



GATHERINGS FROM THE GREEN

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Executive Director's Report

An article on Ansell Palmer is featured in this newsletter. He was one of my first HHS friends and a long-time mentor. He served as HHS President from 1991-1993. In addition to his historical work he served on the Board of Selectmen, budget committee and Southeast Regional Solid Waste Committee. He left us a great legacy!

We have a Tuck Museum blog. Cheryl Lassiter and I, along with others, will be posting photos and short pieces relating to what is going on at the museum. It is one more method to showcase and share a new acquisition, a historical find or an interesting bit of information that might not make it to the newsletter. Right now we have photos from our trolley collection; an old-fashioned medical remedy for a cold; and two great entries - the romantic side of Seaborn Cotton (one of Hampton's early ministers); and a transcription of Mary Page Getchell's writings from 1883, "The Wandering Teeth" - check it out! Rich Hureau has a link to it on the home page of our web site or you can find it at <http://tuckmuseum.wordpress.com>.

I will be speaking to the North Hampton Historical Society on April 18. Since I had the opportunity to choose the topic, it will be "Hampton and North Hampton - The Ties that Bind." This will be a light-hearted program with local gossip, stories and incidents of closeness and conflict between a mother and daughter town. The program will be held at 7PM at the United Church of Christ on Atlantic Ave. and all are welcome. Contact person from the North Hampton Historical Society is Priscilla Leavitt at 964-8841.

Museum projects the past few months have been varied - Candy Stellmach is working on indexing a set of 24 personal property books from Hampton, Cheryl Lassiter is putting the finishing touches on her May program and working on the accompanying displays. Carol Keating, Dianne Riley and Martha Williams are doing collection accessioning projects, and Theresa Ryan

is "sleeving" the photo collection. Bill Keating is organizing his oral history project. Ken Lobdell is enlisting volunteers to work on various building and grounds projects - this winter windows were replaced and a new picture hanging system was installed. Biff Gratton and I are working on re-arranging the clothing room. Webmaster Rich Hureau is busy at the computer, Bob Wallace brings brownies and supervises all of us; and our newest volunteer, Louise Bower is learning the ropes. There are other volunteers that pop in and out as needed, but this is the winter core group that has kept things moving.

A satellite museum exhibit is in the lobby of town hall. Currently on display are pictures from the Colt Photo business - exterior views of the building; and interior pictures of the photo developing lab and Colt's first soda fountain. Also found is a short and funny history David Colt Jr. wrote about how his father got into the business. David Jr., a well-known Hampton North/North Hampton resident, passed away this winter. I feel fortunate that I was able to spend a delightful afternoon with him listening to family stories as we selected the photos for this exhibit. He was quite an accomplished photographer and one of his photos is included in the exhibit.

We are working with the Locke Family Association on a couple of programs for August that will be open to the public. Walking tours have been scheduled and an Arbor Day tree planting will be held this spring - the joint is jumping!

Betty Moore

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.

Report from the President

We welcome spring this year with more enthusiasm than normal and look forward to a very busy calendar of events and activities schedule for the year.

Our first event of the season will be an Arbor Day celebration on April 29 on the grounds of the Museum. Trustee Karen Raynes has successfully applied for and received a donation from the Rye Driftwood Garden Club to replace two of the maple trees that bound the Green on the east side. We will be planting those trees on Arbor Day. In addition to the planting we will be hosting the Hampton Arts Network that afternoon as they present artwork created by their members. We will also display artwork from the local schools; it will be a fun day and all are welcome - 1 to 4 pm.

Our programs for 2011 will begin on May 7 with a presentation by Cheryl Lassiter. Cheryl had researched the Page/Cole papers that were donated to the Museum in 2009 and has based her presentation on that research. Special exhibits in the museum will support the program. Cheryl is an incredible volunteer whose talents span a wide range of skills; we look forward to her talk.

