



GATHERINGS FROM THE GREEN

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Annual Membership Appeal

President's Report

Including in this mailing you will find the annual dues statement and appeal for donations. We have just concluded a very successful year for the Historical Society and as we plan our next year we need the financial support of all of our members and friends. We hope you will renew and contribute.

Please take a moment to review the contact information we have on file for you, if you have an email address and would like to receive our newsletters by email please indicate that on the form, it saves time, paper and money.

HHC Award

On Friday, Oct. 26, 2007 the HHS Barn Crew was presented with community volunteer service awards from the Hampton Community Coalition. Percy Annis, Dave DeGagne, Ben Moore and Chet Riley received individual awards, and Sammi Moe accepted an award recognizing other Society volunteers.

It is nice to have the community take notice of the work done by our volunteers. We know that the words "thank you" are greatly appreciated and can mean more than the words alone can express. So thank you to the HCC for these awards!



Photo Courtesy of Liz Premo/Atlantic News

As our fiscal year comes to a close I am thinking about all the things the Society has accomplished this year. We have finished the barn building, are working on finishing the beach cottage, and the new kitchen is a wonderful makeover addition to the main building. We have served the local schools and many others with education programs, fun programs and events, and the annual Pig Roast was a great success! And the museum has had many visitors this year.

The volunteers who work on all of these things are amazing! The queen of all volunteers is our own Betty Moore. She is very dedicated to Tuck Museum and has made so much possible. And along with Betty we get Ben, who has spent countless hours working on the buildings and grounds. He and other volunteers keep everything looking good.

There have been many who have given their time to the other various projects as well. The barn was a huge undertaking and certainly a labor of love. Thank you to all who helped on the barn in so many ways! Many of these same people went from working on our kitchen to the barn, and are now on to the beach cottage work. (Dave DeGagne, Chet Riley, and Percy Annis just to name a few.) There are a number of people who are regulars around Tuck, and we truly appreciate all of them. Betty does a good job of keeping them all busy!

Membership remains fairly steady, although a small decline was noted. Since we depend on the annual dues and donations to sustain us, I thank you all for continuing to support the efforts of the Society. It would of course be better to grow the membership, so why not invite a friend to join? And if you have ideas for programs please let us know. Or better yet, volunteer to be on the programs committee! There are many other committees to consider as well.

There are always ample opportunities for volunteering with HHS. Don't be shy, we like you!

We have had a month of our new fiscal year, and it is amazing how much we accomplish in a month.

Our Education Committee has hosted the 1st grade classes from Centre School for the annual "Ox-Cart Man" program. This program took place in the new barn area and was a big success. The volunteers are busy with the continuing work of the Tuck Museum, and we are getting ready to host a program on Nov. 10. These are a few of the things going on.

The 2007-08 board of directors has met and elected the officers for this year. They are:

President: Sammi Moe
Vice Pres.: Bud DesRochers
Treasurer: Bob Dennett / Ben Moore
Secretary: Elizabeth Aykroyd

Trustees: Percy Annis, Dave DeGagne, Catherine Fletcher, Marilyn Green, Rick Griffin, Rich Hureau, Dyana Martin, Linda Metcalf, Liz Premo, and Catherine Redden.

I appreciate the confidence the board has in electing me for another term. I will certainly do my best to keep the Society moving in a positive direction. With the assistance of this terrific board, the continuing efforts of our fantastic volunteers and membership, and our wonder Director of the Tuck Museum, Betty Moore, this will be another great year.

Thank you!
Sammi Moe

Director's Report

What a year! Many accomplishments were made, that largest having to do with the upgrading of our facility. The Leavitt Barn was finished (covered in another report), along with the creation of a kitchen and the formation of a manuscript storage area.

