Reid presented an overview of the work that has been done to date as well as what remains to be done. He also discussed the other lifesaving stations along our coast, including the one here in Hampton.

April is National Poetry Month and to celebrate we had a group of Hampton students present their own poetry related to the history of Hampton on April 14.

Additionally in **April**, the next HHS Book Discussion will be held on the **24th at 4 p.m.** at the museum, if possible. The book, *We Band of Angels* by Elizabeth M. Norman, is about nurses during WWII who were captured by the Japanese and held prisoners of war in the Philippines. One of the nurses featured in the book is Hampton's Rita Palmer, one of the first women to receive a purple heart.

On **May 18th at 7 p.m.** at the museum, HHS member Lisa Barreto will talk about Native American flowers and flowers grown during the Colonial New England period and beyond, 1600s to present. She will provide us with locations within the Hampton area where some can still be found today.

In late May and early June, we'll be resuming our education programs for our school children. The events for this spring include visits by the third graders from Hampton and the fourth graders from North Hampton.

In June the **Vikings** will return to the Green! They'll set up their encampment on **June 3rd** and will stay through **June 5th**. Plan to stop by and visit with them and get a look at the life of a Viking!

On **July 17th, at 2 p.m.** New Hampshire author Olga Morrill will join us to talk about the third book of her historical fiction series, *The Vagabond Trilogy*. The trilogy chronicles the travels of a family of Quakers from the Piscataqua River region down through the southern colonies and back.

On **September 18th**, we'll celebrate the grand reopening of our renovated schoolhouse. The celebration will begin at **2 p.m.** and all the museum buildings will be open to visitors.

The second annual Fall Festival will be held on **October 9th** and once again will feature the amazing aerialists team of Baechtold and Abel, the Vegetable Circus, games, food, and fun! Additionally in October, the annual meeting will be held on the 16th and will include a presentation on the General Moulton House by a team of HHS members.

In **December** we will participate in the town Christmas tree-lighting on Friday evening of the first weekend of the month, and we're planning to have a float in the Christmas parade on that Saturday. (See article on this page about helping with this.)

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## Help Needed for Christmas Float

In a one horse open sleigh...well, it may not be a horse and more of a truck! We are looking for some fun, creative people to assist with creating this year's **Holiday Parade float!**



Our first committee meeting will be Saturday, **June 25th at 9 a.m.** in the Tuck Museum. Would you like to join us? Please email [info@hamptonhistoricalsociety.org](mailto:info@hamptonhistoricalsociety.org) or call the museum at 603-929-0781 to put your name on the volunteer list!

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## Education Programs for School Children

We're very pleased to announce that after a COVID-driven two-year hiatus, we're resuming our education programs for our school children. The events for this spring include visits by the third graders from Hampton and the fourth graders from North Hampton.

The programs will include a tour of the museum and the outbuildings, as well as opportunities for the students to test their knowledge of history. Some of the students will also visit the Pine Grove Cemetery and learn about the earliest days of our community. The programs will be conducted weekday mornings during the last week of May and the first week of June.

If anyone is interested in volunteering to help with these programs, we welcome both women and men to join us in sharing our history with these youngsters. This is a great opportunity to introduce or reintroduce them to their local history museum with all that it has to offer them and their families, and to expand their knowledge of our towns and communities. If you'd like more information about helping out with the school programs, please contact us at 603-929-0781 or [info@hamptonhistoricalsociety.org](mailto:info@hamptonhistoricalsociety.org)

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## Volunteers Needed

As we look forward to a much busier season than the past couple of years, I see a strong need for additional volunteers.

Please consider becoming a volunteer (docent, researcher, etc). Most of our volunteers, including myself, come with very little knowledge of Hampton history. HHS offers training for all volunteers and will work with them until they feel comfortable on their own.

During the past two years we were fortunate to have four or five good docents and, in a pinch, a couple of board members. They are all returning this year, but we don't believe it will be enough and it doesn't prepare us for the future.

Have a great 2022 and please consider volunteering.

Mike Compos, Visitor Services



## From The Collection Corner

It has been a quiet winter regarding the collection. In 2021, our goal was to make sure all our books are cataloged, and that should be completed by the end of this year. We have specialty binders that have been assembled on a variety of subjects to share with visitors and researchers. To date, we have over 900 books and 50 specialized local history, professional, and collection binders in the database.

Last month a package arrived from a woman who had been going through her deceased mother's many photo albums. Her mother had dated and marked the photos with first names and some of the locations. One would say "Hampton farm 1938," "Irene's father," "Ted." From these basic clues and a last name (which had been spelled wrong), I worked out a family tree and gave the information to Lori Cotter, who does our genealogy research. She was able to figure out the family, who still lives in North Hampton (not Hampton as thought), and reunite the photos with another generation.

Sometimes we are not so lucky, and precious family photos are cast aside because we have no information as to ID, date, or location. What is even more tragic is that now most of us scroll down on our phones to show photos and don't bother to print them out. If I could give one bit of advice - Print out some of your favorite photos; date and identify the who, what, and why; and store them in a safe, dry space - not an attic or basement. This is something so simple, and your family will thank you for it. If not, think of what future generations will miss...

