



# GATHERINGS FROM THE GREEN

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[www.hamptonhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.hamptonhistoricalsociety.org)

## **The Deep Well – resources for the curious and creative**

by Candice Stellmach

Writers and researchers, scholars and historians, even novice genealogists all share the need for resources. As we've discovered at the Hampton Historical Society, information is abundant, but not always "ready for prime time." Old documents are fading and falling apart, being dumped rather than restored, considered too costly to convert into megabytes, pixels, and EPUBs for today's fast-food consumer, but we're working to satisfy the growing hunger. Sources: news clippings and scrapbooks; town records of all types; personal holdings (documents, letters, photos, manuscripts, and diaries).

Are you an historian or a collector? Resources recently made available make it possible to rewrite history from a unique perspective. One letter our family found provided a completely new perspective on the US invasion of Cuba in 1850. Verifying all these new "facts" in that letter has led to ten more stories, each more unbelievable than the last.

Wish to add local color? Similar to what Dow did for Hampton's history, others have done likewise, weaving together facts about politics and fires, fractured genealogies, and short biographies. Perhaps you have information or photos which could better describe the characters and events of Hampton. Clues are not only in books; they're in jewelry, photos, letters, antiques, and accents and dialect spoken. Don't throw anything away, especially your memories. We encourage everyone to write them down and share those precious moments, perhaps providing us time to record your thoughts for posterity.

Our archives contain various collections from the past century, but we are organizing photos and events by themes, locations, and time periods in order to help researchers find their favorite topic about which to write, or just to spend time wondering.

Want to be a budding novelist, a playwright, a costume designer? With the right resources you can create believable characters and settings that inspire a reader's imagination and nourish creativity by using long-forgotten slang, historic verse, or political rhetoric ... detailed events properly anchored in time.

Hope to begin as a novice genealogist? You may have a corner in your home which captures "junk," the first tooth, the pressed flower of that special date, letters and recipes, the contents of a wooden box your father kept—and he probably didn't keep much. Hold on to it!

Don't expect researching to compare to the ease of completing the evening crossword puzzle. It takes decades because there is no end to it, but the journey of small steps is often sprinkled with moments of huge satisfaction. Along the way you meet, learn, share, and open the door to new ideas and insights into immigrants' adventures and the history of your family and of our town.

Hoping to learn Transcription? Understanding the following paragraph required learning about languages which evolve over time, becoming comfortable with "old English" terms, both historical and genealogical, knowing abbreviations, and understanding that certain sounds were emphasized in text. And again, this is where the Hampton Historical Society can be of help. After reading the following, you too may want to sign up for transcription classes we are planning.

A friend from Hampton showed me a tiny square of paper from her father's special box of mementoes, asking for help in even reading what she deemed impossible to understand. This 1850 handwritten letter was fading and tearing at the folds, hardly worth keeping, she thought. Even the word "Crofs" had no meaning. Immediately I explained that "fs" in old documents is "ss," depicting a hard sounding "s." Just saying that helped her. Next, I sent to NEHGS's library for a book about the town mentioned—Megantic (found to be in Quebec's Eastern townships). A small,

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dusty book arrived in three days; surprisingly, the man most prominently featured in it was the author of her letter! In minutes we puzzled together not only the history of her great grandmother Cross who came to Hampton about 1909, but of her ancestors who had emigrated to Vermont seventy years earlier. Imagine, a tiny scrap of paper that was headed for the trash turned out to be the key to three generations more, leading back to 1790s Ireland.

So please keep the Historical Society in mind when you're cleaning out the attic or wishing you had some special project to fill your time. We welcome all artifacts with ties to historic Hampton, and maybe we can explain to you more of the meaning of some of your precious family heirlooms.

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### Executive Director's Report

I was able to take the winter months of January and February, when our visitation is traditionally down, and finish my museum "to do" list from the previous year - all those things that I kept meaning to get to but never had the time. With the focus in 2013 on Hampton in the Civil War, I spent a few weeks transcribing a collection of Civil War letters that Irene and Carol Palmer donated to the museum in 2012. They were written by Simon Lamprey to his brother William and William's wife Abby. In his letters, Simon writes about camp life, skirmishes his unit participated in, his thoughts about the war, and his hope and plans for after the war "if he lives."

When I read Candy Stellmach's article on saving historical resources and the secrets they unlock to family history, I thought I would share one of Simon's letters. This is a segment from one of the first letters Simon sent to his brother after the 3rd NH set up camp in Washington, DC while waiting for their orders.