As you may recall, we started a Monday morning work group last fall. Our first project was to catalog the collection that was located in the barn and to reorganizing the items displayed there. We kept at it into early December and only stopped when the weather got the best of us. We are ready now to start again and we begin the work parties on Monday April 11 at 9am. All are welcome; we will find a job for you. In addition to the barn exhibits, we have several building and grounds projects that we will be working on this spring and summer. Stop by for a chat and a cup of coffee to find out more.

Donations to the museum of both monies and objects have been great; membership dues are a little under budget. Renewal reminders will be mailed next week.

Of course it is never too early to talk up the Pig Roast. This will be our 10th roast and we want to break all records. Tickets to the September 3rd event will be available in June. If you have any items for the silent auction, give me a call - 926-2543 or send me an email at

BFMoore@comcast.net.

That's just a taste of what is going on; read the rest of the articles for a fuller look at the 2011 plans.

Ben Moore

Two community events are being planned this summer that you may want to mark on your calendars:

"Discovering Roots" Genealogy Workshop, Friday, August 5, 2011

A free, one-day genealogy workshop for beginners and people wanting a personal introduction to local resources will be held on Friday, August 5, 2011. The Locke Family Association, the Lane Memorial Library, and the Hampton Historical Society are hosting the day-long event at the Library. The Locke Family Association offers free workshops open to all residents of Hampton and surrounding communities in conjunction with its annual reunion and cosponsored with local organizations. The "Discovering Roots" program will include an introduction to genealogy, presentations about the extensive resources of the Lane Library and the Tuck Museum, and other New Hampshire information sources, quilts as family history sources, and a special morning hands-on workshop for children and the young at heart.

Tuck Museum Tour, Saturday, August 6, 2011

As part of its Annual Reunion on August 6, 2011, the Locke Family Association is celebrating its historical connection to Hampton, NH. The Hampton Historical Society will open Tuck Museum from 1:30 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. with a self guided tour of the museum buildings and exhibits. During the afternoon, Locke family members and museum volunteers will present informal remarks about Locke related artifacts in the museum collection and in family ownership, including several early quilts. The tour is free. The public is invited to join with the Tuck Museum and Locke Family Association in this special opportunity to celebrate historical roots.

For more information on these events contact: Sandra G. Munsey, 22 Pinecrest Drive, Forestdale, MA 02644, sgmunsey@comcast.net, phone: 508-539-9442

Education Committee Adult Programs

In March's *Gatherings from the Green*, Betty Moore gave a shout out in praise of savers. Her tribute was specifically for the Cole/Page family who donated eight boxes containing family genealogies, letters that spanned sixty years, and diaries and other possessions, the stuff of a family's life.

Little did we of the historical society know what a gift we had received! Yes, we were aware of the significance of these boxes of personal history; but then the Hampton Writer began to read the letters and envisioned a story, the story *A Page Out of History: A Hampton Woman in the Needletrades, 1859-1869*, the writer Cheryl Lassiter.

Today we seem to have to be infused on all possible sensory levels, we need multimedia, and one-dimensional presentations don't hold our interest. Well! Not a problem - our first presenter, Cheryl Lassiter, is not only a writer but also a storyteller and dramatist. She will not only inform you, she will do it in an entertaining way. Believe me, you do not want to miss *A Page Out of History: A Hampton Woman in the Needletrades, 1859-1869* on May 6 at 7:00 p.m. at the Tuck Museum.

Are We There Yet? A perennial question asked especially by the young traveler. Our second offering has moved us up the road to the 20th century to experience a contemporary expression of a time-honored tradition - vacationing.

Jennifer Carroll-Plante, our second speaker, has been researching and writing about how Americans vacation for years. Her program will highlight roadside motels and cabins as one expression of our national tradition of hitting the road. Here's a taste of Jennifer's talk: "The earliest motels in the New England area were cabins built by homeowners and boarding houses to accommodate the roadside traveler. Soon pre-fabricated cabin colonies and motor courts of the 1930s-1940s paved way for the more modern motels situated along major tourist routes and highways. By 1964, there were an estimated 61,000 roadside lodging sites across the country."

