



GATHERINGS FROM THE GREEN

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Barn Raising and Challenge Grant

We are delighted to report that a date has now been set for the raising of the Widow Leavitt Barn. June 2, 2007 is the magic date; the rain date will be June 9. Chet Riley and Dave DeGagne have been planning the steps necessary to have the frame completed by late May and with a little cooperation from the weather we should have smooth sailing for the final repair efforts. It will be the culmination of a three-year labor for the Society and something we can all be proud of in the years to come. Visitors will be welcome to observe the work on that day; volunteers for food and site safety are needed. Please call if you would like to assist.

The other great news is that a generous member of the community, who wishes to remain anonymous, has issued a challenge grant to the Society. We need \$16,000 more to fully complete the barn project and the donor has offered a 1 to 1 match of contributions up to \$8,000. We raise \$8,000 and the donor will match with \$8,000 and presto the fund-raising is complete. The challenge is in effect until July 1, 2007 and we have already received \$1,000 of monies toward the grant. It will be wonderful to have the fund-raising completed by the time the barn raising is completed. Please consider making a new or additional donation to the barn fund this spring. A draft of the plaque that will be placed in the barn to thank donors is included elsewhere in this newsletter, please review it for accuracy.

MISSION

The mission of this organization shall be to promote and honor the history and heritage of the town of Hampton, New Hampshire and its founders and inhabitants; and to preserve such history for future generations.

New Hampshire Then and Now

Award winning photographer, author and historian, Peter Randall, will be the speaker on March 6 at the Lane Memorial Library. The program includes slides from his latest book *New Hampshire Then and Now, Historical and Contemporary Photographs of the Granite State from 1840-2005*. Selecting historical photos from a variety of sources, Peter located and photographed the same site as it looks today because he "wanted to show how the state has changed over time and give people a sense of historical context."

Randall, a Hampton native, has authored 13 other books on photography, local history and travel, including *Hampton, A Century of Town and Beach 1888-1998*. For more information on the author and to see some of his galleries visit www.petererandall.com

The program starts at 6:30pm and refreshments will be served. For additional information call Betty Moore 926-2543. Snow date March 13.

Historic House Marker

The Hampton Heritage Commission is pleased to announce that they are accepting applications for HISTORIC HOUSE MARKER. This is a great way to acknowledge the role that your home has played in the heritage of Hampton. Approved by the Heritage Commission, these markers are based on an original design first used in celebration of Hampton's Tercentennial in 1938. Measuring 12x16 with hand painted black letters and a green pine tree logo; these plaques are available for display on any home 50 years or older. Applications may be picked up at the Town Hall, Public Library, and Tuck Museum or online at www.hamptonnh.gov. \$62.00 includes shipping and handling. A unique gift for your favorite history buff!

Director's Report

We tend to think of winter as a time for slowing down, but it hasn't happened at the Tuck Museum!

The upstairs bathroom was gutted and turned into manuscript storage. Walls were painted, a new floor was laid and metal storage shelves were installed. The room is already becoming filled as we bring things in from other parts of the museum. We have all the Monday Club records (celebrating its 100th birthday this year), which include annual scrapbooks, financial and secretarial material. The Garden Club has made us the repository of their records dating back to 1924. We also have bound Hampton Union newspapers from the 1920-1960, along with photo albums, scrapbooks, Chamber of Commerce albums, and boxes of family papers and records. We can now store all of these kinds of items in one location. Percy Annis, Ben Moore and Chuck Weinhold are to be thanked for the wonderful transformation.

At the same time the office/kitchen area was gutted. While the electrical work was being done a new master panel was installed. Chet Riley, Dave DeGagne, Percy Annis, and Ben Moore worked on the first phase. Dann Shaw, Ken Lobdell, Percy Annis and Ben Moore have been working on the drywall phase. The cabinets have been ordered, counter top and fixtures selected and we hope to have everything ready to go by spring.

Bill Keating researched our computer cataloguing system and wrote a detailed instruction manual tailored just for us. It is so professional and comprehensive that training volunteers will be much easier.

Rich Hureau keeps making changes and additions to the web site. He has a page where you can check in to see what's new. WHS students have been coming in for assistance with their Senior Seminar projects. Their projects have been varied and it is great to see so many interested and engaged in local history.

