



July, 2025

# GATHERINGS FROM THE GREEN

Published by the Hampton Historical Society

www.hamptonhistoricalsociety.org  
603-929-0781

## President's Corner

In response to the 100th Anniversary year of the Hampton Historical Society, I can feel the vibe of the Roaring Twenties! Our events continue, as we celebrate 1925 as the year that made us a true protector of Hampton History.



Starting with the Meeting House Green Association, and developing into not only the Historical Society, but the Tuck Museum of Hampton History, we have wonderful things to show you.

Take a look through this newsletter, come visit us when you can, contact us if you are looking to volunteer. There is something for everyone here and we would love to have you. Our Board of Trustees and membership thank you. Have a warm and safe summer!

Lori W Cotter, President, HHS

## Dirigo Baseball of Maine



To celebrate HHS's 100th anniversary, take in an afternoon of old-time baseball with Dirigo Baseball of Maine, on August 2nd 2025, 1 p.m. at Tuck Field.

Quoting their website, "The Dirigo Vintage Base Ball Club is a non-profit, educational and living history organization dedicated to preserving and promoting the game of Base Ball as it was played during its formative years in the mid-nineteenth century and other historic eras."

They have been featured on WMUR (NH channel 9) and the cover of Downeast magazine. This type of vintage baseball has been covered on NPR, The Washington Post, and CBS News.

So have some popcorn and a hot dog, and imagine you're back in the earliest days of America's game! This event is free. HHS and American Legion concessions will be available.



Sponsored by **Service Credit Union**

For info about a related **raffle of Red Sox tickets** to Fenway Park, see page 3.

**SPEAKEASY  
IN THE BARN**

Saturday Sept. 20 4-6:30 pm

tix \$40 21+ only

Speakeasy  
apparel  
encouraged!

Includes appetizers and one  
1920's specialty cocktail or  
a beverage of your choice.  
Cash bar by Maeve's  
Mobile Cocktail Bar.

Museum will be open to guests

We accept PayPal/  
Venmo/Cash/Checks  
payable to Hampton  
Historical Society.  
Checks & cash can be  
dropped off at the Tuck  
Museum, 40 Park Ave.  
Sun-Wed-Fri 1-4 pm.

**Speakeasy in the Barn**  
**A Fundraiser for HHS, Sept. 20th, 4-6:30 p.m.**  
**Tuck Museum Barn**

Get your tickets now! You do not want to miss out on this once in a lifetime event featuring Maeve's Mobile Cocktail Bar in our very own barn on site!

See a 1920s memorabilia exhibit, enjoy a walk through the Cabin, Schoolhouse, Fire Museum, and Tuck Museum, all which will be open for you to browse and reminisce with good friends.

For \$40, enjoy a wonderful array of appetizers and one specialty cocktail with your admission. Be wary! When you sign up, we will confirm with a password to get in!

Sponsored by:

- **The Hampton Rotary Club**
- **Newburyport Bank**
- **Old Salt Restaurant at Lamie's Inn**

## Membership Article

I hope this newsletter finds you enjoying the summer and all it has to offer us on the Seacoast. It's been a busy time at the Hampton Historical Society with celebrations of our 100th year and welcoming visitors to the Museum. If you haven't stopped by in a while, please come by and enjoy our exhibits on local shipwrecks, influential Hampton Women, and our newest one highlighting the Miss Hampton Beach Pageant throughout the years. Your dues and generous donations help fund them and all we do at the Society.

The Board has spent some time this year looking at our operations with an eye to being efficient while still focusing on our goal of being relevant to our clientele – our visitors, the Town of Hampton, and, of course, our members as we move into our second century. We know the present dual billing cycle for dues causes confusion. The Society also recognizes that more members now prefer us to reach out electronically through email, Facebook, Instagram, and our website. In the coming months you will see some exciting developments in these areas which will enrich your experience as a member. But I would like to highlight a couple of them now.

### 1. Moving to an annual membership renewal cycle.

In November 2025 we will be implementing a once-a-year dues renewal in November. You will receive your invoice along with your newsletter in the fall and we hope this will end the confusion on whether you are due to pay.

We will not be billing the July renewals and hope that you will consider a donation to HHS instead.