The former office was renovated into a kitchen/office area and it has already had much use with the barn raising, pig roast, and programs. The second floor bathroom was gutted

and turned into a highly functional storage area where manuscripts, newspapers, organizational records, and scrapbooks are stored, freeing up much needed storage in other areas of the museum. Other project accomplished included:

- Completion of the Photo ID project started in 2006. Thousands of photos were reviewed, identified and non-Hampton photos sent to appropriate towns.
- Laptop computer replacing a ten year old model
- Purchase of a LCD projector to use for school tours and Society programs
- Copy machine and printer donated by Shanley Real Estate
- Front porch on tourist cabin - Dave DeGagne
- Highlights of donations to museum- Toppan Papers, Civil War records of Jacob T. Godfrey, Hampton Monday Club records, and the Davis (Philbrick) clothing collection

The following volunteers should be recognized for the contributions:

- Kitchen renovation project - Dave DeGagne, Ben Moore, Percy Annis, Chet Riley, Bill Darrihan, Jim Metcalf, Chuck Weinhold, Dann Shaw, Ken Lobdell, Jenna Lobdell, Betty Moore
- Kitchen appliance coordination - Marilyn Green
- Manuscript room project - Ben Moore, Percy Annis, Chuck Weinhold, Betty Moore
- Newsletter editor, email updates, website, and scanning projects- Rich Hureau
- Landscaping and grounds maintenance - Ben Moore, Bob Wallace, Ed Caylor, Percy Annis, Dave DeGagne, Betty Moore
- Tourist cabin - Dave DeGagne, Ben Moore, Linda DeGagne
- Museum hosts- Bob Wallace, Catherine Fletcher, Elizabeth Aykroyd, Ed & Janet Caylor, Ben & Betty Moore

Visitation to Tuck Museum - October 2006 thru September 2007

- 920 students - grades 1, 2, 3 and 8
- 312 visitors and researchers
- 135 group tours (scouts, home school groups, assisted living tours)
- 225 includes public and members served by programs and events

Betty Moore

The Raising of the Barn

After three years of planning, demolition, moving untold tons of timbers (several times), whitening, shimming and fund raising the barn reconstruction became a reality in the summer of 2007.

What began in the wet spring of 2004 with an innocent visit to the site of the Widow Leavitt barn on Drakeside road lead to an intense project to remove the structure from that location in a scant three weeks. The removal work was lead by Chet Riley, aided by a cast of over twenty volunteers including in particular Percy Annis, Bill Shea, Bud Desrochers, Ben Moore, Paul Powell, Shane Baker and Dann Shaw.

We carefully stored the timbers and began a fund raising effort that was assisted over the three years by the work of Bob Wallace, Charlotte Preston and Al Casassa.

After reviewing the land area at the Museum we selected a site close to the main building and placed the foundation and floor. Vic and Ken Lessard did the excavation work and Jack Dion did the concrete work.

The repair and replacement of damaged timbers in the 200-year-old frame consumed the summers of 2005 and 2006, all was made ready for the raising that was planned for 2007. The timber repair work was lead by Dave DeGagne and Chet Riley with the support of Percy Annis. It was truly amazing to see the fit of the timbers as the sidewalls were reassembled in 2006; they fit together like they had just come from the sawmill, the Master's marks on the timbers, in red wax crayon, are still visible and the frame is tight with the oak pegs securing it.

A small amount of work was necessary in the early spring of 2007, the roof rafter sections were pre assembled and a few purlins needed repair, all in all we were ready for a barn raising! We scheduled the crane and a timber framing crew to work along with our volunteers. The magic date was set for June 2 and we crossed our fingers for good weather.

The morning was the start of a beautiful day (okay, we had thunder storms in the late afternoon) and at 8 am the crane, nicknamed Icabod and ably operated by John Hall, picked up the

first sidewall section and the raising was underway. The activity had actually started on Friday afternoon as Aaron Sturgis, a professional timber framer and his crew had arrived to plan the raising. Among the many things they did was to measure the sidewall for square, our volunteer team had it pretty close, the frame was out by 1/8 " over a 60 foot distance.

The raising went very well, our volunteers, Chet Riley, Dave DeGagne, Percy Annis, Ben Moore, Ken Lobdell, Shane Baker, Bud Desrochers, Jack Hall and Bill Shea working alongside Aaron's crew, moving material, setting pegs and not getting hurt in the process. By late afternoon the sky was getting darker with a storm front approaching and save one purlin the frame was complete as the raindrops began.

