



GATHERINGS FROM THE GREEN

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President's Report

**Announcing
Annual Meeting of the Hampton Historical Society
Sunday, Oct. 16, 7 p.m.; Tuck Museum**

All membership is invited. There will be a brief business meeting to start, and then a presentation of "Jonathan Moulton: The Man and the Myth" by our researching team of Betty Moore, Karen Raynes, and Mary Ann Nelligan.

As we move from a busy summer to an even busier fall, we are taken in with all the good things that this past year has brought us, and want to share with you the bounty of our work. So much of this happens because of members like you, interested in the preservation of history and education of the past. We must thank our visitors from near and far as well, who are in search of family lines, or just come to enjoy the museum and outbuildings, as their donations also help us to succeed in our goals.

Volunteers make our world go around, and we have listed in this newsletter our many that have worked consistently through the year to keep our Historical Society active. The Schoolhouse renovation has been completed, and many thanks go to the team of people who were here each week. New electrical lines have been run to the schoolhouse and the cabin sites. Our kiosks have been completed, designed by volunteer Christine Linnehan-Sununu of Go Fish designs, and TimberHomes Vermont. Website photos have been updated and archived when needed.

Our very active Book Club, led by volunteer Barb Tosiano, continues to thrive. Visitors to the museum have wonderful tour guides "ready and waiting" to share the museum and information they need. If you stop by on a Wednesday or Friday, the Collections Committee is hard at work cataloging new items, updating computer lists, and cleaning out old file cabinets to add to our new catalog and notebook system.

The Historical Society has maintained our budget through Charity Gaming proceeds this summer, and our Membership renewals continue to help fund all these great projects. We are well on our way to presenting interesting historical programs for you, and have already set most of our 2023 calendar! Please try to attend!

The Fall Festival is one you should not miss. Sunday, October 9 (rain date Oct 10), 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. Come with family and friends and partake in our Festival that celebrates our community. We have all had a few tough

years, and in bouncing back, we aim to share circus-like events and games on our grounds...free of charge! Keep reading for more information.

Enjoy this newsletter...please think about joining our teams and be part of something exciting and fun....continue that life-long learning by coming to visit and/or attending our programs!

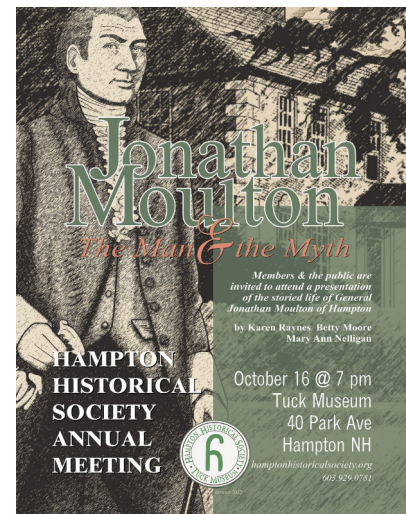
Lori Cotter, President

"Jonathan Moulton: The Man and the Myth" - HHS Annual Meeting – October 16, 7 p.m.

Legends around one of Hampton's wealthiest men of the 18th Century still linger today, of a man who it is said made a pact with the devil. One remnant of his legacy is his beautiful home located on Lafayette Road. Join us on Sunday, October 16 at 7 p.m. at the Tuck Museum to learn more about General Jonathan Moulton in the program "Jonathan Moulton: The Man and the Myth," presented by Karen Raynes, Mary Ann Nelligan, and Betty Moore.

Soldier, businessman, landowner, politician - the stories of his military and personal life have been immortalized in history books, folklore, by the writings of John Greenleaf Whittier and others. Come and help us sort out fact from fiction.

There will be a very brief annual meeting for the Hampton Historical Society immediately followed by the program. Members and the public are invited to attend.



BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS REPORT by Gary Grashow, chairman

Our biggest accomplishment in 2022 is the completion of the Schoolhouse Restoration. This project was done by dedicated HHS volunteers. Trustees and officers helped with removing furniture and taking off the existing vinyl siding and aluminum trim. Vinyl and aluminum had been installed when the schoolhouse was moved to the Green. Next, the crew consisting of Ben Moore, Michael Compos, Mike Stiers and I took over.



Scarf joint

First, we installed underground power and security lines from the museum to the schoolhouse. Most of the original wood siding was carefully removed, sanded clean and reapplied exposing the back of the original cedar clapboards. The pine exterior trim was restored. Many parts were custom made to keep the original architectural details in place. Mike and Ben painted the siding, windows and trim.