September 24, 1861

Brother William,  
...We have all been well since we come out here and the boys all like [it] very well. When we left New York we left everything behind and we have not had anything to eat with but our fingers before today. They come along this morning with the men we left behind. I understand you all thought we had gone down south even the boys we left behind thought we had gone. They thought they were out sure. We don't hear any of the fighting yet and I guess we shan't not before it is cooler than it is now.

We set a balloon up every day over Arlington Heights. There is any quantity of artillery here around our camp and all we can see is cannon and horses. They all march down morning noon and night to water their horses and I tell you it looks pretty. We

see the 2 regiment boys some of them every day over here and they look first rate. They don't have to work very hard now I guess if they do they don't show it. We see New Hampshire boys here who come out in New York, Mass and Vermont. All come over to see who there is here they know, and they most all find someone they are acquainted with before they leave. I find the New Hampshire [men] are all over everywhere. We have a chance to buy apples and other things here. The whole company have been up to the Capitol Building to see it. It is a fine place. I should like for you all to see it. We went on the top and we could see all over the city and for miles around and all you can see is camps. The country is covered with them.

Thursday morning - last night on dress parade the regiment had a flag presented to them from the ladies of the Church at Hempstead, Long Island for their good conduct. While it is a fine flag, it is the second we have had presented to us from New York. The Colonel is proud of his regiment because it has got such a good name. They have got the best name of any regiment in the brigade and he meant to keep it if he can. He has said he wanted to make a mark with it and he will if it lays in his power. He works hard to get the men ahead as fast as possible. The talk is that he wants to go down south, and as near as we can find out Sherman's Brigade will go there. But I suppose you know more about it than we do for there is so many stories here, we don't know what to believe...

I must close now, so good bye. Please answer.  
My love to all. S.N.L.

Unfortunately, Simon was one of those young men who did not make through the war. He died enroute to a military hospital of wounds received in battle at Deep Bottom, Virginia in August, 1864. Simon's family brought his body home and he is buried in the High Street Cemetery. These letters were found in the attic of the family homestead on Winnacunnet Road. Simon's trunk, sword, and military sash are part of the Tuck Museum collection. What's in your attic?

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.

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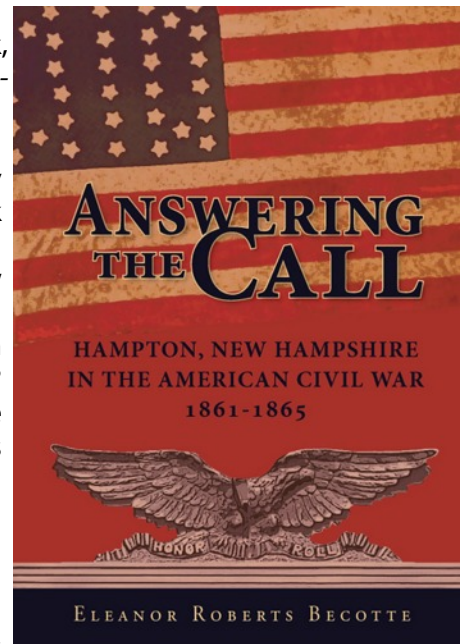
## New Book on Hampton in the Civil War

By Cheryl Lassiter

Elly Becotte, one of our favorite museum volunteers and a walking compendium on the Civil War, has recently completed her second book, *Answering the Call: Hampton, New Hampshire in the American Civil War, 1861-1865*.

Besides giving an excellent overview of the war, the composition and weaponry of the armies, and how the soldiers entertained themselves in camp, the book is filled with interesting facts about the Hampton soldiers, many of whom enlisted with the Third New Hampshire Volunteers. For example, did you know that Washington Hobbs Godfrey was America's first frogman? Or that David Warren Perkins, a Gillmore Medal recipient, always carried a small American flag into battle so he could be the first to plant the flag on a captured work? My favorite story is about the brothers Jacob and Oliver Godfrey. Not to be outdone by their older brother Washington, they rowed 10 miles to the Isles of Shoals where their father was working to get his permission to enlist, and then later walked all the way to Concord to sign up.

