



Hampden Historical Society

Newsletter – Summer 2022

A Big Thank You

for our Annual Yard and Book Sale

The sun came out bright and the rain managed to stay away for our Yard and Book Sale on June 11. A big thank you to all who joined us and found all sorts of bargains! We are pleased to report that we made \$1,800 for our efforts. That will go a long way in helping to pay for ongoing maintenance and upkeep projects. A huge thank you to our volunteers as well who made sure all of our customers were well cared for throughout the day. None of it would have been possible without everyone's help and support. Here's to next year!



In Memorium

Hampden Historical Society is saddened to note the recent passing of members.

Alice Hawes
Richard Proulx
Lois Stillman

We offer our deepest condolences to their families.



Hampden's Children's Day - 2022

Saturday, August 13

Join us in celebrating the return of Hampden's Children's Day and watch for our Hampden Historical Society float in the parade

*It is sure to please
and perhaps bring back a fond memory or two!*

Annual Christmas Bazaar

We are excited about welcoming everyone back to the Kinsley House for our Annual Christmas Bazaar on Saturday, November 19 from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. It will be the first time we have welcomed folks through our doors for this event since 2019! The Bazaar is one of the largest fundraisers for the Society and helps cover the cost of maintenance and upkeep as well as pay for our everyday expenses.

While Christmas seems a long way off right now, it will be here before we know it! We hope our members,



volunteers and others have been busy crafting their way through the warm days of summer. It is our hope to grow the Bazaar each year making it bigger and better.

With everyone's help we can do so. Let's

celebrate the season in style and make November 19 a terrific day for HHS. Please contact us at 862-2027 or email ellynchase@gmail.com with any questions.

Update From Your Board of Directors

Jim Husson, President

A few weeks ago, we had a visitor from upstate New York and another from upstate Maine. Both turned out to be Presidents of their Historical Societies. Both were given a tour of our facilities. They were blown away by how neat and clean our museum is and how we have so many items of great quality. When they saw the archives, they again were simply astonished at what we have and how organized we are. They couldn't believe we had a newsletter that is published three or four times a year, how we have a monthly meeting with a program at each meeting or how we have about 10 to 12 volunteers come in every Tuesday and tackle all kinds

of projects. They were absolutely amazed at what we have.

It is easy to get complacent about our facility and what we do, but we really do have a treasure here in Hampden. Sure, we have some great items, a beautiful facility, lots of books and research material but our real strength is the volunteers and the Society's members. Everyone has stepped up and made this Society one of the best in Maine.

Even during our recent Covid lockdowns, work at the Kinsley House went on. We had an Annual Appeal to raise some really needed money as the old boards for the roof of the Carriage House were rotting badly; we had two sets of stairs that were scary to climb or descend; there was damaged and rotting shingles on the back side of the Carriage House; and in general the Carriage House needed paint desperately. The price tag to do all that was overwhelming, but the Annual Appeal was extremely successful and we were able to proceed; thank you all.

As I am writing this, two sets of stairs, one in the Carriage House and one going to the basement in the Kinsley House have been totally replaced; the Carriage House second floor support beam was reinforced; the cedar shingles have been replaced on the back of the Carriage House; steps have been repaired to the Law Office; and the large back doors to the Carriage House have been built and painted and are ready to go on as soon as the rotten boards in the roof have been removed, replaced, sheathing applied and shingling is finished. Bids are now being sought for the painting of the Carriage House. All of this took a while as Covid, supply issues, getting bids etc. held us up. However, your generosity has made a difference. We urge all of you to come and visit us. See firsthand how *your* contributions have been put to use.

Along with all the physical changes, the Historical Society's volunteers continued to work all masked up and separated. The museum underwent a total in-depth cleaning (every item was cleaned, including ceilings, walls and floors, and curtains pressed). Mary and Jerry have been going over every item (over 20,000) making sure they are appropriately marked and catalogued. Vivian (along with all her work as Treasurer and Secretary) and Jerry researched and catalogued all the businesses that have ever been in Hampden. Wendy is copying out all the Hampden Town Reports, and Storie has been updating and cataloguing all the old pictures associated with the town of Hampden. Betty has been filing all the many newspaper items and like items, Jean (along with all of the many duties as Head Archivist) and Jane are cataloguing all the books we have. Bob and

Randy are busy in the Carriage House and Blacksmith shop identifying and cataloging all the tools, sleighs, farm equipment, Ferrier equipment, etc.