One of these vacation spots was our beach cottage, part of a motel on 377 Ocean Avenue,

Hampton Beach; the motel was named Young's Cabins in 1938, later Young's Motel in the 1960's, and even later the Sea Castle Motel. You won't want to miss Jennifer Carroll-Plante's talk *Are We There Yet? A History of Roadside Motels and Cabin Colonies*, at the Tuck Museum on June 9 at 7:00 p.m. Come an hour early (6:00 p.m.) and have a look at our cottage and share your vacation memories, maybe even record some thoughts as part of our oral history project.

On Sunday July 10 at 2:00 p.m., the museum's tool man Dave DeGagne is having *Tool Time with Dave* in the Barn at the Tuck Museum. Dave is an expert on the history and use of early American farm and industry tools. If you have ever wondered how stuff was made or fixed (what a novel idea) back in the olden days, then come and marvel as the tool man talks about and shows hand tools from the past. If you have an old hand tool you want to know more about, then bring it along, Dave probably can tell you its history and show you how it is used.

There will be a tent with refreshments (don't miss the wonderful cookies baked by the museum's master baker), a tour of the barn and information about the Society's work on cataloging the barns of Hampton, a project of the NH Division of Historical Resources. More information about the barn survey project is available at the Hampton Historical Society's web page www.hamptonhistoricalsociety.org. If you have a Hampton barn that you would like to have researched, then this is the event for you.

In September the Society will be holding its 10th annual pig roast on the grounds of the Tuck Museum; see the Upcoming Events calendar.

Our annual meeting will be on October 14, Founders Day, at 7:00 p.m. at the Tuck Museum - a good time to start thinking about the town's upcoming 375th anniversary. Gus Reusch, the historian, actor and public speaker will be our presenter. Mr. Reusch is the curator of the Whittier Homestead in Haverhill, Massachusetts. Whittier's connection to Hampton and the towns that surround Hampton make him not only a literary figure but also a local whose life is significantly connected to the New Hampshire seacoast. Gus will not only talk about the poet John Greenleaf Whittier, he will bring him to life. So come to our annual meeting and spend an evening with John

Greenleaf Whittier.

The Education Committee has made every effort to present a series of programs that meet the Society's goal of increasing the public knowledge and understanding of the history and cultural heritage of the town of Hampton, New Hampshire.

We ask that you support our efforts by attending our programs and periodically clicking onto the Society's website. Be sure to check out our programs in the Upcoming Events calendar on the last page of this newsletter and post them to your home calendars.

Bill Keating, Co-Chair Education Committee



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We recognize with thanks the following members who made donations to the operating fund or the endowment fund during the annual appeal. Their gifts are extremely important to our on-going success.

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2010 Gifts to the Collection

