

Hampton Historical Society

Long known locally as the Hampton Historical Society, the society was actually incorporated in 1925 as the Meeting House Green Memorial Association to honor the original settlers of Hampton. A descendant of one of those families, Edward Tuck, generously donated funds to purchase a house on the site of the original meeting house green. The land surrounding the house was laid out as a park, and the house was turned into a small museum, appropriately named the Tuck Museum.

The Museum has continued to grow. Other buildings on the Green have joined the main house as exhibition areas.

The aims of the Society (the name was officially changed in 1994) have also become broader. To accomplish its goal of the promotion and preservation of the history and heritage of Hampton, the Society conducts an active educational program of tours and lectures throughout the year.

Come join us! Membership is open to everyone - residents and non-residents.

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.

Tuck Museum Complex



The Tuck Museum complex consists of five buildings, housing exhibits, artifacts, and information concerning all aspects of Hampton history.

Tuck Museum Main Building

The Tuck Museum building is the major building in the Tuck Museum complex. Life in early Hampton, the development of Hampton Beach, and Hampton military history are the subjects of some of the permanent exhibits. Changing displays illustrate other aspects of Hampton's history.



The museum also contains a library with information on Hampton genealogy and NH town histories, as well as town and school annual reports, photographs, and post cards. There is a small gift area where postcards, historical publications, and souvenirs can be purchased.

Beach Cottage (1930's)

The Beach Cottage was originally part of a motel at Hampton Beach. The motel was at 377 Ocean Ave. and had the name Young's Cabins in 1938, later Young's Motel in the 1960's, and even later Sea Castle Motel.



19th Century Schoolhouse

The last of Hampton's 19th century one room schoolhouses has been restored with authentic school furniture, books, and equipment covering several eras and showing the educational growth of the Hampton schools since 1750.



Barn (1796)

The Leavitt House Barn (circa 1796) was dismantled and reconstructed on the museum grounds from 2005- 2008. It is used to house displays about early Hampton industry - farming, fishing, shoemaking, blacksmithing, ice cutting, marsh haying, carpentry, etc.



Fire-Fighting Museum

Built by the Seacoast Fireman's Union, the Fire-fighting museum contains a 19th century fire pumper, a collection of antique fire alarms, a Whiting Light (precursor to today's emergency flashing lights), photographs, and other fire fighting equipment.



About Hampton

Originally a summer village for Native Americans from the interior of New Hampshire, Winnacunnet Plantation (renamed Hampton a year later) was founded in 1638 by a small group of Puritan families under the leadership of the Rev. Stephen Bachiler. Hampton, which originally stretched from Rye to Sandown, was part of the Massachusetts Bay Colony, but in 1679 a new royal charter changed the border, and Hampton became part of the Province of New Hampshire.

Early Hampton was a small village of farmers and fishermen. The extensive salt marshes were fertile grazing areas for cattle, and fishermen took a rich catch from the cod-laden waters.

“The Witch of Hampton”

Eunice “Goody” Cole



Goodwife Eunice Cole was one of several Hampton women accused of witchcraft 1650-80

Although the town remained small and fairly remote from the growing commercial centers of Portsmouth and Exeter, Hampton joined with the other towns to contribute soldiers and equipment to the Continental Army and help create a new nation.

The coming of the railroad in 1840 brought the beginnings of the tourist industry to Hampton. The seashore had been the province of the fishermen until then and few townspeople lived or worked there. Now, however, new businesses sprang up to accommodate the summer visitors arriving on the train from Boston, and the development of Hampton Beach as a resort began.

The building of the Street Railway at the end of the 19th century linked the Beach to towns all around the region, and Hampton became a major destination for day visitors. After the demise of the trolley, automobile travel became the major mode of transportation, and summer holidays always meant a crowd at the Beach.

After World War II, the construction of Pease Air Force Base and of Route 95 brought thousands of new residents. Hampton was transformed from the small Puritan farming village into a large residential and commercial town, with a booming tourist economy.

For more information and links to Hampton History, visit our web site at:

www.hamptonhistoricalsociety.org

Tuck Museum

40 Park Avenue
PO Box 1601
Hampton, NH 03842
603-929-0781



Spring / Summer / Fall Hours

Sunday, Wednesday, Friday

1 – 4 PM

Winter Hours (Jan, Feb, March)

Wednesday, Friday

1 – 4 PM

*Free admission, donations welcomed;
special tours and visits can be arranged
by appointment*

TUCK MUSEUM

Celebrating Hampton's
History



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Society
Hampton, NH