Ellyn, just coming off her three years as President (with all that entailed), continues to tackle all kinds of projects along with getting this newsletter out. Karen is now busy as Vice President and has been working on arranging all the general meetings and programs. Janice continues working with our Web Site and running our newest fund raiser with Hannaford. Will and I are in the process of replacing the flag pole. Patsy continues to take pictures of all our events and keeps our Facebook page up to date.

The Hampden Romeos (Retired Old Men Eating Out – Dave, Steve, Jeff, Rick and myself) have been busy taking down the old flag pole, painting steps, putting up security cameras and smoke detectors and providing muscles when needed. But one of our most exciting projects is the Romeos along with Will are planning on setting up the old Trolley Hut that was saved from the MeDOT main road project. Plus, we can't forget Rod, our handyman, has rebuilt the large back doors of Carriage House. Everyone is busy as there is so much to accomplish.

The Society has also been very active with Mary, Ellyn, Paul and myself in a huge project where we hope to go digital. It will be long drawn-out adventure, but we hope to have almost everything digitized and on the web in the foreseeable future.

Even though Covid mostly shut us down for a while, we were never out of it. We are now open again and meetings are resuming.

This Society is made up of some great members and volunteers. We have a bright future. Don't hesitate to visit. Come in and do some research. Check with us if you need information. This is your Hampden Historical Society.



The Samuel Cooper Johonnot Story

Part II

A Hampden Family – A Man of the World *The Education of Samuel Cooper Johonnot* (1768-1806)

by K. Elizabeth Gibbs

The following, spring [1781], on May 7, 1781, Col. Johonnot wrote to Franklin that he had arrived in France in March on the Alliance to conduct business and supervise his son's move from Passy to attend school in Geneva. Col. Johonnot and Samuel Cooper accepted an invitation to dine with Franklin on the next Thursday,

On September 16, Franklin wrote from Passy to Col. Johonnot with the problem of finances persisting:

Dr. Franklin sends his Compliments to Col. Johonnot, and sends the letter he desires for Mr. Williams. He has not the least Acquaintance with any French merchant at Nantes that is likely to enter into Col. Johonnot's Views and if he were to advise, it would be not to solicit at present any one for Goods upon Credit. The great Losses that have been sustained by many who have adventured Goods into our Country, have totally discouraged the Practice; and it will require time to re-establish the lost Confidence. Dr. Franklin having Occasion for some Money in Boston, will be obliged to Col. Johonnot if he can give him Bills on that Place for 100 Guineas; in which Case they may be lodg'd with Mr. Williams, who shall have Col. J.'s Notes to deliver up. - Or if he has Time, Col. J. may draw the Bills here directly, Mr. Franklin will write the Letters for Geneva tomorrow. Wishes him a good Journey.

On September 16, Col. Johonnot again wrote to Franklin:

Col. Johonnot Presents his Most Respectful Compliments for His Excellency – Doctr. Franklin & begs his excuse for not waiting on him in Person, as the Necessary Attention to his Departure for Nantes, & his Sons for Geneva, Absolutely puts it out of his power. The Diligence for Orleans leaving Paris Tomorrow Morning. Four O'Clock, The Other for Lyon & Geneva Tuesday Morning, He begs the favor of the Doctr to Give him a line to Mr. Williams & any French Merchts. In Nantes, he may be Acquainted with, on the General

Principle of Commerce, so far as he may have been Satisfied of Character & Abilities, from such Letters from Doctr. Cooper as he may have received or Seen; Together with a Passport: Colonel Johonnot will ever hold the favors received from the Doctr. In the most Gratefull light and Endeavor to make to him & his, such Returns, as Shall sufficiently Evince the Sincerety of his profession He most sincerely wishes the Doctr. The fullest Enjoymt. Of every Blessing thro' life.

On October 18, Franklin wrote to Col. Johonnot from Passy to say that Samuel Cooper had safely arrived in Geneva. He also advised Col. Johonnot, who was planning a trip to Europe, to not apply for passage on a ship of war.

On January 7, 1782? Franklin wrote to Samuel Cooper from Passy:

My Dear Young Friend,- I received your kind good wishes of a number of happy years for me. I have already enjoy'd and consum'd nearly the whole of those allotted me, being now within a few days of my 78th. You have a great many before you; and their being happy or otherwise will depend much on your conduct. If by diligent Study now, you improve your Mind, and practice carefully hereafter the Prompts of Religion & Virtue, you will have in your favour the Promise respecting the Life that now is, as well as that which is to come. You will possess true Wisdom, which is nearly allied to Happiness; Length of days are in her right hand and in her left hand Riches and Honours; all her ways are ways of Pleasantness and all her Paths are Peace!