- Tools – iron spoke shave, shingle hatchet, auger bit set – Donald Brown
- History of Mikan Theatrical Building, curling iron; papers relating to Hampton Playhouse – Ann Carnaby
- Souvenir “Hampton Beach” metal sign – Sheila Kenney
- Research – census records for Hampton; CD photos - 2/27/10 fire at Hampton Beach; CD photos and research High St Grist Mill; CD early Hampton town records; books “Renovating Old Houses,” “Renovating and Restyling Old Houses”– Candy Stellmach
- Leavitt Family Histories (3) – National Association of Leavitt Families
- Research – Christopher Toppan, cattle ear marks in Hampton; transcriptions – Leavitt and Page family letters, Anna May Cole letters, Shubel and Josiah Page papers; CD of Maybelle Perkins photo albums and maps of Rockingham County; books “Historic American Timber Joinery” and “Historic American Roof Tresses”; photos from walking tour #3; scans- James Tucker’s “Our Town”– Cheryl Lassiter
- T-shirts - Hampton Beach Seafood Festival, Hampton Community Challenge 5K Race – Liz Premo
- Antique cradle from the Leavitt family – Laurence Leavitt
- T-shirts – Seafood Festival and Hampton Rotary road race – Ben Moore
- Books – “Toppan’s History of Hampton,” “Petit Palace Guide,” “Historic Burial Grounds,” “Portsmouth Cemeteries,” “The Oral History Manual.” “Dictionary of American Handtools,” “Farmers and Fishermen,” “Women’s Work in New England,” “American Speech 1600 to Present,” “New England Prospect,” “The Tools that Built America,” “American Farm Implements and Antiques,” “A Building History of Northern New England,” “Turn of the Century Farm Tools and Implements,” “Homemade Biography”– museum purchase
- WWII booklet “Make and Mend for Victory,” 1896 magazine “The Delineator,” “Ames Book of Flourishes,” (1890), Scrapbook of Florence Kierstead – Village Olde and New Shoppe
- Two pottery jugs, metal milk jug – Maureen and Keith Moran
- Book “The Encyclopedia of New England” – Portsmouth Athenaeum
- Negative of Hampton Food Market (Winnacunnet Rd) - Judy Henderson
- Gamewell Fire Alarm Box and stand; 1987-88 town warrant information, photos relating to town; misc. town papers – Town of Hampton
- Hat box and Hat, leather pouch – Judy Romano
- Perkins Collection- autograph books, collar box, cameras, class photos, deed to fish house, Perkins guest book, marriage certificate, postmaster certificate Herbert Perkins, Perkins Post pin (GAR), Perkins Post roster, 350th scrapbook, scrapbooks - Hampton seawall, Hampton Beach riots; photos -63 Dearborn Ave, Perkins Meat Market, John Perkins family, class of 1943; WWII ephemera, diploma Hampton Academy, Judge John Perkins papers – Lee Perkins
- Photographs of Hampton Beach – Mr. and Mrs. Wallace Philbrook
- Book from Congregational Church library “Ruth Edwards Victory” – Karen Raynes
- Book “The Marston Genealogy” – Sandra Marston
- Historical background - Ruth G. Stimson Seashore Park, High St. grist mill – Harold Fernald
- Log “Hampton Valuation and Taxes 1898,” photos from Leavitt barn raising, book - “Rural New England Furniture: People Places and Production” - Doug & Elizabeth Aykroyd
- Bicentennial jug from Hampton Co-op Bank – Beverly Mutrie
- Scans of Doug’s Lunch and Hunter family photos, postcards of Fairview Hotel and Strand Theater, newspaper “The Advocate” 7/24/1936 – Douglass and Sarah Hunter
- Scans relating to Colt News, NH turnpike, and Casassa family - H. Alfred Casassa
- 350th memorabilia including baseball cap, license plate #36, parade program, ashtray and parade photographs – Glyn Eastman
- Scrapbook from Hampton Garden Club 1966-1977 – Woody Woodworth
- Selectmen and school reports 1867-1877, scans from two photo albums relating to the Ashworth Hotel; photos –Hampton area and residents, collection of greeting cards belonging to John S. Page, deaths in Hampton 1877, hay receipt 1874, church related diary. Baptist Church ephemera, postcard relating to Hampton – Steve Brigandi
- Framed postcards of Hampton – George Madsen
- Newspaper “Beach Comber” 7/8/1981 – Geraldine Ross

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- Postcards (2) Vandemere House and Hotel – Anne G. Poletto
 - Program – Charter Night of the Hampton Kiwanis, Tobey and Merrill 50th anniversary supplement, scans of photos of the Noyes and Merrill families, class photos 1935 and 1944, c.1900 photos of Hampton; Welcome Home 1919 Program, Christmas parade button 1989, bell and stand relating to Odd Fellows building – Russ Merrill
 - Photographs – Charles Henry Turner tombstone, Hampton Beach fire 2/27/2010 – Marge Crean
 - The Hampton Union 6/10/1900 – Ann and Kevin Morgan
 - Spinning wheel of Miriam L. Moulton (Lamprey) - John Mason
 - Postcards – The Woodlands – Kathleen Tattan
 - VHS tape Native American Event at HHS 9/1992 – Brad and Karin Jacobson
 - Photo – Hampton Beach Chamber members – Charlotte Preston
 - Calipers for measuring shoes – Kevin Wallace
 - Memoir “Growing up in Blakeville” by Nelson W. Tobey - Scott Bean
 - Watercolor “ Fish Houses” by L.F. Wait – Ronald Bourgeault
 - Oil painting “ Football Practice at Tuck Field” by Fran McHenry – RiverRunGallery.com
 - Items relating to Ashworth Hotel, Grandmaison families and Hampton Beach– Pat and Joyce Grandmaison
 - Page/Cole family photos, papers relating to Caroline Cole, Congregational Church rededication; photos - family homes, 1938 storm, Hampton center, tercentenary; books - Sanborn family history, Drake family history, Ernestine Wygant’s wedding day book, four hats, handkerchief, baby blanket, aprons, doily, laundry bag – Carol Felter
 - Spring balance – Betty Moore
 - War ration book – Allen “Bud” Palmer
 - Scans of Colt Photo store- David Colt Jr.
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2011 Hampton Walking Tours