**2. Modest dues increase.** The Board knows that those are words no one wants to hear, but some categories of membership will be increasing by \$5 in November. It has been at least 20 years since we increased the dues (to be honest no one could remember the last time it was done) and the costs of running the museum have grown. The Board hopes you will understand the thought behind this and support this decision.

**3. Email addresses.** If you've received this newsletter by an email notification, then we have a viable address for you. If not, please consider sending your preferred email address to [info@hamptonhistoricalsociety.org](mailto:info@hamptonhistoricalsociety.org) so you can receive eblasts related to happenings at the Society. If you have opted to receive the newsletters by mail, that will not change.

Again, thank you for your support of the Hampton Historical Society.

Mary Ann Nelligan



## Welcome to our New Members

- Arakelian Plumbing and Heating
- Carleigh Beriont
- Jen & Brian Box
- Mike and Kathi Edgar
- Erika Hafey
- Gary & Jane Potvin
- Tri-Rent-All

## And Thank You to our Business Members who are continuing their support

- Beach Club Casino
- John Cass
- Quadripoint Investments
- Victoria's Kitchen

## We Thank Our Other Donors

- Ronnie Bourgeault Charitable Trust
- Carol Palmer
- United Methodist Women
- Middleton Lumber
- Catherine Hawkins
- Hampton Garden Club Mini Grant
- Linda Palmer Merrill in memory of Bob Dennett
- Linda Quinn in memory of Bob Dennett
- William Dunn in memory of Ruth Lamprey Pratt

## Hannaford Community Bag Program



For the month of July we have been lucky enough to be selected for the Hannaford Stores Community Bag Program. If you stop in and purchase a reusable bag for \$2.50, Hannaford will donate \$1 to HHS!




## Red Sox Ticket Raffle

Two Red Sox game tickets will be raffled off at the HHS Old Time Baseball Game at Tuck Field on August 2 at 1:00 PM.

Ticket details:

- Red Sox vs. Pirates
- Friday August 29th, 7:10 pm Fenway Park
- 2 Dell Technologies Suite Tickets - Valued at \$800.00
- Section DTC1, Row 4, Seats 5 and 6
- Food and parking are not included

Tickets donated by 

**Raffle tickets are \$5.00 each or 5 for \$20.00**

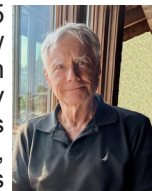
The drawing will be held at the end of the game.  
You do not need to be present to win.

You can also buy tickets by sending a check to:  
Hampton Historical Society  
PO Box 1601, Hampton NH 03843-1601  
Please include number of tickets to be purchased,  
your name, phone number, and email.

## HHS Annual Meeting Sunday, October 12, 2025

You are invited to attend the HHS Annual Meeting at the Hampton Recreation and Senior Center. A brief business meeting will begin at **1 p.m.**, followed by our guest speaker, Mr. Roger Lathbury, with a presentation entitled *The American Twenties*.

After teaching in Fairfax, Virginia, for 45 years, Roger Lathbury moved to New Hampshire in 2023. At George Mason University, he specialized in 19th century American Literature and that of the twenties as well as in nonsense writing (Edward Lear, Lewis Carroll) and the "mauve decade." His articles and essays include a book-length study of *The Great Gatsby* and surveys of American regionalism and modernism.



From 1983 onward he ran a small press publishing company focusing on literary reprints and contemporary poetry. In retirement he pursues his eclectic interests in bibliography, book design, and any old thing that catches his eye.

## Town Tree Lighting Friday, Dec 5



Christmas in July? Why not? Mark your calendar for the town celebration on our Green, Hampton Rec, and Founders Park, **Friday, Dec 5th**. We love our new location!

## HHS Centennial Fund Donors

HHS would like to thank these donors who have contributed to the HHS Centennial Fund this fiscal year:

- Patricia McKenzie
- Galley Hatch
- Betty & Ben Moore

If you would like to contribute to the HHS Centennial Fund, here's how:

1. Make your donation online at the following web address:  
<https://give.nhcf.org/HHSCentennialFund>
2. Write a check and mail it directly to the NH Charitable Foundation. The check must be made payable to "New Hampshire Charitable Foundation" with the name "HHS Centennial Fund" in the memo field. Mail the check to: NH Charitable Foundation, 37 Pleasant Street, Concord, NH 03301-4005.

