



GATHERINGS FROM THE GREEN

Published by the Hampton Historical Society

June, 2021

www.hamptonhistoricalsociety.org

President's Report

We're back! The Hampton Historical Society is deliriously happy to announce that the Tuck Museum of Hampton History is once again open to the public. For the remainder of June, it is by appointment only; but come July, we are fully open. See page 2 for an article from the Visitor Services Committee describing the hours and requirements.

The virus shut down the museum to the public but not to its workers. Much has happened over the last year. When you first come to the museum, you'll see the schoolhouse restoration in progress. An article by the Building and Grounds Committee in conjunction with Visitor Services is included in the newsletter (see p.5) to describe all that is going on. Inside the museum we have a number of new exhibits. The museum's volunteers were always thinking even when they had to stay at home. Again, a newsletter article is included to describe these additions (see p.3), but the best plan is to simply come in and see for yourself.

As you all know, our Pig Roast and all programs had to be canceled last year and for the first part of this year. One of our Board members suggested a Pig Roast alternative, that being an annual fall festival for Columbus Day weekend. The Community Outreach Committee took on the planning. It has been working on this project and has confirmed entertainment, food, games, and activities. Gourmet box lunches will be for sale, and they sound delicious. They will be available the day of the festival; but to guarantee you'll get one, they may be reserved in advance. See page 8 to read about all that's being planned for that weekend.

Even though we've been dormant for more than a year and have had to cancel all fundraising and membership events, the Finance and Membership Committees have reported to the Board that we remain in excellent health. There are three donations that I want to specifically mention. One is a bequest from the Estate/Trust of Phillip Michael Wasylean for \$10,000. This educator and philanthropist donated to a number of organizations in Hampton including ours, and we are so grateful for his generosity. Second, we had an anonymous donor match all donations from the membership drive from November to March. This match totaled more than \$10,000. Lastly, a \$1,000 contribution was received from Experience Hampton to help support the restoration of the schoolhouse, and I'd like to thank them for their kindness.

Before closing, I'd like to mention that the 2021 Annual Meeting of the Hampton Historical Society is planned to be held face-to-face in the Museum's Tuck Hall in October. The agenda will begin with a short business meeting to be followed by a program presented by the Collection Committee. The program will tell the tale of the Dow trunk, describing its travels from Hampton to the West Coast, how it was recovered, and the treasures found therein (see p.3 for pictures of the trunk).

The Dow trunk represents the kind of achievement of which this Society is so justifiably proud. Collecting and preserving the nearly 400-year history of the people of Hampton has never been easy. The spread of COVID-19, which shut down the Museum's public activities for over a year, is one of the many obstacles faced and overcome by the Society as it has pursued its mission. Come to the Museum and see what we all have achieved.

Linda Metcalf

From the Collection Corner

Collection work has jump started with volunteers now coming in again to work on projects. We have been positively euphoric seeing one another again – last summer we started a little “collection bubble” of three people, but the last time we worked together was in December.

Some interesting items have come in this year, and I have picked three to highlight.



Elizabeth and Doug Aykroyd

Late last fall, an antique dealer in New Jersey contacted the museum to find out about William Goss. Inside the drawer of a little hand-grained side table was inscribed “Wm Goss Hampton, NH.” We knew exactly who William was because he happens to be the grandfather of “our” artist Charles Henry Turner. After Charles’ mother died, he was raised by his maternal grandparents at their farm on Lafayette Road, where the house still stands today.

I contacted our local furniture expert, Elizabeth Aykroyd, to look at the photos of the table. She was interested in the piece and decided that she and her husband should buy it and, after study, donate it to the museum. The issue was how to get the piece to Hampton. As it turned out, my husband, Ben, and I were driving close to the shop on our way back from Savannah, GA, so we did a side trip to New Jersey to pick it up. The table had originally been purchased in Maine by the dealer, so it has made quite a trip up and down the east coast. The table is now on display in the parlor with other pieces from the Goss/Turner family.

Visitors of all ages will be entranced with the dollhouse made by Hampton resident Priscilla Emery Brown. At two and one-half stories high and nine rooms, it makes quite a statement! Each room is filled with a variety of furnishings and accessories. A long-time miniature enthusiast, Priscilla has constructed several one-room models too!



Hampton memorabilia collector, Steve Brigandi, contacted us about a trade sign he had seen in a local shop. It was from the Hampton Beach Improvement Company, formed in 1899 with a 99-year lease agreement with the town of Hampton for the land at Hampton Beach from Island Path to the Hampton River. The cost for this lease was \$500 per year. William Ross surveyed the area and laid out the new streets. With the construction of the Casino and the introduction of the trolley, development at the beach was off and running. This is one of the last traces of this company and an important addition to the collection!