In this column I had planned to honor our oldest member, Bob Wallace, and I am doing so, but not in the manner I had hoped to - he passed away recently at 104. He was a member for almost 50 years and had volunteered at the museum for over 20.

Bob's lasting mark at the museum are the daffodils that he had planted around the museum when he was in his 80s. He would edge the museum garden with a deep beautiful English-style precision that he said he learned years ago. I have not been able to duplicate it. No one ever asked him to do this - it would just happen - like magic!



We actually managed to surprise Bob with a 90th birthday party in 2007



Bob helped with collections and tours. He had been the owner of Wallace Chevrolet, at one time located in an art deco building on the corner of US 1 and Kershaw Ave. All those sales techniques served him well as he had been the top ticket seller for the pig roast for almost 18 years. And could he tell a story!

Each spring with the surge of daffodils, Bob's legacy will live on. They are just starting to bloom this year (at right).

Betty Moore  
Collection Manager



## Board of Trustees and Officers, 2021-22

### Officers

President - Lori Cotter  
Vice President - Pat Bushway  
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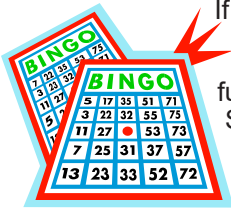
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Bob helping at the (in)famous rain-soaked Pig Roast of 2004

The image at left, showing the daffodils, is a more recent one for the online version of the newsletter. The weather has not been cooperating much, but the buds are gradually opening.

## B-I-N-G-O



If you have an afternoon a month to spare and enjoy being with people, we can use your help with our latest fundraising effort. Early this year, the Society was contacted by Ocean Gaming about being a Bingo /Lucky 7 sponsor. It involves being present and running a Bingo game one afternoon

a week and one weekend period Friday, Saturday, and Sunday for a total of seven days a month.

Even during the quiet winter months, the sponsorship has been successful in our fundraising efforts - taking the stress off fundraisers that are weather and economy dependent. The pandemic's reverberation through local businesses making them less able to support our projects, our aging volunteer base, and other issues made us willing to evaluate this program. We think it will be a good long-term solution to financial stability, and it will enable us to maintain the society's buildings, grounds, and collections into the future.

With summer approaching we would like to have two people cover the weekend sessions which last from 2-4 p.m. Training is provided (it's easy!) and parking arrangements, which change seasonally at the beach, are being tested to make it easy to participate. Our goal is to have enough coverage that volunteers only need to work one day per month.

Please consider helping. For more information contact Betty Moore at 603-926-2543 or [bettyhmoore@comcast.net](mailto:bettyhmoore@comcast.net) for more details.



### Give Back to the Community!

Every Bloomin' 4 Good Bouquet bought at our local Hannaford location this month will send us a **\$1 donation**

For the month of **May 2022**, Hampton Historical Society has been selected to receive a \$1 donation for every Bloomin' 4 Good Bouquet with the red circle sticker (pictured below) sold at the store located at 630 Lafayette Road, Hampton NH.



## What is OCR and Why Would You Use It?

Funny you should ask, considering that I was thinking about writing a short article about it!

OCR stands for "Optical Character Recognition." Software like this can take a scanned (or photographed) image of a page of text and convert it into electronic text that can then be manipulated as regular computer text (edited, copied, pasted, etc). This can be very handy and a real time-saver instead of re-typing the text.

So why would you use it? The most common use is when you have a printed document that you want to make into a digital document for further manipulation and editing on the computer.

For example, I want to make web pages out of "Cameos of Whittier's Women" by HHS volunteer Elly Becotte. Performed in 2014, it gave 16 HHS volunteer women a chance to dress in period costume (courtesy of Ann Carnaby), and read short narratives about John Greenleaf Whittier's life and times. I had taken a bunch of pictures during the event, which served as an interesting album at the time. However, all these years later, to serve as a permanent record the web pages should include the words they were reading as well as the images.



Unfortunately, we no longer have the electronic documents used for the event (i.e. Word documents or similar), but we were able to locate a set of the printed sheets. So how do I convert these physical documents into computer code (HTML) for such web pages? Re-type everything into the computer?!? Nooo! OCR to the rescue!

At HHS we use what is probably the best-in-class software for this, **ABBYY FineReader PDF**. It does a stellar job at OCR, giving you text that requires very little proofreading and editing to produce computer text exactly like the original.

Another example is our website's **Beachcomber Newspaper Archives** (see the link in the right-hand column of the HHS website's Home page).

In this case, we wanted to show the original images of the pages of the newspapers, but also give readers the ability to actually search the newspapers for text (e.g. find all the articles about life guards). With images, this is not possible (other than looking at each page), but by using the OCR process we were able to convert the text in the newspapers to computer text and then, using a facility of PDF, hide that text in a layer behind each page image. So you can search, select, and copy and paste from the images as though they are actual text. Almost like magic!