Included in the book are photographs, documents, and excerpts of letters from the archives of the Hampton Historical Society. The letters were from homeboys like Lieutenant Simon Nudd Lamprey, Sergeant George Perkins, and Jonathan Nudd Dow of the 3rd New Hampshire; Private Jacob Tallant Godfrey of the 14th New Hampshire; and Private John C. Davis of the 8th New Hampshire. While simple in tone and intent, their letters allow us to experience army life from a soldier's perspective: lousy food, bouts of diarrhea and fever, stolen property, the pride of a visit from Old Abe...and always the horrific battles. There are also excerpts of letters from the mothers, sisters, and wives: Mrs. Susan Page, who wrote angrily of Southern sympathizers in the town; her daughter Mary Page, who worried that her brother would be drafted; and Amanda Price, a Civil War nurse who wrote of seeing Lincoln lying in state in Washington, D.C.



### Civil War Saturday

To launch the book, and to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Civil War, the Historical Society has planned a great community event that you won't want to miss. Scheduled for April 27, Civil War Saturday is a free, fun family event featuring living history presenters, musket demonstrations, a quilt raffle, campfire cooking, exhibits, children's events, plus a traditional Civil War Supper with pork & beans, corn bread, & dessert (tickets for the supper are \$5). The Society will be raffling off a beautiful quilt featuring a Civil War era pattern and handmade by Elly's daughter, Katrin Grant. And, of course, Elly will be signing her books. I hope I get to fire the musket!

### Story of Quilts in the Civil War

Soldiers gladly accepted quilts from home, often made by women who gathered for quilting bees to support the local soldiers who were departing. One soldier's diary relates that soon after being taken prisoner in the South, he spoke with a departing guard who agreed to sell him his own quilt, one that saved the young soldier's life. The nights were cold in the valley at the infamous prison at Andersonville, GA, and he was one of few men to have the comfort of a warm quilt, which even in the summer provided shade for him and many of his friends.



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## Gifts to the Collection – 2012

- Hampton Harbor Yacht Club postcard and construction bonds (1935)- **Gerry Weidema**
- "To Let" sign, lacquer souvenir bowl, book -*The Way it was in North Hampton* (second edition) – **Elizabeth Aykroyd**
- Postcards – town hall fire of 1949, research copy of J.A. Lane and Co. account book 1894-1897, research on Lane account book– **Karen Raynes**
- Book – *Bottle Collecting in New England*, large spring loaded clothes pin – **Percy Annis**
- *Provincial and State Papers of New Hampshire* (converted to searchable PDF files), *The Magazine Antiques* ( April 1930), *Chichester Town History*- **Cheryl Lassiter**
- Account book of J.A. Lane store 1894-1897, Daybook J.A. Lane , bill heads from J.A. Lane & Co., – **Phillip Cote**
- Booklet – *Laws of New Hampshire Relating to Public Schools 1891-1917*, Gifford Wood advertisement for ice business – **Bill Bowley**
- DVD- *Postcards from Hampton Beach 100th Anniversary*, commissioner's badge Hampton Beach Village District – **John Kane**
- Watercolor – *Grist Mill on High Street* – **Douglas Storer** (through the estate of Mary Pechewlys)
- Collection of parade ribbons, Exeter-Hampton Elks program, 25th Anniversary Rotary Club invitation and program, Hampton Playhouse playbills and ticket stubs, newspaper insert "Celebrate 50 Years – Hampton Playhouse" – **Marge Dignam**
- Hampton Police Association 2008 Yearbook , *A Children's Guide to Hampton*, Town of Hampton videos and CD's, *Hampton Beach Design and Development Study*, town clock information, Hampton Charter Commission records, catalog of the Digman Collection 2012, brochure-Hampton National Bank– **Fred Welch**
- Telegraphic Code, NH Register and Farmer's Almanac 1876, 1891 Town Report – **Jackson Simpson**
- Collection of VHS tapes from 350th and other town celebrations, Winnacunnet Guard Hampton Militia scrapbooks – **Harold Fernald**
- DVD interviews on fishing, lobstering and clamming (Harold Fernald, Sue Reynolds, Leo Axtin, Peter Randall, Peter Tilton, Paul Bradley, David Goethel, Bobby Nudd, Robert Southworth, Jr.) – **Joshua Silveira**
- Framed Lamie's Tavern menu (1941) – **Pat Thoen**
- Photos town hall fire 1949 and Underwood Bridge – **Jeanette Brown**
- Map -Hampton Streets and Highways (pre-Exeter Rd developments), manual from First Baptist Church, souvenir bicentennial bottle, Hampton Beach photos- anonymous donors
- Photographs of Lillian G. Clarke – **Joy Ann Mac Connell**
- Copy of warrant for establishment of Hampton Beach Village District 1907 – Bernie Dunbrack
- Perkins family photos, memorabilia, deeds, correspondence Judge John Perkins, Nixon related items – **Lee Perkins**
- Souvenir plate Hampton Beach – **Ingrid Heath**
- Sign and postcard "Come on Down", color aerial Great Boars Head area to High Street – **Beverly Mutrie**
- Index to personal property books , CD *Public Trust Doctrine & Environmental Stewardship in Coastal NH*, research on major buildings lost to Fire, research on Hampton's early homestead mapping 1806-1892, video of song "Let's Go Down to Hampton Beach, photos from vintage auto show 2010, book *Men of Granite: New Hampshire's Soldiers in the Civil War* – **Candy Stellmach**
- Photographs – Edgar Lessard, Vic Lessard and Joe Bowley – **Vic Lessard**
- Badge from Hampton Beach Fire Department – **Douglass and Sally Hunter**
- Barn door hinges from Taylor Farm Exeter Rd – **Robert Campbell**
- Booklet – *Photoscopic New Hampshire Seacoast Guide* 1963 – **Lynn Goodman**
- Book - *Dow's History of Hampton 1638-1892* (1970 reprint)- **Joan Grenier-Winther**
- Page family memorabilia, booklet *Ernestine!*, photo albums Cole family- **Carol Felter**
- Zenith floor radio – **Troop 177**
- Civil War trunk, correspondence, sword, and sash all relating to Simon Lamprey; Civil War books – **Irene and Carol Palmer**
- Collection of Hampton related photos, clippings, flyers, postcard – **estate of Miss Edith Marston**
- Leavitt family grandfather clock, tailor's iron, apple peeler, tray – **Lawrence and Richard Leavitt**
- Watercolor – One Room Schoolhouse – **Peg Duffin**
- Brochure *Our Lady of Miraculous Medal Church 50th Anniversary*- **Linda Metcalf**