So, three reasons to stop in and visit this summer!

Betty Moore

More About The Goss Side-table



Even without the inscription identifying William Goss, the table is an interesting piece of mid-nineteenth-century furniture. It was clearly made by an accomplished joiner, but the use of one large dovetail on the drawers, instead of the several small ones we normally see, is very unusual and may point to a practice seen only in this area. The painted graining, although somewhat damaged now, is of a very high quality. Those two features, together with the distinctive turned legs, make this table an important addition to the little known history of Hampton furniture.



Elizabeth Aykroyd

2020 Gifts to the Collection

- Photographs of Hampton Center, storms (1930s-40s), Hampton Beach fire 1963, Randall reprints, Thomas Cogger home & business; photo postcards (6) -- Peter Randall
- Photographs of Odd Fellows Block, stereocard Leavitt's Hotel, envelope relating to Warren Brown --Janice Jassmond
- Face mask Covid 19 from Wicked Flannel; photographs - Tuck Museum buildings and property (2019); invitation to open house Inn at Elmwood Corner; tavern walk pin from Meet and Suitable Person; Miss Hampton Beach studio photographs of Abby Sullivan and Anna Marie Alukonis; 2019 Hampton Town and school reports -- TM Collection Committee
- Postcards – “Bandstand and Trolley,” “Haystacks on Marsh” -- Karen Sanborn, Director Kittery Historical & Naval Museum
- Family history of Brooks and Bradbury Families -- Tim Brooks
- Ed & Jackie Lary Postcard Collection -- Ken Lary
- Booklet - *In Memoriam and Tear of Lamentation* -- Gorham Historical Society
- Photographs - Mr. & Mrs. Oliver Godfrey; poem “Lines to a Yankee Grandmother” -- Richard Dennison
- Deed – Ephilat Sanborn to William Simpson & John Neal -- Piermont Historical Society
- Photographs – The Sea Castle Cabins and Motel; sheet music and 45 rpm *When Priscilla Walks the Beach* -- Jean Boudreau
- Postcards – sailing ship and marshes ca. 1920, Hampton Beach -- Alvin Schaut
- Postcards –main beach, Hampton River Bridge, casino, Hampton River -- Beverly Ward
- Yearbooks (3), WHS memorabilia, sports programs, New England Music Festival memorabilia, patches Hampton Police Department, HFD announcement reporting fires, 1983 HFD Yearbook, menus from local restaurants, 1946 muster ribbon, 1904 street railway bulletin; photographs 1922 baseball team, Avon Hotel staff 1908, young boy; stereocard Hampton Beach, photograph albums, program 1912 Hampton Beach Theatre, political ephemera (Hurst, Kelly, Ring) tourism brochures, carnival week programs, magazines – *NH Motorist*; booklets – *Provincial New Hampshire History*, *Mr. Dow's Historical Address*, *Trolley to the Casino*; Cozy Corner Cook Book; ration book and holder, pennant HB state park, ash trays, paperweights (4), Tobey Drug Store merchandise, coat buttons EH&A St. RR, hand carved club; souvenir china Hampton and Hampton Beach - pressed glassware (7), souvenir china Whittier Hotel (3), cups and saucers, vases, mugs, bowls, plates (10) -- Steve Brigandi
- Hampton Playhouse papers regarding “Save the Playhouse” project; relic – shingle from Perkins house Tide Mill Road -- Ann Carnaby
- 1971 Class Ring WHS belonging to Julia Brown; binder of news clipping, late 19th thru early 21st C. -- Jewell Brown
- Postcards Hampton Beach - Frank Fogg photographer, 1929 church calendar, 1914 Hampton Beach Theatre program -- Seabrook Historical Society
- Anchor belonging to Palmer family -- Carol Palmer
- Wooden box made by John Payson, photograph albums (2), photograph Sarah Brown and Henry Emery (twins), vital record book belonging to W.E. Lane (1886), marriage license Mr. & Mrs. Elmer Lane, diaries of Elmer Lane (5); account book 1812-1840 -- Lloyd Graves

Betty Moore

1855 Schoolhouse Restoration Underway

The old “Main Road Schoolhouse,” formerly located on the west side of Lafayette Road across from Watsons Lane, was preserved by HHS in 1953 and relocated to its current location on the “Green.” This 16’ x 20’ structure is the only remaining one of four district schoolhouses dating back to the late 1800’s. Some schools housed as many as fifty students and a teacher. The quality of the education varied and, in some cases, left much to be desired. This 1855 schoolhouse, with its early connection to Hampton history, is finally getting the restoration it deserves.