The first part of the photo identification project we started last March is wrapping up. During the course of the past year Russ Merrill, Eleanor Young, Beverly and Neil Pracop, Priscilla Triggs Weeks, Catherine Fletcher and myself have sort

ed through thousands of photographs from the Hampton Union 1950-60s and Atlantic New 1980s-90s. We have identified those that we could, organized them, then sent photos to other historical societies and towns. This year we will work on better identification of individuals in those photos. If you lived in Hampton in the 1950-60s and have a good memory, we can use your help.

The barn group has been making plans for the barn raising on June 2. Soon our focus will be on outside activities with the barn and tourist cabin. We hope you will stop by to see the changes.



Dann Shaw, Ken Lobdell, and Ben Moore work on the new kitchen

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From the President

Hi All! I hope you are all enjoying your winter. The volunteers at Tuck Museum have not let the winter cold and weather slow things down. And as we come into spring projects are winding up and plans are being made for others to begin.

The old bathroom upstairs is now the manuscript room, the kitchen project is well on it's way to being finished, and Bill Keating has assisted Betty in getting the collections' cataloguing system organized. We are looking forward to the barn raising in early June, and preparing to get to work on the interior of the beach cottage. All this and our regular museum hours and programs too! Spring is the perfect time to get involved. Give us a call. We would love to have your help for an hour, a day, or on a regular basis. There are many areas to choose from and it's a fun way to support the Society. And by the way, we still need a volunteer coordinator. This is something you can do from the comfort of home. Give Betty Moore or myself a call for more information.

I promised that this would be a short message from me, so please read the articles regarding the HHS happenings. Happy spring! Hope to see you soon!

Sammi Moe (929-0881)
Tuck Museum (929-0781)

Highlights from the Collection

Much of our newsletter is dedicated to reporting current activities of the society and upcoming events. But we want to tell more about the collection that we are preserving and share the excitement those of us that work closely with the objects feel. A feature "Highlights from the Collection" will inform members about new acquisitions and interesting items that are in the museum-so you can see what your membership supports.

This newsletter covers the Toppan Papers, a collection of over 230 documents that came to us in July. They were given by Michael Toppan of Hampton Falls, who recognized the importance of the papers to the town of Hampton. These documents are in excellent condition as they had been stored in the postmaster's desk belonging

to Edmund Toppan for over 100 years!

What makes working with these documents interesting is that the family names of Edmund and Christopher were used for Toppan males for many generations. So when reading a document we have to be very careful to know who it is referring to. This article introduces the family members and how they influenced the community, as they were involved in commerce, law, medicine and politics and husbandry.

Dr. Edmund Toppan was a physician and Harvard graduate. His son, Christopher, (referred to as Col. Christopher in town records) lived on the homestead. Col. Christopher had shipping interests and ran a store from his home during the Revolution. He had one son, Edmund, who also attended Harvard. Edmund became a lawyer, was a state representative for fourteen years, postmaster for about twelve years along with holding various public offices. He had two sons Christopher S. and Edmund W.

Christopher S. became a wealthy merchant in Portsmouth (in fact, the first mayor), owning portions of five ships, along with his large landholdings in Hampton. He was married with no children. His brother, Edmund W., lived on the family homestead and he had a son, Christopher G.

The old Toppan House (now the site of the Hampton Cinemas) played an important part in the town's history, first as one of the early garrison houses in Hampton, and then for the unusual fence that surrounded it in the 1800s. Mary Toppan wrote a history of the house that was included in the collection.

The documents date from the early 1700s to the mid 1850s and cover all types of town matters, including a 1732 town inventory, wills and warrants, postal records, correspondence regarding the rift between the churches, and material on the toll road across the marsh. There are also a number of legal papers relating to the town matters from Edmund's legal practice.

Elizabeth Aykroyd has agreed to write about the Toppan Papers in more detail to show how these documents provide an important view into the operation of Hampton during these years. Many thanks to Michael for considering us as the caretaker of this important collection.

Annual Operating Fund Donations

The Society and Museum could not function without the continued support of membership dues and donations and the efforts of our many volunteers. We appreciate the donations received from the following members towards this years operating budget.