Every time we opened up a wall, decisions had to be made. Rotted studs were replaced, posts were patched and reinforced, and screening was installed to deter rodents. An exterminator was hired to eliminate hornets, carpenter ants, moths and other insects.

Next came the old windows. Only the sills were reusable. I made new parts in my shop that matched every detail of the original units. After hours searching, I stumbled upon reproduction Babcock latches to secure the movable sashes. What a find! Babcock latches were first patented in early 1880. This may mean that the windows were not part of the original structure.



Gary with Babcock latch

The Schoolhouse was built in 1855. Wind-bracing that reinforced the old post and beam frame had been chopped out carelessly—not carefully fitted around the rough openings. It's likely that 1855 framers would have been more precise. When the windows became part of the schoolhouse is a question that remains unanswered.

Work continued repairing the walls. The schoolhouse front door came from the old Garrison House which was owned by the Toppan family. We adjusted its massive box lock, refurbished its inside finish and carefully repaired and repainted the exterior.



Mike Compos and Ben and Betty Moore painted the inside—walls ceiling and trim. The schoolhouse started to come alive. The battleship grey painted floor which stood out like a sore thumb resisted sanding. After many hours spent the crew and I won the sanding battle. A hard natural

finish was applied, and the floor became a new feature of the project.

We surprised Betty Moore by making and hanging two new blackboards. Although, electricity was not available in 1855, four electrical boxes had been added previously. This allowed us to electrify four new wall sconces.

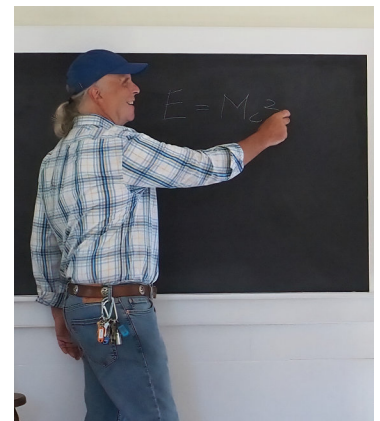
Move-in day finally arrived on August 23, 2022. Lori Cotter, Pat Bushway, and Betty Moore worked with the crew and me to clean and place the furniture. Betty and Ben washed windows and hung wall displays. Life returned once again to Hampton's only remaining one-room schoolhouse.



Gary Grashow, Mike Compos, Mike Stiers at dedication ceremony



HHS President Lori Cotter gets keys back from Gary



Trying out the new blackboard

From the Collection Corner

Thank you, Harold, and Ed, and Chet, and Rich, and Ben...

In 2017 Harold Fernald bequeathed his life's passion to the Tuck Museum – his collection of slides and local history information. This “conglomeration” took up 35 containers of materials and 100 boxes of slides, all relating to local history that he had amassed over the past 60 years as a teacher, historian, reenactor, speaker, and lover of Hampton. Years ago, I first met Harold when I was asked to present a program. A true novice when it came to Hampton history, I turned to him for advice, and he was generous with his time and collection – sharing his slides and knowledge. He took me to his basement where one room was a virtual history cave – floor to ceiling with boxes, books, and containers - all things related to history.



With the help of a “few good men,” the Fernald Collection is now accessible. Ed Baechtold undertook a three-year project and indexed the 35 containers and prioritized the contents in a way that we have easy access to the information. Thousands of slides were sorted by Chet Riley, who started to digitize the most important slides before he moved. Rich Hureau picked up the project and finished – totaling almost 2000 slides, and Ben Moore devised a plan for the archival storage of the collection.

Gary Grashow, Mike Stiers, Mike Compos, and Ben Moore are some of the other good men who spent two years renovating our District Schoolhouse (see page 2). Pat Thoen and I got the easier job of fitting out the schoolhouse in preparation for the reopening on Sept 17. Pat has taken the role of Miss Blake, to heart, and has given schoolhouse programs for us in that building since the 1980s. You can meet “Miss Blake” in person at the Fall Festival on October 9. Pat also gave us the mystery item for this newsletter (below). We are all stumped! See if you can help us by identifying what it is.

Betty Moore, Collection Manager

What Is It??

The mystery item is about 8 inches high (not including the handle) and a little over 2 inches in diameter. It is in 3 pieces, shown disassembled and assembled.





You're invited to celebrate Hampton's history and its wonderful community with us at the Second Annual Fall Festival! On October 9th from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., we will be hosting some amazing entertainment, great food, and wonderful activities on the field next to the Tuck Museum.

We are thrilled to welcome back the band Billy Billy along with the incredible aerial artists Baechtold and Abel and children's entertainers Vegetable Circus. A variety of food will be available from the Big Bad food truck. This event will also feature a traditional raffle along with a 50/50 raffle.