Although it may appear to be a simple process of replacing siding and trim, we are carefully removing the cedar clapboards on the schoolhouse. Each one will be cleaned up, scraped, and then flipped over and reused. They are original to the building and are high grade cedar, better than those available today. All the useable windows, exterior trim, and wide pine wainscotting will be repaired and reapplied. The restored schoolhouse will be a great tribute to our Tuck Museum grounds; more authentic than when it was clad in vinyl siding and trimmed with aluminum, and at significant cost savings.

Volunteers hauled the desks and other schoolhouse items to a storage container and the work began. All the parts got numbered and inventoried for later reuse. We dug a trench and laid new underground electric and security lines from the main museum to the schoolhouse and to the cottage.

Upon completion, the exterior and the interior will get a fresh coat of paint.

Special thanks to our volunteers: Michael Compos, Mike Stiers, Ben and Betty Moore, Lori Cotter, Ed Baechtold, Jim Metcalf, Mark McFarlin, and Pat Bushway.

Thanks to Jason Moore of Lasting Impressions Painting, Exeter, N.H., Coastal Mi-Box, North Hampton, N.H. and Tri-Rent-All, Inc, Hampton, N.H. for their support.

Interested in volunteering on this job or other buildings and grounds projects? Email ggrashow@grashow.com

Gary Grashow, Buildings and Grounds Chair



Another picture on p.7

Donations to the Annual Appeal

Carol Angelari
Clara Arnold
Douglas and Elizabeth Aykroyd
Edward L. Bachelder
Philip & Diane Backstrom
Helena and Burley Barthell
Thomas J. Bassett
Mr. & Mrs. Walter L. Beaulieu
Bison Nuclear
Donald Bliss and Janet Mulligan
Leland Brennan & Sharon Rafferty
Steve Brigandi & R. Alan Hartnett
Frank & Mary Broderick
William and Mary Buddenhagen
Lorraine Parr Busch
The Bushway Family
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Alfred H. & Barbara Carlson
Ann J. Carnaby
Casassa Law Office
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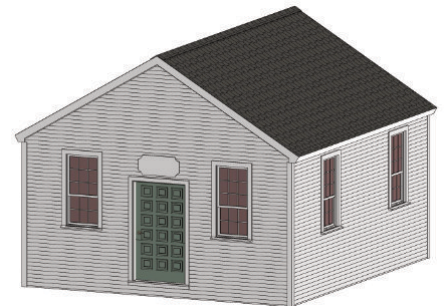
Upcoming HHS Oceanfront Gaming Dates - 2021

- August 24 (Tuesday)
- August 25 (Wednesday)
- November 14 (Sunday)
- November 15 (Monday)

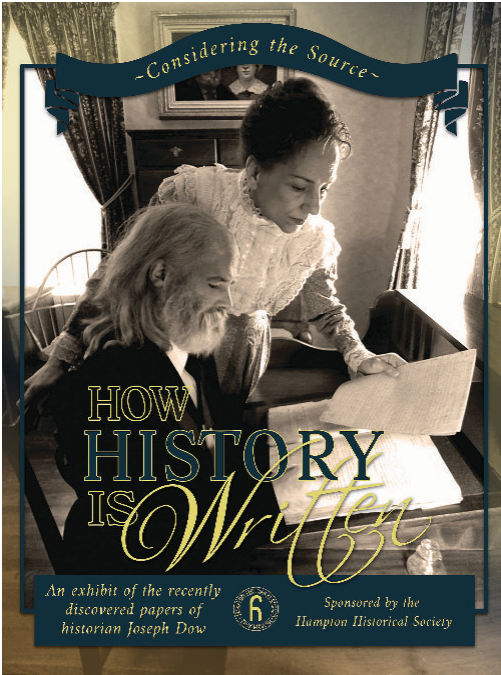
Business members

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

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How Do You Write History?



In thinking about how history is written, we found we had more questions than answers – but we are going to try to draw some conclusions in the latest exhibit, *Considering the Source: How History is Written*. The starting point is the Joseph Dow trunk, a 2017 acquisition that contained over 300 documents – deeds, wills, town, church, military, and genealogy records used by Joseph in his writing of the *History of the Town of Hampton From Its First Settlement 1638 to the Autumn of 1892*. In this exhibit, we are going to share some of the most interesting documents for visitors to peruse.

Joseph Dow was the perfect candidate to write the history – Dartmouth graduate, educator, genealogist who spent over 50 years collecting information on Hampton and its early settlers. Joseph's cousin, Josiah Page, a skilled genealogist, aided him in his research, as well as his daughter, Lucy, who became his helpmate in the later part of his life and ended up editing and publishing the two-volume set after his death. Sadly, neither Joseph nor Josiah got to see their work in print. The publication is considered one of the finest local histories, even by today's standards.

