



# GATHERINGS FROM THE GREEN

Published by the Hampton Historical Society

September 2008

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

## Annual Meeting

We will hold the annual meeting of the Hampton Historical Society membership on **Saturday, October 11, 2008 at 6:30 p.m.**, at the First Congregational Church, 127 Winnacunnet Rd, Hampton, NH. All are welcome to attend. We will hold the meeting with a year end wrap-up, and election of Trustees to the Board, followed by a program by Elizabeth Aykroyd titled, "A Puritan Church And Its Town." This is the 370th year of our town and the program will be fun and interesting!

The church will also hold its Ham & Bean Supper that night from **5:00 - 6:30 p.m.** You are invited to come for dinner and stay for the meeting and program. The dinner is \$8, or \$7 for seniors, and tickets can be pre-purchased by calling either Tracy Emerick at 926-8316, or Sammi Moe at 929-0881. If you decide at the last minute you would like to come for the supper, you can pay at the door. (Pre-purchasing the dinner will allow the cooks to plan ahead.)

If you are coming for just the meeting and program, we will be meeting upstairs in the chapel after dinner. Dinner is held in the downstairs "Fellowship Hall." Parking is at the rear of the church or across the street.

We hope to see you there!

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## "Tool Time" with Dave

Join us on Sunday, September 21 at 2 PM as Dave DeGagne explores the Tuck Museum's tool collection - which includes farming, woodworking, lumbering, and ice harvesting equipment. Dave is a tool collector and has extensive working knowledge of antique tools - he hasn't been stumped yet! Having listened to him tell us what things were used for and how they were used, we know we have a program people of all ages will enjoy. Refreshments will be served. For more information, call Betty Moore 926-2543.

## Membership Challenge

As our members know, the Society is competing in a membership challenge with other historical societies in the state for a \$25,000 prize. The contest is a winner take all, no second place prize will be awarded. The donation will go to the society that has the largest membership gain in the year ending on November 1, 2008.

So far, with less than seven weeks to go, the Hampton Historical Society is doing well. We have increased our membership by the addition of 120 new members for a gain of 26%. We now have over 580 members.

It is difficult to project the level of new members that will be necessary to win the challenge but we have established a goal of 185 new members for ourselves, which would be a 40% increase in our membership. We need 65 new members to reach that goal.

We are proud of the service that we provide to the community and ask all of our members to reach out to their neighbors, friends and families to encourage them to join us before November 1. Membership forms are available on the website and at the Museum. Call Ben Moore at 926-2543 with any questions or for forms.

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## From the President...

Here we are at the end of another fiscal year with HHS. As I look back at all that has been accomplished, I must say how proud I am of all the work that has been done. Our volunteer force is amazing! This past summer has been a wet one, and yet the grounds have been well tended, buildings have been finished, parties and events have taken place, and the museum has been kept busy.

Our Pig Roast was another successful event! It was a great time with wonderful weather. I

want to thank everyone who volunteered, gave food and auction items, and also those who came to have a fun day with us! We even picked up a number of new members! Thanks everyone!

And speaking of new members, our challenge for new memberships is still going on. Why not invite your family and friends to join HHS. (It also makes a great gift!) We are working towards a \$25,000 prize. For more information, see page 1.

School has started, and that means it is time to start planning our school tours. The first grade classes will be coming soon to hear the story of "The Ox Cart Man." In November we will be going into the second grade classes to bring the "traveling history trunk" along with the story of a family's journey to the new world. Anyone who would like more information on these and other programs should feel free to call us. Volunteers are always welcome!

Our annual meeting will be taking place soon too. October 11 is the date. We will be tagging onto the First Congregational Church's ham & bean supper, with our meeting and program following. The supper is from 5 - 6:30 p.m. and will cost \$8 (\$7 for seniors). More information on this program is on page 1.

As the end of our year approaches, I thank the Board of Trustees for all the work they do. Also, Betty Moore, who spends many hours working at the museum to keep things running like a Swiss timepiece. I have enjoyed this year with the many exciting changes and events. My most sincere appreciation to all of you!

Sammi Moe

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### **Director's Report**

I was talking with one of the volunteers last week and we were discussing the diversity of skill sets within our volunteer staff. Recognizing first of all, how fortunate we are to have the expertise of so many people; and second how the skills all compliment each other with the projects that evolve. I have worked with many different organizations and this is one of the most congenial groups I have ever seen.

Even the society board meetings run smoothly, with issues being worked out in a professional, and many times humorous manner, all while respecting each other's opinions. It is a pleasure to sit through those meetings, as it is easy to see that they enjoy each other's company. Plus, they have an unwritten rule the meeting should be done in an hour.

