



GATHERINGS FROM THE GREEN

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President's Corner

Right before the start of our very wet summer, Tuck Museum was hopping with many school groups and visitors. It was such a joy to be a part of all the educational tours, as well as assist with the many beginning genealogists who are looking for traces of their family here in Hampton. As our own Betty Moore said, "People walk through our doors and say we are related to Steven Bachiler, the founder. They do not realize that if they look again, they would be related to about 15 other families that started Hampton as well!"

There is so much to share here, and we do have some wonderful visits as we get to know our guests. We are always learning ourselves, as our researchers have put in quite a bit of time looking at family connections and social histories.

I am so impressed with the work of Karen Raynes and Mary Ann Nelligan, who constantly "go down that rabbit hole" of information when delving into a mystery. Already, Karen has connected us with the Barnstable Historical Society, who never knew we have one of their citizens buried here at Pine Grove, a lost soul who washed up on our beach in 1773 (see article at right).

As we cleaned out our workshop area, who knew that we had an 18th century swivel gun in the rafters? Karen has been the lead to try and connect this with the 1764 wreck of the *Saint George* on Hampton's North Beach (see *From the Collections Corner* on page 4 for a picture and more about the cannon). Even the Historical Society has its own secrets hidden away from us over the years of other administrations.

We ask you, check your attics and small cubby spaces...do you have some piece of Hampton history that would be fun to share with our community? Even old letters and documents...don't throw them away until you can see what they mean. We are ready, willing, and able to help you read any old documents. Come join us, visit us, and prepare to learn about Hampton history....we love it when we can do this for you!

Lori Cotter, President

James Lewis, the Young Sailor



Tucked down in the back of Hampton NH's earliest cemetery (Pine Grove, 1653) is a stone for James Lewis, a young sailor who was found washed up on the beach in Hampton, NH on October 2nd, 1773.

He was on a ship traveling from Kennebunk, Maine to his hometown of Barnstable, Massachusetts on the Cape. No one came to claim him as he probably had no family. So the town of Hampton put together the funds to have him buried in the Pine Grove Cemetery and paid for a stone for him. This is a very expensive stone, because of the elaborate carvings.

In 1773 the colonists were heavily taxed by Britain with the Stamp Act and Sugar Act – this was just before the Revolutionary War. Money would have been tight in Hampton NH, but the townsfolk raised the money to have this 21-year-old sailor from Barnstable buried in their cemetery.

Every May the Hampton Historical Society invites the 3rd graders (who are learning about Hampton history) to tour the Pine Grove Cemetery. They always have good questions and are fascinated by James Lewis, the how, why, what, when, where of his story, that often times we are unable to answer.

We have begun the communication with historians in Barnstable to hopefully answer some questions!

Karen Raynes, Researcher, Tuck Museum

Annual Meeting of Membership

You are hereby notified to attend the HHS Annual Meeting on October 15th, 2023, at 1 pm in the afternoon at the Tuck Museum. A brief meeting will begin at 1, followed by a program on our Native American Artifacts by Jacob Tumerlaire, MA, RPA, Independent Archaeological Consulting, LLC. Thank you for being a part of our membership!

What's this picture? - see page 6





3rd Annual Fall Festival

More free family-friendly fun will return to the Tuck Museum for the **3rd Annual Fall Festival**.

All are welcome to join the festivities from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. on **Sunday, October 8th**. We will have all our buildings opened and fully staffed for tours. While interesting stories about Hampton's history are shared inside, the outside field will be filled with music, entertainment, and food!

Aerial artists **Baechtold and Abel** will return to the field and perform awe-inspiring aerial acrobatics. **BillyBilly** will return as our musical guest with performances throughout the event, and we are excited to welcome **Legacy Lane Farm** who will join us with their mobile petting zoo.

Food and refreshments will be available for purchase from **The Big Bad Food Truck** and **Kona Ice**. We will also have a Historical Society representative selling fresh popcorn.

Some other exciting things happening that day will include fair-style booths with a variety of games and activities run by local organizations, a 50/50 raffle, a traditional table raffle filled with local goods and services, a photo-booth sponsored by the Hampton Area Chamber of Commerce, and the opportunity to sign up for a free Historical Society membership.

This year's Sponsors include: **Newburyport Bank, The Hampton Area Chamber of Commerce, Tobey and Merrill, Experience Hampton, Bearded Baking, Your CBD store, The Skin and Lash Lounge.**

We need your help! If you would like to volunteer to help with this event, please reach out to info@hamptonhistoricalsociety.org.

