



GATHERINGS FROM THE GREEN

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Programs for 2009

The first program theme for 2009 is "The Changing Character of the New England Town." This theme will be the central idea for the March, May and June programs.

The program year begins on Saturday, March 28 at 2:00 p.m. with Gerry Miller presenting a program "Maps of Hampton" at the Lane Library, showing growth and changes in the Hampton community from the colonial period to present day.

Our second program will move from the topography of Hampton to the behavior of those who occupied its landscape - its citizens. On Saturday, May 9 at 7:00 p.m., Dr. Jere Daniell will discuss "The New England Town" at the Tuck Museum. Dr. Daniell will talk about the development of the classic image of the New England town, the "hows" and "whys" of the town meeting and more. He will link his lecture to Hampton's history as a New England town.

On Sunday, June 28 at 2:30 p.m., Betty Moore and Elizabeth Aykroyd will present "Hampton Then and Now" using postcards and other images to show the changing view of this New England town. The program will be at the Tuck Museum.

The Society's 8th annual Pig Roast will be on Saturday, September 5 from Noon to 3:00 p.m.

The second program theme for 2009 is 'Early American Industries' and will be the principal topic for the September, October and November programs.

September's talk by Steve Taylor will be on cows - more specifically "Cows and Communities--How the Lowly Bovine has Nurtured New Hampshire through Four Centuries." In this program, Steve Taylor explores the impact of cattle on New Hampshire's past, present and future. Cat

tle were essential to the survival of the earliest New Hampshire settlements and their contributions have been central to the life and culture of the state ever since. Mr. Taylor will appropriately be presenting in the Leavitt Barn at the Tuck Museum on Sunday, September 20 at 2:30 p.m.

Food is the subject of our annual meeting, specifically locally grown foodstuff from sustainable gardens. John Forti, Curator of Historic Landscape at Strawberry Banke Museum, presents "Slow Foods-Sustainable Gardens." Plants meet up with the kitchen table in a talk exploring edible plants, herbs and flowers inspired by the past. This talk will help re-enliven some of the secrets of a healthier diet and existence. Enjoy this exploration of the artisanal practices, historically inspired recipe ideas, and regional/seasonal/local and organic American food. John is one of the founders of Slow Food Seacoast. The meeting is on Friday, October 9 at 7:00 p.m. The site is under selection.

The program year will conclude on Sunday November 15 at 2:30 p.m. with Bill Keating presenting "Hampton's Diary and Other Early Industry," relating it to objects in the museum's collection. The talk will be at the Tuck Museum.

Bill Keating, Program Committee Chairperson

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.

From the President

I am very pleased to once again serve as President of the Society and thank the Board for their confidence in me. We have planned a busy year and the committees are in full work mode. We will be successful with the continued help of our members and the community.

The economy will present us with special challenges. We have already noticed that membership renewals and donations are down a bit from earlier years. We encourage you to renew your membership if you have not already done so. The economy will also make the success of the Pig Roast all the more important this year.

We have begun the planning for the Pig Roast; this year's event will be on Saturday, September 5. Tickets will be available in May and once again members will get a 10% discount for early purchase. The silent auction portion of the Roast is an important contributor to the proceeds and we want to increase the number of items available. If you have any items or services that could be considered for the auction please call or email me.

The Board will continue to spend monies to support the collection and the facilities. After this year's building project, the front and second floor halls, the renovation of the main museum building will be substantially complete, with only 10 more windows to be upgraded.

The Board is also looking forward and has established a Strategic Planning committee under the leadership of Elizabeth Aykroyd. Several Board members have volunteered to serve with her on this task; if you would like to join the committee please contact me.

This year's schedule of programs kicks off in March; I thank Bill Keating for his work in organizing the programs for this year.

Finally, our Society and the Museum prosper based on the work of our all-volunteer team. We always have more things to do than volunteers. The jobs are many and varied and if you would like to join in stop by the Museum or contact us.