**Important Note:** Do not make the check payable to the Hampton Historical Society and mail it to HHS. HHS cannot accept your check and add it to the Fund, as the Society is prohibited from doing that. Only individuals may add to the Fund, and they must contribute directly to the NH Charitable Foundation.

The Hampton Historical Society is enormously grateful to its members for their ongoing generosity, and to Betty and Ben Moore for endowing the HHS Centennial Fund.



## REO/Sanford Pumper Firetruck

A wonderful piece of Hampton history, a 1920s REO/Sanford Pumper that provided fire protection at Hampton Beach, is in need of a permanent home and a committee of Hampton Firefighters and Historical Society members is working to meet that need.



The original REO Speed Wagon, a regular truck, was purchased by the town of Hampton in 1924. In 1934, the Hampton Fire Department installed a Sanford Conversion kit, and the pumper remained in service in Hampton until 1955. The Pumper was then sold to Hampton Falls and remained in service until the mid-60s.

Following its service with the Hampton Falls Fire Department, it changed hands several times until it was tracked down by firefighters Rusty Bridle and Chris Silver in the 1990s. It now belongs to the Hampton Fire Department Union 2664 and is currently in storage in Hampton Falls in the care of a Hampton firefighter.

The consensus among the committee members is that the firetruck is a very significant element of Hampton history and, as such, should remain in Hampton. The committee also agreed that the logical place to display the truck is at the Fire Museum on the grounds of Tuck Museum where some of the history of Hampton firefighting is on exhibit. Moving the Pumper to the Fire Museum will require an addition to the Fire Museum, so stay tuned for future developments to bring the Sanford Pumper back to Hampton to stay!

### Board of Trustees and Officers, 2024-25

#### Officers

President - Lori Cotter  
Vice President - Pat Bushway  
Co-Secretaries - Amy Hansen; Mary Ann Nelligan  
Treasurer - Ed Baechtold

#### Trustees

Brian Akerley  
Mike Compos  
Jenne Demac  
Tracey Dewhurst  
Gary Grashow  
Betty Moore  
Ellen Ornaf  
Heidi Taracena

## The "Shelf Exhibit" Space at the Tuck Museum

This winter Gary Grashow and his gang plastered and painted the walls of Tuck Hall at the Tuck Museum of Hampton History. With this improvement, we have found a new space, "The Shelf Exhibit," to put up rotating exhibits showcasing more of the museum's extensive collection.

The first Shelf Exhibit is about the Hampton Beach Carnival, car Parades, and the Miss Hampton Beach Queens, and was researched and placed by Karen Raynes.



The museum was visited recently by Ella Hamilton (Miss Hampton Beach 2024), Riley (Junior Miss Hampton Beach), and Avery (Little Miss Hampton Beach), and the MHB Moms with Stephanie Lussier, MHB 1995. The girls' enthusiasm can be viewed on the Miss Hampton Beach Facebook June 9th, 2025 post, with photos at the museum and a video about the Shelf Exhibit.

Future Shelf Exhibits for 2025 are: Baseball in Hampton, being prepared by HHS President Lori Cotter and coinciding with the August 2nd Dirigo Baseball Team 1880's historical game at Tuck Field (see page 1); "History of the Hampton Beach Casino"; "Hampton Had More than One Witch"; and, to end the year, "Children's Toys and Trinkets."

Please stop by to check out the Shelf Exhibits and all other exhibits at the Tuck Museum. There is always something new and inspiring to learn about Hampton History.

### In Memoriam - Jewell Sherburne Brown August 19, 1930 - June 25, 2025

Long-time member and former HHS volunteer Jewell Brown recently passed away. Her family designated HHS as a place for memorial donations. Jewell was a good friend of Karen Raynes, who wrote the following remembrance.