I see my job as that of a facilitator. Once I train volunteers to understand museum standards of collection care, and make sure that we have the right supplies on hand, I stand back and watch what happens. I am amazed at the results! Many thanks to all of you that help with collections, school tours, special events, and assisting visitors - you make my job enjoyable and rewarding.

Relating to volunteer projects, we have a few new ones to mention.

Photos of the interior and exterior of the tourist cabin have been posted on our website by Rich Hureau. One of our newest volunteers, Cheryl Lassiter, has started photographing and scanning some of the museum's scrapbook collection. Putting them in a digital form will make the information easy to access. Scrapbooks are difficult to care for properly because of the poor quality of paper typically used in their construction along with the use of tape and glue! Another new volunteer, Betty Ann Lavalley, is working with our costume collection. Our goal is to get more of the clothing collection on display and make more efficient use of space in the costume storage area.

The Board is pulling the budget together for 2009 and deciding what projects we would like to accomplish. The final projects selected depend on our fundraising ability during the annual appeal. Last year we were able to replace some windows in the 1800s portion of the building and purchase three new storm doors, which will help this winter with the increase in fuel oil prices. We have been fortunate to accomplish so much because of the support of our members. That generosity is greatly appreciated!

I hope to see you at the annual meeting.

Betty

## Focus on the Collection: A Seventeenth-Century Box

By Elizabeth Aykroyd

Some years ago, the Historical Society had the opportunity to acquire a large pine box which



had descended in a local family. This box has survived in remarkably original condition and is one of a series of chests and boxes known to have been made in the Hampton area in the late seventeenth century. The maker and first owner of the box are unknown, but it descended to the Lamprey family. The box, believed to be the earliest piece of Hampton furniture still locally owned, is very rare and is one of the few examples of early Hampton household goods still in existence.

The box, which is 27 1/2 inches by 15 1/8 and 10 inches deep, is all of pine with original cotter pin hinges for the lid. Unlike many surviving boxes from this period, the top is original but over the years has split in two. The front and



back are rabbeted to the sides and nailed with three large rose-head nails (some nails are now missing). The cleats are also missing, although their outline is clearly

visible on the sides of the box. The lock is old but not original. The bottom board has beveled edges which project beyond the sides of the box, and along the front edges from top to bottom

there are fourteen hand-carved notches. These last two features are characteristic of chests and boxes made in Hampton late in the seventeenth century. The box also retains some of the original reddish/brown stain on the exterior.

Brock Jobe of the Winterthur Museum<sup>1</sup> has raised the possibility that this furniture was made by William Marston (died 1672), although it is likely that more than one joiner was responsible. Given the small size of the town and the close relationships of the townspeople, one master may have passed the design down to several apprentices. William Marston was one of the first settlers in Hampton and may well have taught the trade of joinery to younger craftsmen. Certainly several pieces of furniture of this type are connected to the Marston family. However, at least one chest descended in the Hobbs family (it is now at the NH Historical Society), and members of that family later were well-known carpenters, so a Hobbs may have also made chests and boxes in this style. The probate inventories of both Marston and Morris Hobbs (died 1706) include no carpentry tools, nor were they called joiners in local records, being recorded only as "yeoman," so we unfortunately have no proof of the maker's identity. Variations in the design and construction of similar chests and boxes may indicate the work of more than one joiner. Other examples are in the collections of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Currier Museum of Art, and the Art Institute of Chicago. Several are also in private hands.

Chests and boxes were very important pieces of furniture in the seventeenth century. They were used as storage of clothing, household goods, and such books and papers as the early settlers had. They were even used as seats when needed. Large boxes like ours became known as Bible boxes in the nineteenth century since the family Bibles were often stored in them. A better name for a box like this is a "desk," a term which appears in contemporary documents. Desks as we know them were largely unknown before the eighteenth century, and even then people seldom sat at them to write. A seventeenth-century desk was a place to store papers and books, including the Bible, and a box such as ours probably filled that need for an early Hampton family.

<sup>1</sup> Brock Jobe et al., *Portsmouth Furniture*, Boston: Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities, 1993, 86-88.

## **Lookin' Good**

Five days before the pig roast, an Eagle Scout project led by candidate Dan Argue was completed. Scouts, parents, friends and museum volunteers helped Dan bring his project to completion.



There was a day of excavation, a weekend of preparation for the 60' walkway and 20'x30' patio area, and a weekend of laying stones and bricks. The

project was an ambitious one that included a brick sidewalk, stone patio, landscaping and a portable ramp for access to the barn.