Regards (and think spring!)
Ben Moore, 926-2543, BFMoore@comcast.net

Spring into HHS Membership!

It may not look like it right now, but spring really is right around the corner. The season brings a warm feeling of newness and rebirth, a perfect time for things to sprout, grow and bloom into something beautiful.

It's the same with membership in the Hampton Historical Society: Whether you decide to become a brand new member, or renew a current membership, it helps our support base grow stronger and makes all kinds of fresh, new possibilities happen for the Tuck Museum and the Society itself.

Anytime is a great time to become a member of the Hampton Historical Society. Last year, we increased our membership by 48 percent through participation in the Finlay Grant Challenge. For 2009, we'd like to see our membership continue to grow as we strive to fulfill our mission of promoting the history and the heritage of the town of Hampton.

Remember that membership isn't limited to individuals and families; businesses, too, are always welcome to join up and show support for the Hampton Historical Society. And it's easy: Just visit www.hamptonhistoricalsociety.org and click on the "Membership" link to print out a membership form.

Don't wait for spring to arrive - support the Hampton Historical Society today!

Liz Premo
Membership

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Director's Report

During a recent trip to Washington, DC, a conservator friend of ours gave Ben and me a tour of the Smithsonian's Museum Conservation Institute. It is the collection research and conservation center for the collection of the Smithsonian museums. The building, located in Suitland Maryland, is a massive complex, with huge state of the art storage areas and CSI-type conservation laboratories, complete with electron microscopy equipment, various x-ray machines, pristine work environments for each discipline (textiles, furniture, ethnographic objects etc.) and an on-site research library. It was fascinating! If you would like to see the facility online, their website is www.si.edu/mci/.

With envy I return to our own storage facilities two 12x10 rooms and a converted bathroom-well organized, but bursting at the seams. With these space limitations we comply as much as we can with the "best practices" we can afford financially with volunteer effort and expertise. The sad fact is that proper storage takes space. The HHS strategic plan mentioned in the President's article will be addressing these issues among many.

The good news is that the building and grounds committee is continuing their work of upgrading the museum's appearance. This winter's project is the hallways in the house portion of the museum. The ceilings were in tough shape with peeling plaster, the walls were in need of repair and the tired carpeting on the stairs and floor screamed "HELP!" Volunteers, including Dann Shaw, Percy Annis, Bill Keating, Cheryl Lassiter, and Ben and Betty Moore have done just that, stripping wallpaper, installing new ceilings, sanding woodwork and skim coating the walls. We are fortunate that we have people with the skills, energy and willingness within the organization to tackle these projects. Thank you! Thank you!

During December I had the pleasure of meeting Ken and Judith Palm. Ken was writing an article on the museum for *Rye Reflections*, an online publication covering the seacoast of New Hampshire; his wife Judith was the photographer. The article can be read on www.RyeReflections.org; from their home page, just click "Previous Issues" and select the January 2009 publication. *Rye Reflections* is a great resource for our com-

munity and I hope you enjoy browsing through all the issues as much as I have!

Bill Keating has done a wonderful job organizing the programs for the year. I'm always disheartened when people ask when we are presenting a particular program again because they heard from others how great it was. The fact is that they are usually only presented once. But lucky for us Gerry Miller has agreed to present his "Maps of Hampton" program once again. His longtime interest in NH maps has been beneficial for the museum because he has scanned many of our maps and self-published two booklets devoted to Hampton maps. His program is a "don't miss" on March 28th. Explore his maps on www.AntiqueMapsNH.com.

While you are checking out the websites I mentioned, don't forget www.hamptonhistoricalsociety.org. Our Webmaster, Rich Hureau, has a section called "What's New" where you can quickly click and see if anything has been added or changed to the site since the last time you visited.