The story even has a modern-day mystery, as this trunk was discovered in a storage unit in Ketchum, Idaho. How did it get there and who put it there? Figure it out with us. The exhibit starts on July 7 and can be seen during regular visiting hours.

Betty Moore



2021 Tentative Event Descriptions

We have already held events that we were able to conduct within COVID restrictions. In April we co-hosted with the Lane Memorial Library a presentation entitled *Wit and Wisdom: Humor in 19th Century New England*. In June we assisted the Marston School for a tour of Pine Grove Cemetery and the museum grounds.

We'll continue our programs with a perennial favorite, a narrated tour of Pine Grove Cemetery. Come join us for this interesting discussion of the lives of some of our earliest town residents. The tour is tentatively scheduled for July 17 at 10 a.m. This event is free for members, and \$10 for non-members. Please reserve a space by emailing info@hamptonhistoricalsociety.org

Next will be a collaborative effort with the Lane Memorial Library to present author Skip Finley as he discusses his book *Whaling Captains of Color: America's First Meritocracy*. This is a look at a unique group of mariners and what they encountered in their pursuit of their catch. This will be an on-line Zoom presentation on August 26 at 7 p.m. Access information will be provided.

We are in the process of setting up a September program. We'll provide more details for this event in the next few weeks.

Mark your calendars now for the first-ever Fall Festival to be held on the museum grounds (see below). This family event offers something for everyone, from high-flying aerialists to face-painting and picnicking on the grounds. Plan to join us on October 10 for this wonderful community event from 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.

The Annual Meeting will be on October 17 at 6:30 p.m. and will include a look into Joseph's Trunk to get a perspective on our town's history. The meeting will be held at the museum.

We'll be joining in the festivities at the Tree Lighting Ceremony in Marelli Square on December 4, and our annual holiday Open House will be December 6 from 2-4 p.m. Please plan to join us to celebrate the season!

Pat Bushway

Fall Festival 2021

Now more than ever, we would like to show our appreciation for the members of this society and the community that gives us purpose. To show our appreciation for your continued support, we are proud to present the first ever Fall Festival, at Tuck Field on October 10. Join us from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. for a day of family fun – filled with games, live music, incredible performers, and delicious food.

Live music will be performed by BillyBilly. This laid-back musical duo specializes in "roots music" and has performed throughout the seacoast and past Historical Society events. Their music will be the perfect complement

2021 Calendar of Events

As we continue our journey back to normalcy, we're very pleased to share our tentative event plan for the remainder of the year. The emphasis is on "tentative" as the next few months unfold, so please bear with us as we make our way back to a full calendar of programs.

- **July 17** - Pine Grove Cemetery Tour, 10 a.m., \$10 for non-members. Reservations requested.
- **August 26**, 7 p.m. - *Whaling Captains of Color: America's First Meritocracy* - this is a virtual event presented in collaboration with the Lane Memorial Library on Zoom.
- **September** - TBA
- **October 10**, 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. - Fall Festival - This community event will be held on the museum grounds and will offer something for everyone
- **October 17**, 6:30 p.m. - Annual Meeting with Joseph's Trunk Presentation by Betty Moore
- **December 4** - Tree Lighting at Marelli Square
- **December 6** - Holiday Open House, 2-4 p.m.

to a crisp fall Sunday. You definitely won't want to miss it.

We will have two talented Aerial Artists, Baechtold & Abel, performing throughout the festival. These skilled performers have come together to offer their combined expertise in aerial acrobatics to put on a captivating show in the air. Baechtold and Abel have performed for crowds throughout Boston, including the TD Garden and Fenway Park. They will be joined by a fellow performer, Laura Hanley. Hanley is a circus workshop teacher specializing in hula hooping. She will bring plenty of hula hoops and keep kids engaged and entertained by teaching them how to do fun hula hoop tricks during the event.

Grab lunch and have a picnic in the park while enjoying the music, performances, and games. The Big Bad food truck will be serving mouth-watering BBQ made with fresh ingredients, from-scratch. Food will be available for purchase during the event, or you can pre-order your meal from www.bigbadfoodtruck.com starting August 1. The Big Bad will be donating 10% of Fall Festival profits back to the Hampton Historical Society.

Museum buildings will be open during the event and assorted games and activities will be stationed around the field for people of all ages to enjoy. Mark your calendars and get ready to enjoy a wonderful day of entertainment, music, games, and food at the Fall Festival this upcoming October. Admission to this event is free and open to the public.

If you are interested in volunteering to help with this event, please reach out to Molly St. Jeanne via email at LocallyMolly@gmail.com.

Molly St. Jeanne