Jewell was a gem. A lovely lady. A true historian of Hampton. She was a keeper of many stories and information about the town and the people. She was my "go to person" when I could not find historical information anywhere else. Jewell welcomed me into her home. We talked and laughed and got down to business about historical subjects. Hours would pass in her company effortlessly. I would leave fortified with new stories to pass along to others. Thank you, Jewell, for your friendship and stewardship to the history of Hampton.

Karen Raynes July 6, 2025

## From the Collection Corner

Collection management is more than putting a number on an object and finding a place to exhibit or store it. In the past few months, we have done the following – hand laundering 19th C. children's clothing, refolding flat items on display so that they do not have creases that damage the item, examining all the hanging textiles and placing easy to read numbers on the hangers, so that handling is minimized.

Collection management involves working with volunteers working on exhibits – finding photos, documents and objects that tell an interesting story. Then caring for those objects, going off exhibit to make sure they are correctly stored so they can be found again.

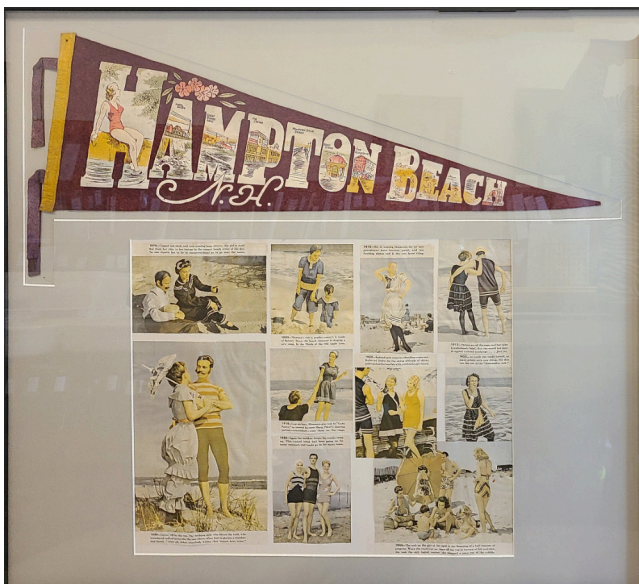
Collection management involves dealing with visitors who are looking for specific documents or photos for books, articles, and personal curiosity.



Collection management involves housekeeping, like keeping the display cases clean, which gets harder and harder with each passing year – stretching to reach that corner crevice at the inside bottom of the case that you can only get to on your hands and knees, once easy, only now to find once you get down on the floor, it's not easy to get up again! Maybe "Medic Alert" should be on the next collection wish list...

Betty Moore, Collection Manager

- Below: **Pennant of Hampton Beach** with pictures inside the letters of scenes from beach; **10 photos of bathing suits** over the eras with descriptions.
- At top right: Movie poster for Casino Theatre
- At bottom right: Milk Can, Johnson's Dairy, used by Spruce Hill Farm on corner of Winnacunnet Rd. and Park Ave. and owned by the Johnson family.

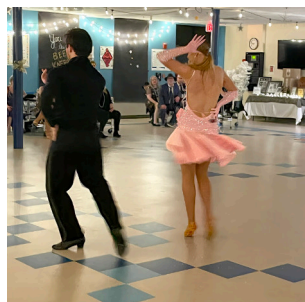




## Roaring Twenties Jazz Dance Pictures

On May 17th, Hampton Historical Society along with Victoria's Kitchen sponsored a Roaring Twenties Jazz Dance at Hampton Academy. We swung to the tunes of the Freese Brothers Band and enjoyed dance spotlights with the Krystal Ballroom of Hampton Falls. In keeping with our 100th anniversary 1920s theme, our zoot suits and flappers were in vogue! What a great time we had! Thank you to Heidi Taracena, Bill Keating, and Mike Compos for organizing this event.

If you missed it, come join us at our Speakeasy Sept 20<sup>th</sup> (see page 1).



## Trolley Tour of Hampton Pictures

The June 5th Historical Trolley tour was very successful, with two runs operating on one of the first hot days of summer. Our conductor was our student intern, Jack Hafey, who helped organize and run this tour. Kudos to him and our member guides Michelle Croteau, Christine Dalbec, and Claire McGrail for assisting. Thank you to Seacoast Trolley and our driver Stanley. We hope to continue the sharing of some great historical sights in Hampton.