- *Handbook of Hampton Beach 1917* –with maps and street numbers – **Carolyn Goss Brooks**
- Books – *Windmills of New England*, *The Good Guide*, *Managing a Non-profit Institution*, *Child Life in Colonial Days*, *Sourcebook on Colonial America*, and *Good Wives*; small glass butter churn, postcards from The Old Salt and North Beach– **Betty Moore**
- Books – *Oral History for the Local Historical Society*, *A Meet and Suitable Person*; Indian sweet grass basket sold at Hampton Beach, aerial photo Hampton coastline, panoramic photo company outing at Hampton Beach, historic Hampton movie collection– Tuck Museum purchase
- Old Salt memorabilia, 2011 Hampton Town Report, 2011 Hampton School District Report, t-shirt 100th from anniversary Ashworth Hotel , booklet *Mass. Northeastern Street Railway Vol.1*, Tavern Walk 2012 ephemera– Tuck Museum Committee

## **Donors to the Operating Fund, Endowment Fund, and Building Fund**

We recognize with thanks the following members who made donations to the Operating Fund, the Endowment Fund, and the Building Fund during the annual appeal. Their gifts are extremely important to our on-going success.

Arnold, Clara  
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## **Membership Drive for 2013**

The 2013 membership drive was launched during November of 2012. Memberships are important to support the Tuck Museum and ensure its continued success. Many have included additional donations for continued operations, the Endowment Fund, or the Building Expansion fund (more on this elsewhere in the newsletter). Thank you very much for your support!

Currently, there are 373 total members which include 145 Life Members. Our response rate for 2013 is lower than 2012, with 58% replying. Please consider renewing your membership and making additional donations when possible. Without active members, HHS-Tuck Museum cannot function.

Any questions or concerns can be sent to me, Ken Lobdell - Membership Coordinator and Trustee, at the Hampton Historical Society address or [info@hamptonhistoricalsociety.org](mailto:info@hamptonhistoricalsociety.org)

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## Lilac Sunday



In 1938 the Hampton Historical Society planted lilacs on the grounds of the Tuck Museum. Now, 75 years later, courtesy of a grant from the Rye Driftwood Garden Club, it's time to plant more. Join us for our lilac planting, just in time for Mother's Day. Bring a picnic, make a Mother's day card, and tour the museum. May 5th, 1-4 pm, at the Tuck Museum.