The day was made more enjoyable by the great food and refreshment arranged by the Historical Society members, lead by Marilyn Green.

The frame was up but the work was not complete. Before the end of June we were placing the sheathing on the frame and in July Paul and Luke Powell began and completed the roof. This was no small task, the roof has two layers of sheathing and of course the roof shingles. Paul and Luke spent three weekends getting this work completed and without their commitment the barn project would not have been completed in 2007.

With the roof and wall sheathing completed we turned to the installation of the clapboards. The claps are a huge job, very time consuming with attention to detail required. Over the course of a month we finished the work with the volunteer team of Leigh Smith, Chuck Weinhold, Percy Annis, Ben Moore and Chet Riley. Dave Degagne was our master carpenter completing the trim work at the roof edges and the doors and windows. Dave also fashioned a second transom window for the barn, matching the original, you can't tell the new from the old with his craftsmanship. Painting finished the job with Bill Keating, Jody Millette and Betty and Ben Moore holding the brushes.

A wonderful addition to the Museum, a fun and exciting project and a great show of community involvement and support, Thanks and well done to all concerned!

The Benjamin James Chair

When the Historical Society was founded in 1925, Jennie James gave a side chair with a rush seat which had been in the James House on Towle Farm Road for nearly two centuries. The family tradition was that it had been used in the James pew in the old meetinghouse, thus giving it the name of "the pew chair." Although the chair has been in the museum for over eighty years, it has only recently received the attention of researchers.

The maple chair is of an unusual design which combines elements of several different styles current in northern New England in the mid-eighteenth century. The turned legs with the carved paint-brush feet and the ball-and-spindle stretchers are typical of banister-back chairs made everywhere in this area in the first half of the century. The back, however, with its paired stiles and unusual crest rail is unique. The crest rail with its sharp peaks is reminiscent of chairs being made in Portsmouth by John Gaines III, but the carved motif below appears nowhere else in chairs of this period. The combination of elements from furniture of the early eighteenth century with a crest rail similar to chairs of the 1730s or 1740s seem to place it as a transitional chair dating from about 1735 to 1745. In the summer of 2007 a chair came on to the antiques market which was almost a twin to this chair. Now in private hands, the chair was at first thought to have originated in western Massachusetts or Connecticut. However, a comparison with the James chair proves it to have been made by the same craftsman. Unfortunately, its provenance is lost, but it must have come from the Hampton area.

Two questions about this chair lead to much speculation. One, was it really a "pew chair?" The 1719 meetinghouse in Hampton where the Benjamin James family worshipped had only one pew – for the minister's family – until 1749 when each family could construct their own. It is possible that the chair may have been used in lieu of a pew before that time or that it was placed in a new pew built by Jabez James in 1749. Whatever its use, the chair certainly was placed in front of other seats. The back stretcher, an old replacement, is worn where many feet rested on it, and numerous initials and carvings appear on the back of the crest rail, perhaps from young boys bored during a long service?

The second question is who might have made the chair. We will never know for sure, but John James, the fourth son of Benjamin, was a joiner. We know that he worked on buildings, but whether his talents extended to furniture is unknown. Whether John made the chair or another as-yet unidentified craftsman produced it, this is one piece of furniture with a long history in Hampton which may help us to identify other furniture made in this town.

Elizabeth Aykroyd



Membership

Membership was one area that did not show progress in 2007. Our membership declined in the year by around 9% to a paid membership level of 460 members. We are considering a business membership drive for the next fiscal year. We could use the help of the current members in soliciting their friends and neighbors to join and any ideas for the improvement and expansion of our member base would be appreciated. Please contact Sammi Moe at 929-0881.

Programs 2008

The programs committee will meet on Dec.5 at 4PM at the Tuck Museum. We are looking for those interested in helping this committee with refreshments and greeting speakers and guests. Please contact Sammi Moe at 929-0881.