So, in summary, OCR is the best thing since, well, supply your own obsession here...

Rich Hureau, Communications

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## Gifts to the Collection - 2021

- Man's Victorian suit, shawl, 1930s wedding dress, 1930s flapper style hat – Ann Carnaby/Tracy Threatre Originals
- Promissory note 1853 Palmer to Philbrick, Class of WHS 1961 alumni records – Betsey Lamie Davis
- Photo booklet from the class of 1950, yearly class photos class of 1950 from 1943 – 1946 – Carolyn Brooks
- Basketball score books 1959-1963 belonging to coach Clifford Eastman – Pamela Kolodziej
- Hampton Town Report 2020, Winnacunnet High School report 2020, SAU 90 School District report 2020, contemporary postcards of Hampton, photograph Miss Hampton Beach 2021 (Lauren Brophy), photographs 2021 Miss Hampton Beach contest – TM Collection Committee
- Cookbook collection and cooking pamphlets late 20<sup>th</sup> century – Priscilla Fanning
- Photograph – Leavitt family reunion 1971 – Patricia Miller
- Research of "Select Harmony" tune book, yearbooks *Images* HAJH, research of trolley car barn and power station Exeter Rd.– Lori Cotter
- Pencil sketch of fish houses at North Beach (in memory of Roland Garland) – Jeannette Casey
- Photo album 70 Mill Road, St. James Lodge souvenir plate – Wanda Brower/Priscilla Walker
- Postcards (6) Hampton Center, beach, bridge, trolley – Susan Lombard
- Photograph of Hampton Beach after 1950 fire – Carol Guild
- Book – *Infantry Drills and Regulations* 1917, calipers – Percy Annis
- Newspaper – *Manchester Daily Union* Oct. 18, 1864 – Charlie Parks
- Sign, publicity boards, newsletters *The Windsor Chronicles* – Mike Dunbar/Windsor Chair Institute
- Wooden tabletop desk – Kathy McLaughlin
- Research on 1797 Hampton Meeting House accounts/building new meeting house – Elizabeth Aykroyd
- Membership list Hampton Chamber of Commerce 1998-2000, gazebo planning papers and photographs, Crimeline for the Hamptons information – Hampton Area Chamber of Commerce
- Plaintiff's argument "Fish House" Case - Madeline H. Meyer
- Framed photograph of Florence Lamprey Brown – Donald and Patty Hersey
- Farm tools, boxes (2), barrels (4), milk cans (2), signs Howard Page Aluminum and Vinyl– Nathan Page
- Sign *Atlantic News* – Liz Premo
- Hand grained, drop-leaf side table from the Goss Family (Lafayette Rd.) – Douglas and Elizabeth Aykroyd
- T-shirt 1966 Seafood Festival, keychain 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Casino – Mickie Wardell
- *USS Hampton* license plate, *USS Hampton* flag – estate of Sandy Buck
- Panoramic photograph shoe company outing at Hampton Beach (company unknown) – Anne Kiskinis
- Photographs Boar's Head Hotel, *Beachcomber* Newspaper August 12, 1977 – Hampton Falls Historical Society
- CAVE (Committee Against Violent Eruptions) membership card – James Clark

(Cont)



- Grain bin (used at Shady Lawn 172 High St.) – Robin Helene (Russell) Damuth
- Photograph of house and barn 236 Winnacunnet Rd. – Anne (Tocky) Bialobrzkeski
- Photographs of 2021 HHS Fall Festival, photographs from Hampton District Court Dedication – Karen Raynes
- Research and scripts for living history presentations, Goody Cole costume – Priscilla Thoen
- Book *Kingston, NH* – Tuck Museum purchase
- Photograph – Robert Russell at the Hampton Playhouse – Dale Ann DonDiego
- HAHS trust documents, correspondence, minutes, banking agreements, bell, history – Hampton Academy Trustees
- Drawing from an atlas by Charles Henry Turner 1863 – Reg Symonds
- Charles Henry Turner artwork – 1 oil painting (Tenting at night), watercolor (ad for Beach Soap), 9 pen and ink sketches, people, saltmarsh, ship – Lauren & Dean Gallant
- Hampton Garden Club minutes 2009-2018 and memorabilia – Roseanne Tuholsik/Historian HGC
- Melamine dishes, aluminum glasses, pitcher, salt and pepper shakers, gravy boat mid 20<sup>th</sup> century – Barbara McClean Ward & Gerald W.R. Ward
- Buoy, wood clamps – Barry Spratt
- Book *Seacoast the Seasons of New Hampshire* – Rye Historical Society
- Book *The Rose and the Whip*– Jay Hodges (author)
- Mini histories of Hampton, NH (beach, North Shore Rd.) – Jean MacCannell
- Photograph of Casino ca. 1950s, plans 1950 Casino porch project, Ocean House Hotel renovation – donor unknown
- Book – *The Best Ever Parades* (Hampton temperance march oil painting featured) – Sturbridge Village Museum



Our dollhouse even lights up inside in most rooms - come and see it!!

### Business members

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

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### 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.