Educational Tours

Spring was a busy time for the Tuck Museum with visits from many local schools! Our dedicated volunteers met with students from Sacred Heart, Marston School, Hampton Academy, and North Hampton School. The kids, ranging in age from 2nd - 8th grade, learned what life was like for our early settlers while visiting the main museum, the fire museum, the barn, the one-room schoolhouse, and the Pine Grove Cemetery.



The Tuck Museum also makes history come alive by using old photos, artifacts, and tools that were used long ago. These experiences help students have a greater appreciation of the world around them and make connections between the past and the present. We look forward to more school visits this fall.

Michele Croteau, Education Coordinator

Student Interns

We are very fortunate to have some wonderful junior high students that have offered to help us at Tuck Museum this summer – Eve Sirmaian, Jack Hafey, and Vanessa Cronin (who also participated in Poetry Night in April - see them in the picture on page 3). As interns, they have learned about giving tours at the museum and are quite the experts now! Please stop in and greet them, and hear of the tales and information they have learned.

Business Members

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

Casassa Law Office
Edward Jones
Galley Hatch Restaurant, Inc.
Hampton Beach Casino, Inc.
Harris Real Estate
Preston Real Estate
QA Technology Company, Inc.
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Community Engagement Committee Report

The dog days of summer are upon us and we're well into the second half of our schedule of events for the year. The first half of our schedule included a variety of programs such as a talk about the Mayflower Compact and a look at 17th – 19th century tide mills including Brown's Mill here in Hampton.

The schedule also included events focused on our younger folks such as our annual Poetry Night with 7th and 8th graders presenting their own work, and visits to the museum and grounds by students and teachers from the Marston School, the Sacred Heart School, and the North Hampton School.



Poetry Night participants - Lori Cotter, President; Eve Sirmaian; Zavier La Pierre; Jack Hafey; Vanessa Cronin; Lola Grote; Ayden Perigny; Meghan Nadeau; Viktor Kulberg

Most recently, we had two events that took us back to the earliest days of Hampton. The first was a presentation on July 12th by Josh Gerloff of Epoch Preservation, a company from northern Massachusetts that has been working in the Pine Grove and Ring Swamp Cemeteries to clean and restore gravestones and markers. Josh described the work they've done and are continuing to do, showed slides of the results of their efforts, and answered lots of questions from the attendees.

Following that, on July 15th Lori Cotter and Betty Moore conducted their tour of the Pine Grove Cemetery that includes both facts and myths about Hampton's earliest residents.



Together, the two events gave us a deep look into our past as well as our current efforts to restore, maintain, and preserve our history.

On **August 19th at 1:00 p.m.** at the museum, Humanities To Go of NH Humanities will present ***New England Quilts and the Story They Tell***. We hope that you'll join us to hear Pam Weeks weave world history, women's history, industrial history, and just plain wonderful stories into her presentation about quilts and quilting through history. Additional details about this event will be provided in the upcoming weeks.

We are also once again planning for our annual celebration of autumn in New Hampshire with our **Fall Festival!** Mark your calendars for **October 8th** from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. (rain date Oct 9th). As in the past two years, the festival will be an afternoon of entertainment, live music, games, demonstrations, a raffle, food, and some new attractions this year! You won't want to miss this afternoon of fun with something for everyone, so please plan to join us for the Fall Festival!

The **HHS Annual Meeting** will be held at the Tuck Museum on **October 15th** at 1:00 p.m. We'll begin with a short business meeting followed by a presentation by archaeologist Jake Tumelaire about his work analyzing and cataloging our collection of **Hampton Native American Artifacts**. This promises to be a very interesting discussion of artifacts from the earliest years of our community.

As we finish out our events for 2023 over the next few months, we've also begun looking forward to 2024. Just a few of the events under consideration for next year include *Meet John Adams - A Lively and Revolutionary Conversation with America's Second President*; the achievements and contributions of women in our community from the mid-1600s to the mid-1900s; and the return of the Vikings to the Green. There will be more events as we continue our planning so please watch for additional detail about upcoming events.