2006-07 Volunteers**Over 100 Hours**

Percy Annis	Rich Hureau	Ben Moore
Elizabeth Aykroyd	Bill Keating	Betty Moore
Dave DeGagne	Carol Keating	Chet Riley
Bob Dennett	Linda Metcalf	Bob Wallace
Catherine Fletcher	Sammi Moe	Pat Triggs Weeks

Other Volunteers

Douglas Aykroyd	Brad Jacobson	Liz Premo
Shane Baker	Karin Jacobson	Catherin Redden
Ginny Bridge	Jenna Lobdell	Dianne Riley
Art Caira	Ken Lobdell	Gloria Robinson
Priscilla Caira	Larry Marsolais	Dann Shaw
Ann Carnaby	Kelley McLean	Jean Shaw
Al Casassa	Hanna McLean	Leigh Smith
Janet Caylor	Sara McLean	Nancy Stiles
Ed Caylor	Dyana Martin	Don Trefethen
Nancy Coes	Marie Matthews	Pat Trefethen
Jamie Cronin	Ada Merrill	Elizabeth Webb
Billy Darrigan	Russ Merrill	Skip Webb
Linda DeGagne	Jim Metcalf	Chuck Weinhold
Bud DesRochers	Dick Milette	Karen Weinhold
Lois DesRochers	Jodie Milette	Eleanor Young
Ed Green	Byron Moe	Maggie Ginieres
Jesse Green	Carolyn Moe	Catherine Tomiczek
Marilyn Green	Sara Moe	
Rick Griffin	Peg Moughan	
Jack Hall	Sheila Nudd	
Ann Hansen	Cliff Pratt	
Dick Hansen	Kate Pratt	
Ken Hanson		

Thanks to all these great volunteers we were able to have such a successful year. We welcome everyone to join us for a one-time event or on a regular schedule.

Board of Trustees

President	Sammi Moe
Vice Pres	Bud DesRochers
Secretary	Elizabeth Aykroyd
Treasurer	Bob Dennett / Ben Moore
Trustees	Percy Annis
	Dave DeGagne
	Catherine Fletcher
	Rick Griffin
	Marilyn Green
	Rich Hureau
	Dyana Martin
	Linda Metcalf
	Liz Premo
	Catherine Redden

**Hampton Historical Society
Statement of Activities
Fiscal Year Ended October 31, 2007**

Preliminary and unaudited

Operating account:

Revenues, Gains, Other support:

Dues	3,960
Donations	3,020
Fundraising activity	9,113
Investment income	1,406
Income from Paige fund	1,475
Bequests	1,000
Other income	<u>424</u>

Total revenues & support 20,398

Expenses:

Tuck Museum	3,444
Buildings and Grounds	9,087
Public programs	480
Membership and newsletters	319
Fundraising expenses	1,314
All other	<u>674</u>

Total expenses 15,318

Change in net assets 5,080

Restricted donations received 27,463

Other restricted activities, net 0

Expenditures on Building

Improvements (31,989)

Net change in liquid assets 554

Liquid assets, beginning of year 67,181

Liquid assets, end of year \$67,735

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.

Programs, Publicity and Special Events 2007 Committee Report From 2007 Annual Meeting

The renovation projects that were carried out over the past year took much of the organizations time and energy, but a number of programs were held for members and the general public. Listed are the events and approximate attendance:

- 2006 Annual Meeting – Rebecca Rule, *Yankee Humor* 50+
- March 2007 - Peter Randall 'NH Then & Now' 45
- June 2007 – Barn raising of Leavitt Barn 60-80
- August – New Member Welcome 15
- Sept 2007 –Ann Carnaby, *Over and Under Wear* 30
- 2007 Annual Meeting - Diane Rapaport, *The Naked Quaker* 50+

The grounds were used in August for the Hampton Community Band Concert and the Rockingham County Craftsmen’s Fair.

Trustee, Liz Premo, provided great coverage on the society’s activities and events in the Atlantic News. Other coverage was on Channel 22 and in local newspapers.

Program committee: Sammi Moe, Catherine Fletcher, Dave DeGagne, Rich Hureau, and Betty Moore

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.
Landwright, LLC
Preston Real Estate
Remick & Gendron Funeral Home-Crematory
Seacoast Florist Inc.
Tobey & Merrill Insurance
Unitil Corp.



Interior of the barn, used for Silent Auction during Pig Roast