Dan secured discounts for the needed materials. He also did a great job, scheduling volunteers for the variety of tasks, plus he was a pleasure to work with. Special thanks goes to Guy La-Rivee who provided technical expertise and a great sense of humor guiding the workers

through the project, and to Chet Riley for bringing in his tractor for the excavation work and the moving of stone dust. Over 30 volunteers worked 327 hours to accomplish the undertaking.

We have been fortunate to have a number of Eagle Scout projects done for the museum, and this one will be enjoyed for generations.



## **Box Tops For Education**

The Hampton PTA is collecting Box Tops coupons from grocery products for the schools. They are on the tops of many cereal and other products. If you see these on your products, please clip them and drop them off at any of the Hampton schools. The PTA earns cash from these.

The PTA has been very generous in donating to HHS each year, so if we can help them earn money too it is great! You can also go online to register on the Box Tops site on behalf of Hampton schools and they will receive 50 cents for every registration. This is a quick and easy way to give the schools some extra cash for programs and other items that the PTA provides. Go to [www.boxtops4education.com](http://www.boxtops4education.com) to sign in.

Thanks!

## **What's at the Tuck?**

What's at the Tuck? Lots of great "stuff," as you will find out from Bill Keating November 9 at 2 PM. Bill has been involved with the inventory of the museum's collection off and on over the past year and has become fascinated with the extent of our holdings.

He will be talking about not only the "what" but the "who" as he explores the organization's mission from our inception in 1925 when we were known as the Meeting House Green Memorial and Historical Association to the present. Each item he will be highlighting has its own story that will unfold about its use or the person connected to it.

Come and learn about old things from a new perspective.

### Pig Roast #7

We survived the seventh annual pig roast. Well, we really did much better than that. The day was perfect as was the pork. About 200 diners enjoyed the afternoon of music along with the silent auction while we raised over \$6000 for the society. Thank you to all who came and supported us.



Kudos go to chief cook, Cliff Pratt, who spent the night supervising the cooking of the pigs. His helpers included Percy Annis, Brad Jacobson and Chuck Weinhold. Ben Moore coordinated all the tents, tables, and chairs with the assistance of Bud DesRochers. Catherine Fletcher cracked her whip keeping ticket sales brisk, Kelley McLean once again did a beautiful job organizing the silent auction, Kate Pratt handled the coordination of over forty volunteers, and Marilyn Green did a superb job coordinating all the food donations.

It takes a lot of people to make the event successful. Thank you volunteers!

### With Gratitude

On the occasion of the upcoming 370th celebration of the town of Hampton (and our 84th anniversary) it is only fitting to look back at our successes in the areas of collection activity, building projects, fundraising and membership growth. This hard work has gone on over many years laying the foundation for our success today.

It is important to point out some of those long time volunteers who helped us in the past, but for a multitude of reasons are not actively participating with us today. So we would like to recognize the following: Natalie Connor, John and Connie Holman, Jim Hunt, Harold Fernald, Ansel and Irene Palmer, Don and Ann Morton, Virginia Taylor, Eleanor Young, and Elinor Yeaton. Thank you all so much for your contributions of time and talent.

### 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.



Check out our new (old) buckboard in the Barn!

### Board of Trustees

- |           |                         |
|-----------|-------------------------|
| President | Sammi Moe               |
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|           | Liz Premo               |
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**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**2008 HHS Programs**

Note that some of the times and dates may have changed from previous newsletters.

**September 21 2 PM** "Tool Time with Dave"  
**Note change of time from previous calendars**  
Tools from the Tuck Museum Collection  
Families welcome

**October 11 6:30 PM** Annual meeting - Chapel of  
Congregational Church  
**Note change of date from previous calendars**  
Speaker Elizabeth Aykroyd "A Puritan  
Church and Its Town"  
Celebrating Hampton's 370th anniversary

**November 9 2PM** 'What's at the Tuck'  
Overview of Collections  
Presenter - Bill Keating

**BUSINESS MEMBERSHIP**

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

- 234 Lafayette Road Realty LLC
- Dion Construction, Inc.
- Eccentric Hair
- Hampton Eyecare Associates
- Kimball Auto Body
- Kingfish Trolley Lines, LLC
- Lamie's Inn & The Old Salt Restaurant
- Mark Olson
- Mackensen & Company Inc.
- Neville & Associates Financial Services
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- Seabrook Station
- Seacoast Florist Inc.
- Tobey & Merrill Insurance
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