Pat Bushway

New Bylaws Adopted, June 2023

The Bylaws Committee of HHS recently met to amend the current bylaws to accommodate new organizational strategies and update for the modern age. As a member, please take a moment to read over our Bylaws online at hamptonhistoricalsociety.org as we will vote to approve these at our Annual Meeting. For a quick synopsis, changes that have been made are:

- ability to hold online meetings, such as Zoom, for the Board to conduct business
- standing committees and recurrent committee definitions updated to current organization
- finance expenditures checks and balances along with a new Finance Committee
- ability to provide online copies of bylaws to membership

From the Collection Corner

The first half of 2023 has been spent tying up loose ends – searching the files for information that should be catalogued into the collection, updating our business and hotel binders with material we collect throughout the year, and sending an oil painting off to the conservator.

We will be pulling quilts from our collection to accompany our program on Saturday, August 19th at 1:00 p.m. at the museum, sponsored by Humanities To Go of NH Humanities. The program is ***New England Quilts and the Story They Tell*** with presenter Pam Weeks. I have heard her before, and her talk covers an assortment of interesting stories behind the quilts. Pam is a knowledgeable, engaging speaker, who loves her subject matter. Guests are encouraged to bring their own quilts to add to the discussion, so no two presentations are the same. This is a program that all will find fascinating!

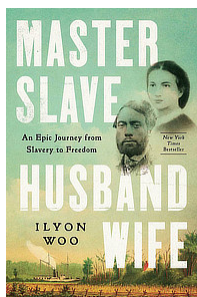
During a recent cleanup of the workshop attic, Ben Moore came across a box marked “cannon from the St. George,” a 1764 shipwreck off of Plaice Cove (North Beach). The box was about 2 feet long and it contained a small swivel cannon that was bound together with metal bands to keep it intact. We got excited until we realized it most likely was not from the ship, but an interesting “find” that got our imaginations working. We are still trying to discover more about it – but those who put it in storage are long gone, so it may be another unsolved mystery!



Betty Moore, Collection Manager

History Book Discussion Group

If you enjoy reading and sharing what you read with others, consider joining our discussion group. There is no pressure (meaning you are welcome even if you did not read the book), or skipping a discussion if the topic does not appeal to you.



Our next book discussion is going to be held on Sunday, September 17 at 4 p.m. at the museum. The book is *Master Slave Husband Wife* by Ilyon Woo. Taking place in 1848, it is the story of Ellen and William Craft who are escaping from slavery by traveling from Georgia to Pennsylvania. Ellen posing as a disabled white male slave owner and her husband as her caretaker slave.

Your Support Makes a Difference



Did you know that member dues and donations are projected to account for 40% of Hampton Historical Society's revenue for this fiscal year? Your generosity enables HHS to run the museum, maintain the grounds and buildings, offer wonderful programs and the fall festival, host visits by school groups, support research activities, and be a valuable part of the Hampton community.

So, when you receive your membership renewal form, please renew your membership and consider adding a donation as well. Your generosity will be put to good use and is very much appreciated. The Membership page makes it easy to join or renew and make an additional contribution at the same time, using PayPal for a secure transaction.

Note that you do **not** have to have a PayPal account or join it in order to use this secure facility; if you don't have a PayPal account, it will just take your credit card info and process it in a secure manner for HHS.

The sections below describe other ways to donate to HHS.

Use the Donation Options on the HHS Website



On the HHS website (see page1), click the Donations option on the left section of the main page. You can print a donation form and mail it to HHS with your check. Or, you can click the Donate button to donate online using the secure PayPal facility (same PayPal note as above).

Make a Qualified Charitable Distribution from your IRA Account

IRS rules mandate that individuals 73 and older take a required minimum distribution (RMD) from their IRA each year. These annual withdrawals are subject to ordinary income taxes. However, the qualified charitable distribution (QCD) provision allows retirees to donate up to \$100,000 to charity tax free from their IRA each year. The distribution is not included in your income, so you avoid the potential negative consequences that regular IRA withdrawals in retirement can create. A qualified charitable distribution to HHS from your IRA account may be attractive if you don't need all the income from your IRA to meet current living expenses. By donating money to HHS you can enjoy the satisfaction of knowing that you are contributing to a worthy cause while effectively lowering your tax bill.

Ed Baechtold, Treasurer

HHS Donors - November 2022 to June 2023

We sincerely thank all members who donated to the operating fund. Their contributions allow the Society to continue maintaining the property and its collections.