Hampton History is full of interesting events and characters. In 2010, trustee Karen Raynes and museum director Betty Moore shared with the community the opportunity to walk and talk about Hampton's past. We initiated three historical Loop walks. The first held in May was “A Historical Walking Guide of Hampton Village, New Hampshire.” The walk started downtown at Marelli's Market, headed south on Lafayette Rd., then to Academy Ave. and High St. The walk was covered by reporter Aubry Bracco. Her article may be viewed at: hamptonunion@seacoastonline.com, May 18th, 2010 copy.

The second walk in the series, “Gardens to Graves,” took place in June. Hampton gardens were in lush bloom at that time. The walk viewed homes on Winnacunnet Rd. and Mill Rd. with gardens similar to turn of the century gardens in Hampton. At the corner of Mill Road and High Street four Boarding Houses evoked stories of past town residents. A trip to the High Street Cemetery introduced the walkers to some interesting folk from the past and their lives in Hampton.

In September the walk concentrated on the harvest. Hampton, once called “Little Egypt” because of an abundant corn crop and a rich supply of salt hay, was for years an agricultural community. Our walk, called “Harvest Ramble & Repast,” started at the barn of the Tuck Museum. We rambled up Park Ave., Winnacunnet Rd. and Mill Rd., then on to the Trinity Church's Hobbs House, where Nita Nimichek told us the history of Hobbs House while we ate pie and drank cider.

All three walks were well attended and appreciated. In 2011 the three walks will continue. The first will be the Downtown Historical Loop, Saturday May 21st at 1pm. The walk starts at Historic Marelli's Market.

The three brochures for self guided walks are available at The Old Salt, Marelli's Market, New England Boot Company and the Tuck Museum.

To reserve a spot on the tours call the museum at 929-0781 or send an email to info@hamptonhistoricalsociety.org, each tour has a fee of \$10.

Tribute to a True Gentleman

On March 1, 2011 Hampton lost a valuable citizen. Ansell Palmer, who was active in so many community organizations and activities, passed away.

A proud advocate of Hampton, Ansell lived most of his 91 years on King's Grant land that his family had owned since 1639. He attended local schools and after serving in Hawaii in World War II he graduated from the University of New Hampshire. For over 30 years he worked for General Electric as an engineer, where he registered over 25 patents while developing electrical measuring equipment. He was married to his wife Irene (Craven) Palmer for over 56 years.

Ansell was an ardent supporter of the Hampton Historical Society, serving on the board for many years and as President from 1991-1993. During his presidency, he pushed the Society into the modern era – an archivist was hired to begin the cataloguing process, the newsletter "Gatherings from the Green" was established, and an endowment fund through the Greater Piscataqua Community Foundation was started.

Ansell loved his town, serving as selectman from 1985-1988. He also served on the Budget Committee and Southeast Regional Solid Waste committee. In other community activities he had been a warden of the First Congregational Church, a member the American Legion, and was active in the NHSPCA. He also was one of the original boy scouts in Troop 177.

Pursuing his interest in local history, he worked on community celebrations like the 325th and 350 town anniversaries and Old Home Days. He chaired a committee publishing the book *Piscataqua Pioneers*. Through his work with historic preservation, the James House and Blake cooper shop now on Barbour Road were saved.