Percy P. Annis, Jr.
 Clara Arnold
 Mr. & Mrs. Douglas S. Aykroyd
 Carole Creek Bailey
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Barn Donor Plaque

As we approach the completion of the Barn, it's time to plan for the plaque that will celebrate the contributions to the barn raising fund. A draft of the plaque is presented below, please review it and contact us if you see any errors or omissions. We will order the final plaque shortly after July 1, 2007 for placement on the barn later this year.

Benefactor, \$1000 and over

Mr. & Mrs. Douglas S. Aykroyd
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(cont. on p.5)

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2006 Gifts to the Collection

- Diary 1916 – author unknown, inkbottle from Hampton Academy – Percy Annis
- Dalton Family genealogical information – Millicent Craig
- Collection of antique Christmas cards, greeting cards by Bernice Palmer, Hampton Beach souvenir plate c.1960s – Priscilla Triggs Weeks
- Patch from the Hampton Beach Music Festival 1948 – Bette Bridle
- Card to Alfretta Noyes Godfrey – Richard Dennison
- Menu from the Colonial Restaurant – Janice Rioux
- Atlantic News 2005 –2 CDs – Connelly Communications
- Booklet "Historic Homes of Hampton Falls" – Beverly Mutrie
- Scrapbook "Riots at Hampton Beach" – Howard Stickney
- Framed picture of the board of directors of Hampton Co-Op Bank – Don Palmer
- Bill of sale for sloop Mayflower 1715 – Priscilla Leavitt
- Collection of Odd Fellow's building fire, Desrochers papers – Horace Desrochers, Jr.
- Monday Club Scrapbooks 1994-1997, minutes 1985-2001- Monday Club
- Post cards, class picture and class of 1930 related materials- Gordon Janvrin
- Fire department photos, "Records of Fires" 1925-1947, negatives from HFD (29 types of items)-given in memory of Howard Stickney
- Hampton Garden Club records 2000-2002 – Hampton Garden Club
- Snapshots (4) of Hampton Tercentenary Celebration – Barbara Toppan
- Maps of Hampton (3), HAHS basketball uniform, HAHS letter sweater and sports letter, 6 play and concert programs, 4 carousels of slides Hampton/Hampton Beach, 2 scythes, HH&A St. RR shovel - John Holman
- Toppan Papers (230 items - town records, family records) - Michael Toppan
- Seafood Festival sweatshirt – Betty Moore
- Research "Genealogy of Harry Chase Shaw 1636-1948"- Joan M. Shaw Jeffery
- Research "Rockingham Junction and the Chelsea Jog" – Larry O'Brien
- Items from the Leavitt House barn – Ann & Arnet Taylor
- Oil painting by Arthur Johnson "Wallis Sands" – Seavie Rideout
- Book "A Guide to Medieval Tithe Barns – James Griswold
- Program book Ocean Side Grange No. 260 – Dennis Blain
- Goody Cole plaque on black marble – Syphers Monument Co.
- Matchbook from Town and Country Hotel – Katie Ells
- Book "Clothing and Textile Collections in the United States" Catherine Redden
- Boring machine – Donald Howe Brown
- Stereo view of Boar's Head Hotel, postcard Kelly's Motel – museum purchase
- Framed pictures of Past Masters of Oceanside Grange 1897-1988 – Oceanside Grange
- 2 pitchers, candleholder, vase, items for tourist cabin c.1950s– Estate of Beatrice Barnard
- Booklet "Documentation of the Ring Swamp Cemetery Hampton, NH"- Troop 177
- Booklet "Researching Your Historic Home" - Elizabeth Colburn

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 6 - *New Hampshire Then and Now*
Peter Randall Speaker - Lane Library 6:30pm
(Snow date March 13)

April -May Date TBD
Grand Opening of new Kitchen/Office Area

June 2 - Barn Raising
Grounds of Tuck Museum
(Rain date June 9)

September 1 - Annual Pig Roast Fundraiser
Noon-3PM

September 16 - Highlights from the Tuck Museum
Clothing Collection - Ann Carnaby 2PM
Tuck Museum

October 12 Annual Meeting - Place TBD

BUSINESS MEMBERSHIP

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

- 234 Lafayette Road Realty LLC
- Casassa & Ryan
- Dion Construction, Inc.
- Hampton Eyecare Associates
- Kimball Auto Body
- Lamie's Inn & The Old Salt Restaurant
- Mackensen & Company Inc.
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GATHERINGS FROM THE GREEN

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