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Visitor Services

During this past year (July 2022 thru June 2023), we have had 5,267 volunteer hours spent, 415 walk-in visitors, and 413 local students, parents, and teachers visit our Tuck Museum! These are incredible numbers that show we are active and ready to serve the community. Our many programs and events have been well attended, with nearly 750 attendees throughout 2023 so far. Covid has come and gone (we hope!) and the museum is thriving. We have seen a strong uptick in visitor activity with local people, as well as those from around the United States.

Tuck Museum strives to provide an environment that will help historians, genealogists and browsers with their knowledge of history and ancestry along with help in finding locations of interest. We have info on old hotels, churches, local markets and businesses, Hampton Beach postcards, family histories, cemeteries, directories and yearbooks, to name a few. A huge thank you goes out to our regular visitor guides: Elly Becotte, Christine Dalbec,

Pat Thoen, Bill and Carol Keating, our student interns, Lori Cotter, and myself, Mike Compos. If your group or business would like a day out at the Museum, please contact us at Info@hamptonhistoricalsociety.org. We look forward to seeing you!

Mike Compos



Buildings and Grounds



Can you swing a hammer, run a saw, or hold a paint brush? The buildings and grounds committee needs you. This dedicated group maintains our property, gardens and landscape at HHS.

Last year we finished restoring our 1850's schoolhouse. This year we're refurbishing our old beach cottage. We're finally getting rid of the old hardware cloth that was securing the windows! The gardens are looking spectacular, and the workshop is getting its long overdue cleaning up and reorganizing. We never run out of fun jobs to do at HHS.

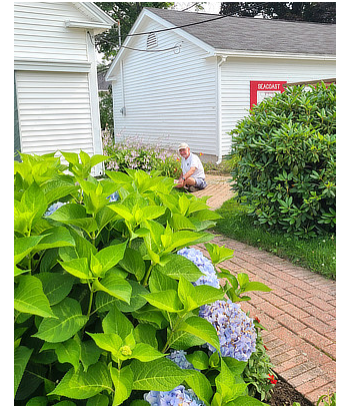


Work parties begin with coffee and donuts followed by 2-3 hours of work. The pace is easy and no one is required to make every session. After all, we're all volunteers.

If you're interested in joining us contact me, Gary Grashow, by email at ggrashow@grashow.com or by phone at 603-207-2476.

Thanks to all this year's volunteers: Mike Compos, Ben Moore, Mike Stiers, Betty Moore, Jason Moore, Marilyn Wallingford, and Karen Raynes.

Respectfully submitted,
Gary Grashow, Buildings and Grounds Chair



Manning Banner Exhibit

The image at the bottom of the first page is a section of the "Manning Banner." In her article in the November 2022 newsletter, Betty Moore mentioned a project Karen Raynes and I were working on concerning a large canvas advertising banner, a proposed renovation plan for the Hampton Beach area that took place in the 1930s. It was designed by the firm owned by Warren H. Manning, a famed architect.

Well, we finally finished it and the exhibit is now on display, with a complementary series of webpages. The museum



exhibit includes a 3' framed print of the entire banner on top, with two detailed enlargements of the left half of the banner below it (containing the most interesting areas, including Hampton harbor on the left through the Casino and then Church St. areas on the right). There is an accompanying binder with research on the plan by Karen Raynes.

The website has more detailed views, allowing you to zoom in on the banner, with labels describing the proposed new roads and the canal that would run from the harbor north through Great Boars Head and end at North Beach.

This banner project came about because the Tuck museum came to own this large banner that had been hanging in the Hampton Beach Fire Dept. meeting room for many years.

The "problem" with the banner is that it is in very poor condition, but because it is so big (12' x 3.5'), it would be expensive to restore and too large to exhibit anyway. Plus, because the plan was never implemented, the banner is only mildly important to the history of Hampton Beach, with no real significance. So the banner sat in limbo in our storage area for a few years.

My solution was to photograph it in very high resolution, with a series of overlapping hi-res photographs, similar to how you would do a landscape panorama, and then combining them on the computer. After that, I did a digital "restoration," eliminating water stains, bad coloration, etc. This was made easier because it isn't a work of art – it's just an advertising banner (with grommets along the top for hanging!).

So now we are free to display it in various ways and at various sizes. As far as the actual banner, there are Warren H. Manning historians who are interested in it, so time will tell. Meanwhile, come in and see the exhibit and view the website displays (QR-code at right).

Rich Hureau

Correction - the printed version of this article incorrectly states that Manning's first name was Charles. It was Warren.