Happy browsing!
Betty Moore

An Hourglass Holder from Hampton

By Elizabeth Aykroyd

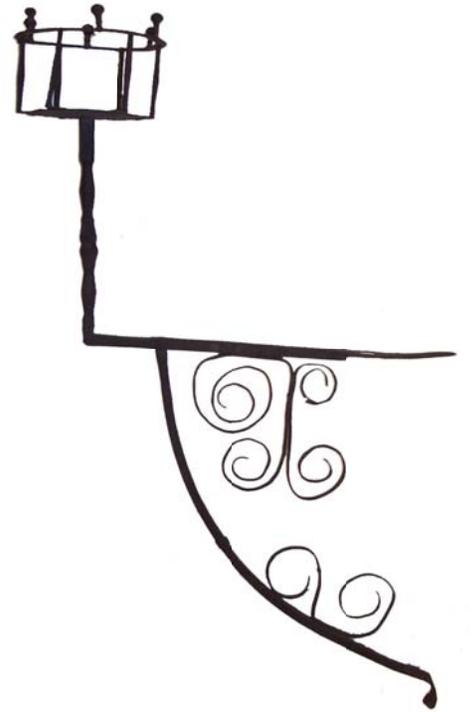
In 1870 Rev. J.B.Thornton, a descendant of Rev. Nathaniel Gookin of Hampton, gave a wrought-iron hourglass holder to the York Institute (now the Saco Museum) in Saco, Maine, one of the few historical museums in New England at that time. The history which he gave was that this holder had come from "Old Church, Hampton, N.H." The Old Church was the meeting house built in 1797 by the Congregational Society during the short period when the Congregationalists and the Presbyterians maintained separate meetinghouses. The Presbyterians had the support of the town meeting and met in the town's 1719 meeting house on the Green, where the Historical Society is now. The Congregationalists, as a breakaway group, voted to build a new building across the street from the present Congregational Church. At length, the two sects reunited, and town and church continued to share the building until the Congregationalists built their

new church in 1844. The town continued to use the old meeting house as a town hall without any real changes in the building. In 1860, long after the Congregationalists had moved out, the town finally embarked on a substantial renovation to transform the meeting house into a town meeting hall and offices. At that time the hourglass holder, along with the pulpit and pews, was removed and the holder given or sold to Thornton or possibly to his brother, who was working with Joseph Dow on The History of Hampton.

The holder is large, standing more than 33 inches high. Attached to the side of the high pulpit, it was a prominent feature of the interior of the meeting house. The striking scrolls, although now bent and misshapen, and the turned balusters of the basket are elements of a high-style decorative object, requiring a skilled craftsman. Such features were intended to emphasize the importance of the new building, in comparison to the old town meeting house. The Congregational Society was asserting its place in the town.

But who made the holder? Fortunately, the accounts for the building of the meeting house in 1797 have been preserved in the archives of the Congregational Church. In a long list of expenses, one for July 29 stands out: "To 44 [pounds] Philadelphia iron let Mr. Fellows have to work for house." On August 18 Fellows was paid for iron work. This is virtually the only reference in the accounts to locally-made iron work, since they list the purchase of nails, hinges, and other hardware from merchants in Portsmouth and Exeter. Therefore, it seems certain that this was one of the objects made by "Mr. Fellows." He was probably Ephraim Fellows, who was born in Kensington but married Betty Tuck of Hampton, granddaughter of Deacon Jonathan Tuck, who ran the grist mill. No other work by his hand is known either in Hampton or in Exeter, where he later moved, but the hourglass holder is important to Hampton's history because it is one of the few objects from the old church/town meeting house known to have survived either the renovations or the fire which finally destroyed the building in 1949.

(photo courtesy of Saco Museum)



2009 Donors

The Society has received \$1,700 in donations to the operation fund and \$1,500 in donations to the Endowment fund so far this year. We thank the members listed below for their contributions.