On this day we also will be planting a memorial maple tree on the green for Winnie Jaques, donated by her family. The event is free and open to all.

## A Walk Through Hampton's Past & Present Business Community, 1899 to 2013



The Tuck Museum will sponsor the first of this year's walking tours on Saturday May 18th, at 1 pm. Betty Moore and Karen Raynes will guide you down memory lane talking about the past and present business community in Hampton.

We will tour seven businesses and look into corners and walk creaky floors of buildings that remain vibrant after 113 years. We will hear about some lingering ghosts, find out who bought what in the general store, and check out a still busy tavern.

Meet in the High Street parking lot at 1 pm. Reservations are requested by calling the Tuck Museum at 603-929-0781. A \$10.00 per person fee insures future walks with a brochure of the walk included. This year, 2013, is the 375th anniversary of the town of Hampton. This walk is a great way to get to know your town.



HHS Christmas parade float



Karen Raynes with Santa

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## Building and Grounds

Several major projects have been started during the 2012 year. The Beach Cottage has been on-site for several years and due for maintenance, which turned out to be more involved with the discovery of rotten wood. Our Monday Morning work team (Ben Moore, Doug Aykroyd, Bill Keating, Ken Lobdell, Jason Moore, and Candy Stellmach) stripped two layers of shingles from the roof and replaced with 30-year rated architecture shingles. In addition, the exterior was scraped and painted, rotted floor joist and siding replaced, and windows re-glazed. Many more years of maintenance-free use will be available for the museum and public.

Our second project is more involved. The 1855 Schoolhouse has been on-site for nearly 50 years. During this time, it has served us well. However, water was found seeping into the chimney and wall.



After reviewing options, it was decided to remove the chimney, since it is not an original feature of the schoolhouse. (Thank you to Guy Larivee for donating his expertise and time for removal). Round stones were used for construction and are nearly impossible to properly seal against the elements. After removal, the same exterior wall wooden structure was found to have extensive water-related rotten wood affecting one post and two beams. The entire wall will require rebuilding and new siding. An outside contractor has been hired for this portion of repairs.

Interior repairs are underway. The ceiling has been removed, along with years of critter nests accessed via chimney flashing holes. Museum staff will add new sheetrock and wainscoting, and then paint. Once completed, original schoolhouse chairs, desks,



and accessories are to be moved back in and made ready for springtime tours with local schools. This undertaking is quite large. Any help that can be offered by members or the public, would be most appreciated.

Ken Lobdell

## Oral History Project Update

The initial goal of The Hampton Oral History Committee was to record and store the personal stories of Hampton residents and summer visitors. The recording part of that goal is successfully progressing with the completion of over ten individual interviews and two group interviews. The storage part of that goal was the development of an oral history library. It also is on target with three interview packets ready for final review. An interview packet consists of a written outline of the interview, an interviewee biography sheet, and a CD of the interview. These packets are the documents that make up the project's oral history library.

Progress has been made, interviewees are being lined up, and 2013 should be a productive year.

Wondering who has shared their stories? Here are some who have: Russ and Ada Merrill, Priscilla Walker, Irene Palmer, Bob Wallace, Fred Rice, Bud DesRochers, Bud Palmer, John Christensen, and Dottie Todd.

How about you? We all have a story to tell (no age limitation, young storytellers welcome).

To tell your story, contact Bill Keating at [info@hamptonhistoricalsociety.org](mailto:info@hamptonhistoricalsociety.org).

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Be sure to view the page following this one, describing the premiere of a new movie DVD!

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Thru July; events free, unless otherwise noted; events subject to change; see website for more details**

- **March 20** 375th Event  
Fishing/clamming/lobstering video "Flats, Shacks and Claws"  
Lane Library 6:30 PM
- **April 27** 375th Event  
Civil War Saturday/book launch  
Tuck Museum grounds - noon until 5:00
- **May 1** 375th Event  
Historic Hampton Beach Coach Tour  
1PM Run from Town Hall; Cost TBD
- **May 4** 375th Event  
Lilac Sunday at Tuck Museum  
1-4 PM
- **May 15** - Trip to Whittier Homestead, Amesbury MA  
Details forthcoming; cost TBD
- **May 18** - Walking Tour Hampton Center  
1PM Starting from Marelli's Market; \$10/RSVP 926-2543
- **June 15** 375th Event  
"Stones and Stories" Cemetery Tour  
High Street Cemetery  
10AM to 2PM; \$10/RSVP; 926-2543
- **June 23** - Program - "Show and Tell"  
2PM Tuck Museum
- **July 13** 375th Event  
Historic Hampton Beach Tour  
2 tours - one at 1PM, the other at 3 PM; from Town Hall; Cost TBD