Ansell had a quick smile and even quicker wit. For almost 20 years he volunteered at the museum's weekly work parties. He would grab a cup of coffee, share what was going on – could be a bit of local news, but usually it was about his daughter Carol, or more recently his granddaughter Lavinia, both of whom he was extremely proud.

Up until the last few years Ansell's energy seemed to be limitless. We could hardly keep up with him mentally or physically and behind his back I referred to Ansell as the "energizer bunny" - in his 80s he could still jump over the side of his pick-up truck, putting most of us to shame.

Ansell worked to create a better community for us to live and prosper, and for that I am extremely grateful!

Betty Moore

Calling all Artists



Spend the day with easel & brush, celebrating Arbor Day at the Hampton Historical Society, Friday, April 29th, 1-4 pm.

We will be planting two sugar maples in honor of Arbor Day. Students from Hampton will display their Arbor Day artwork on clotheslines.

The barn and the museum will be open for the event. Plants and Arbor Day information will be available.

Please contact Karen at:
shootingstardesign2010@hotmail.com or
307-730-7077

The Maples are funded by a grant from the Rye Driftwood Garden Club to the Museum.

Come join the community in celebrating our trees

Education Committee

Please consider volunteering for our school programs. We are in need of volunteers to assist with school tours of the museum and grounds. We will provide you with the tools needed to cover the material.

Also needed are volunteers to simply "man the area," keeping an eye on things and possibly answering a few questions or directing the questions to the right person.

The service we provide to the local schools is truly important to the education of our youth and appreciated by the schools. It is a fun way to have some interaction with the schools and the kids, and perhaps learn a little more of your Hampton history as well.

Please call Sammi Moe @ 603-929-0881, or Betty Moore @ 926-2543, or the museum @ 929-0781. We are happy to answer your questions about this great opportunity! Thank you!

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **April 18, 7 p.m.** *Hampton and North Hampton - The Ties that Bind*, presented by Betty Moore for the North Hampton Historical Society, United Church of Christ, North Hampton
- **April 29, 1-4 p.m.** Arbor Day event Meeting House Green - Art exhibition and planting of two maple trees
- **May 6, 7 p.m.** Cheryl Lassiter presents *A Page Out of History: A Hampton Woman in the Needletrades, 1859-1869*, Tuck Museum
- **May 21, 1 p.m.** Walking Tour - Downtown Call 929-0781 for reservations and information
- **June 9, 7 p.m.** Jennifer Carroll-Plante - *Are We There Yet? A History of Roadside Motels and Cabin Colonies*, Tuck Museum
- **July 10, 2 p.m.** Dave DeGagne - *Tool Time with Dave*, a presentation, a tent, some food and a barn tour, Tuck Museum barn and grounds
- **August 5, time TBD** - "Discovering Roots" Genealogy Workshop at Lane Library
- **August 6, 1:30-4 p.m.** Tuck Museum tour, Locke Family artifacts and quilts
- **September 3, Noon to 3 p.m.** The 10th Annual Pig Roast - Tuck Museum grounds
- **October 14, 7 p.m.** Gus Reusch, dramatist, actor and speaker brings John Greenleaf Whittier to life, Tuck Museum

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Peek in on what keeps our busy museum director busy! Follow the fun and exciting events at the Tuck Museum, see what's new in the collections, view featured exhibits, and read about real people from Hampton's past in a fun, fresh, and entertaining way.

[Click the link at hamptonhistoricalsociety.org](http://hamptonhistoricalsociety.org)

Be sure to go to the next page, a PDF bonus page

GATHERINGS FROM THE GREEN
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Bonus PDF Page

Strawbery Banke Upcoming 2011 Program



Strawbery Banke announces an exhibit covering the life and times of Fitz John Porter, Portsmouth's Civil War hero and the subject of one of the most infamous scandals of the Civil War.

The exhibit is open to the public starting on May 1 in the Museum's Rowland Gallery on the grounds of Strawbery Banke.

This exhibit is part of larger celebration that will have a birthday party for General Porter and a full weekend Civil War encampment at Strawbery Banke in August 2010.

More information can be obtained at www.strawberybanke.org.