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2008 Gifts to the Collection

- **Atlantic News** 2007 CD - Connelly Communications
- **Bottle fragment** from Frank Laird Apothecary, paperweight showing Hampton Beach Casino (shown at right)- Pat Triggs Weeks
- **Books**, *A Little History of a Small Town*, Alexandria NH, and *Legends of the New England Coast* - Elizabeth Aykroyd
- **"Starline" vinyl suitcase** - Mrs. Fredrick Geller
- **Books**, *The Naked Quaker* and *New England Court Records* - museum purchase
- 1830 hand drawn **map of Hampton** - North Hampton Public Library
- **CD scan** of 1830 map of Hampton & 1841 map of Hampton - Gerald Miller
- **325th anniversary of Hampton memorabilia** including the schedule of events and *Congressional Record* relating to 325th anniversary - Ansell Palmer
- **Ladies maroon velvet & feather hat** - Betsey Davis
- **Sign** "Ruth G. Stimson Seashore Park" - Hampton Garden Club
- **Historic engineering record** of Eastern B&M railroad bridge, Hampton - DOT
- **Inkwell**, tintypes, 1959 fish house documents, 1906 commencement exercises Hampton Academy- Allen Palmer
- **Folding Auto Lunch Box** (shown at right), folding grocery crate from S.A. Dow and Son - Bruce and Rita Dow
- **Booklet**, *History of NH License Plates 1905-1996* - Stanley Hamel
- **Newspaper supplement** "Hampton 350" - Carol Keating
- **EH&A Street Railway memorabilia** including: photo albums, timetables, maps, receiver's inventory, postcards, magazines and booklets - O.R. Cummings
- **Reproduction map** Rockingham County 1857, 2 wooden snow shovels - Margaret Dennett
- **Research paper**, *First Settlers of Hampton* by Edmund Toppan - Andrea McGuire
- **Book**, *Living Barns* - Douglas Aykroyd
- **Stone bed warmers** (2) (shown at right) - Walter Garrish
- **Key** to Toppan Garrison gate, 2 girls dresses - Barbara Toppan
- **Buckboard** belonging to C.S. Toppan - Peter Christopher Toppan
- **Hampton Beach postcard collection** and Hampton Beach commemorative plate - Frank Mooney
- **Salty Marsh Garden Club scrapbook** 1985-1986 - Ted Scott
- **Hampton Playhouse memorabilia** including photographs, scripts and playbills - donor unknown
- **Colt News store corporate seal** - H. Alfred Casassa
- **Flipper toaster** (shown at right) - Jim Duhamel
- **Photo of George H. Towle** - museum purchase
- **Metal harness hooks** (3) - Donald Brown
- Collection of formal photographs of **Miss Hampton Beach** 1950s-1990s - Stephanie Lussier
- **T shirts** (WHS music, Hampton Fire/Rescue and The Atlantic News), Goody Cole Postmark 1938 - John Holman
- Records and photographic images from the **HHS barn project** - Chet Riley
- **Poster of Old Home Day** 1962 and scrapbook relating to the building of the 1960s addition to the HHS - Harold Fernald, Jr.
- **The Hampton Handbook** (2008), Hampton, NH design charette booklet (2007), wine glasses from Friend of the Library 50th celebration - museum collections committee
- Town of Hampton **Selectman's minutes** 1971-77; 1999-2006 - Town of Hampton
- **Town Deeds** - Town of Hampton



UPCOMING EVENTS

- **March 28** 2 pm "Maps of Hampton"
Gerry Miller - Lane Library
- **May 9** 7 pm "The New England Town"
Dr. Jere Daniell - Tuck Museum
- **June 28** 2:30 pm "Hampton Then and Now"
Betty Moore and Elizabeth Aykroyd - Tuck Museum
- **September 5** Noon to 3 pm
The 8th Annual Pig Roast
- **September 20** 2:30 pm
"Cows and Communities"
Steve Taylor - Leavitt Barn
- **October 9** 7 pm "Slow Foods - Sustainable
Gardens"
John Foti - site to be announced
Annual Meeting
- **November 15** 2:30 pm "Hampton's Diary and
Other Early Industry"
Bill Keating- Tuck Museum

BUSINESS MEMBERSHIP

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GATHERINGS FROM THE GREEN

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