## BUSINESS MEMBERSHIP

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

234 Lafayette Road Realty LLC  
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Hampton Police Association, Inc.  
Kingfish Trolley Lines, LLC  
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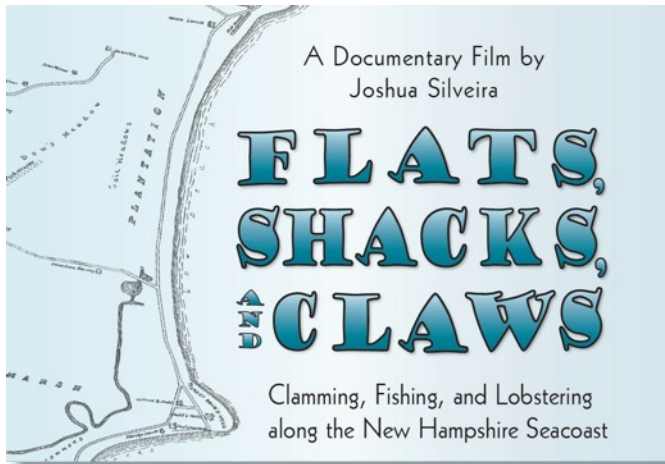
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# PRESENTING



## JOSH SILVEIRA'S NEW DOCUMENTARY FILM

Besides its traditional duty as a herald of spring, the March equinox has lately been delivering other welcome news to these northern climes. Last year's saw the premiere of *Salt Marsh Farming on the New Hampshire Seacoast*, a documentary film by Joshua Silveira. It was a full house and a wonderful film, one that taught us some interesting stuff about the environment right at our doorsteps.

At this year's March equinox Silveira will again awe and amaze us with his newest documentary, *Flats, Shacks, and Claws: Clamming, Fishing, and Lobstering along the New Hampshire Seacoast*. Skillfully blending historical images, authentic narration, voice-over memoirs, and interviews with the locals – fishermen, lobstermen, and historians – Silveira brings us the story of the rise, heyday, and eventual decline of the local fisheries industry. "The men and women that fish and lobster are an amazing breed," Silveira says in his self-effacing way. "They are rugged, hard-working, and represent the values of New England that I love."

For the past 15 years, Joshua has taught at Timberlane High School in Nashua, New Hampshire. Inspired by Ken Burns' Civil War series, he began making films in 2004, first by documenting class activities such as student

projects, field trips, and class skits. In 2007 the New Hampshire Public Television/Ken Burns Veterans' Competition presented him with a new opportunity and challenge. The result of that challenge was the award-winning 2008 documentary film *Hometown Heroes*.

Joshua's film subjects reflect his wide and varied interests. In 2009 he examined the teaching of evolution in *Of Sound and Fury: The 1925 Scopes Trial*. Also that year he produced *What a Piece of Work is Man: Science and Religion in the 21st Century*. The following year (2010) he turned to community history and the fate of one particular northern New Hampshire town in *At the River's Edge: An Oral History of Berlin, New Hampshire*. Next came the film *Hope and Survival: The Great Depression* (2011). In 2012 he produced *Salt Marsh Farming on the New Hampshire Seacoast*. The Hampton Historical Society was proud to have played a small part in the making of that film.

Joshua has no set goals for his filmmaking. When asked what new topic he wants to focus his considerable creative talents on, he says mysteriously, "Who knows? This could be the last one." He did let it slip that the Prohibition era fascinates him, and if he could find interesting stories of Hampton during that time, he would pursue that.

It's hard to believe that this earnest young man has any spare time, but on Sundays you can find him playing cribbage with his WWII veteran "buddies." They make him laugh and teach him lessons about life, "even if they don't realize it." He says it's the least he can do for the men of the "greatest generation."

By Cheryl Lassiter

Make plans to join us for the premiere of Joshua's latest film on Wednesday, March 20, 2013 at 6:30 p.m. in the Weston Room downstairs at the Lane Memorial Library, 2 Academy Avenue, in Hampton.