All of our buildings will be open to the public during this event and we will offer free tours throughout the day. Don't miss this opportunity to check out our newly renovated school house, which will be attended to by Miss Blake, a school teacher reenactor.

We would like to thank all of our members, sponsors, and the community of Hampton for supporting the Hampton Historical Society and making it possible for us to put on a free family friendly event for the town. The rain date will be Monday, October 10th. We hope to see you there.

Attention All Cookie Bakers!



We're resuming our tradition of handing out our signature cookies at the town Christmas tree lighting ceremony which will be on December 2nd. If you're interested in baking, handing out cookies, or helping otherwise, please contact Pat Bushway at patjean56@yahoo.com.

Business Members

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

Casassa Law Office
Edward Jones - Scott Zimmermann
Galley Hatch Restaurant, Inc.
Harris Real Estate
Preston Real Estate
QA Technology Company, Inc.
Remick & Gendron Funeral Home-Crematory
Tobey & Merrill Insurance

Our Brief but Profitable Bingo Adventure



Late in 2021 HHS was approached by friends at the American Legion about an opportunity for making more money in our charitable gaming operation. If HHS agreed to operate bingo at Ocean Gaming on each Tuesday and on one weekend per month from 2 to 4 p.m., HHS would receive not only the revenue from bingo (which was nothing) but also the net revenue from the Lucky 7 gaming machines (which was considerable).

And so, beginning January 2022, HHS got into the bingo business! Our volunteers showed up faithfully on the appointed dates to offer bingo, but throughout the entire winter, spring, and summer only **one** person showed up to play! Meanwhile, the Lucky 7 money was coming in, fees were being paid, and license applications and monthly reports were being submitted to the NH Lottery Commission.

Then, in mid-July Ocean Gaming decided to replace its Lucky 7 machines with other, more profitable ones. The bingo adventure was over. The net income to HHS for the 6.5 months of bingo and Lucky 7 operation was \$17,533.16, a very impressive number! The additional income helps HHS fund projects such as the schoolhouse restoration and programs such as our Fall Festival.

Ed Baechtold, Treasurer

Community Engagement / Event Calendar

The events for the remainder of the year include:

- Oct. 9 - Second annual Fall Festival (see page 3)
- Oct. 16 - Annual Meeting and program (see page 1)
- Dec. 2 and 3, we'll join in the town's holiday festivities that begin Friday evening with the Christmas tree lighting as we resume our tradition of handing out our signature cookies (see page 3). On Saturday we'll take part in the parade with an HHS float!

Events that we currently have scheduled for next year:

- February 15 - a presentation on the Mayflower Compact by the Liberty Tree Society, Walpole, NH. This event is scheduled for 1 p.m. via Zoom.
- March 15 - heirloom plants presentation by John Forti. This event will be held at the Lane Library, time TBD.
- May 17 - a presentation by the Tide Mill Institute on 17th-19th century tide mills, to include the mill that was here in Hampton.

The Programs Committee is working on a number of other events for next year and we'll keep you updated as we complete our schedule.

Pat Bushway



As we are able to gather and attend events, now is a great time to volunteer at the Tuck Museum and Historical Society. Some volunteer opportunities are:

- Greeting visitors and giving tours of the Museum buildings and grounds.
- Guiding school groups through the Museum, Founders Park, and Pine Grove Cemetery.
- Documenting/cataloging new additions to the Museum collection.
- Researching genealogy or history questions to answer requests.
- Assisting maintenance with carpentry, landscaping, or snow removal.
- Set-up and clean-up at the Fall Festival on Oct. 9 from 11:00 to 3:00.
- Participating in other upcoming community events.

We provide all the information and training for these activities. All you need is a desire to get involved and to have fun! We welcome volunteers of all ages.

To sign up or to learn more about these and other volunteer opportunities, send an email to info@hamptonhistoricalsociety.org or call 603-929-0781.

Notes from Visitor Services....

2022 is the first time since Covid struck that the Museum has been able to open for its normal hours with minimal restraint. There were some relatively minor inconveniences from Covid et al.

It was a pleasant and busy season with a bevy of visitors including people interested in the Museum and the grounds as well as people who were interested in researching their families.

We finished renovating the schoolhouse. Those few people who have seen it were very pleasantly surprised. Next up the cottage.

Please take a look at the article in this newsletter on Volunteers (above). We always need additional volunteers. If you are interested please don't hesitate to contact me at any time at michaelcompos@gmail.com or by using the info in article on Volunteers. Thanks for considering it.

Michael Compos