I am glad to hear that you are intitled to a Prize. It will be pleasing News to your Friends in New England, that you have behav'd so as to deserve it. I pray God to bless you, and render you a Comfort to them and an Honour to your Country.

On January 25, 1782, Franklin wrote to Samuel Cooper that he was glad to hear a good account of him from his schoolmaster and that he had paid the bill for his school expenses up to the end of the month. He also discussed the advisability of changing schools. On September of that year, Rev. Cooper wrote to Franklin:

I am extremely obliged to you for all your kind Attention to my Grandson, and am sorry to hear of the Disturbances in Geneva; I have the satisfaction to find by a Letter from him to his Father that he was safe out of the City. Col. Johonnot arrived fortunately two months past at Baltimore, where his Affairs, as he writes, wore an agreeable Aspect. I expect to see him in Boston every Moment.

On August 27, 1783, Samuel Cooper wrote a brief letter to Franklin from Nantes, France, in which he apologized for a lapse in behavior. It appears he was travelling from Nantes to St. Nazair where he would board a ship to return to Boston via Baltimore. At this point he was 15 years old and had been away from home for four years.

On April 21, 1784 Samuel Cooper wrote to Franklin from Boston after his voyage from Nantes. He was then in Boston having received his Degree of Bachelor of Arts. In June 1783, Rev. Cooper (a member of the Harvard Cooperation) had arranged for Harvard to award his grandson a bachelor's degree in absentia based on the excellent education Samuel Cooper had received in Europe. Samuel Cooper then studied law under James Sullivan, a former judge who went on to become the attorney general, then governor of

Massachusetts. On Dec. 17, 1783 Sullivan wrote Samuel Cooper urging him to come to Boston as soon as possible due to his grandfather's failing health. However, Samuel Cooper endorsed it as not having been received in time. Shortly after Rev. Cooper's death, Sullivan received permission from the Suffolk County bar to take Samuel Cooper "into his office as a student." Sullivan considered Samuel Cooper an exceptionally brilliant young man, but thought that his French antecedents combined with his time spent abroad as a student had made Samuel Cooper lose his American manners and feelings. Although Samuel Cooper was a good scholar and highly polished man, Sullivan thought he was unfitted for the practice of law. Nevertheless, in 1789 Samuel Cooper was admitted to the Maine bar and settled in Portland to practice law.

Samuel Cooper was active in the local militia while in Portland, holding the rank of major. In the March 3, 1787 issue, the *Portland Cumberland Gazette* reported that Major Johonnot had arrived in town with dispatches for his excellency from the Major General Lincoln whom he had left at Pittsfield on February 22. From Samuel Cooper, it was learned that there had been small straggling parties of insurgents hovering on the borders of Vermont and New York where they were well received by the disaffected in the governments. He reported that a part of his men had captured Adam Wheeler, and kept him four hours, but that he was rescued by forty Yorkers. He also reported that the raising of new levies was going very well in Hampshire and Worcester counties and that Mayor Lyman, aide-de-camp to Major General Shepard, was appointed lieutenant colonel of the newly enlisted troops. On October 9, 1790, in his position of major of the brigade and sub-inspector for Cumberland County, Samuel Cooper ordered an inspection of several regiments in the 2nd Brigade and 6th Division. These units were to parade in Portland on April 18, in North Yarmouth on April 25, in Brunswick and Harpswell on April 26, in Dunston on April 28, in Standish on April 29, in Windham on November 1, and the two companies in New Gloucester and one company in Gray in New Gloucester on November 2.

Samuel Cooper was an avid contributor to the local newspaper, *The Cumberland Gazette*. On December 6, 1790, under the name of Ultimatum, he published an unpopular piece about one of Portland's citizens. The inspiration for this article was the division of sentiment on the election of the federal representative, which had "infused an acrimony in our disputes, pregnant with consequences fatal to peace and concord."

Ultimatum raised several issues some of which seemed directed at the clergyman's wife:

An enquiry into the benefits of petticoat government in parish discipline-with applications and instances.

An Exposition of New Light Doctrine – hints upon dancing; and anecdotes showing the danger of paying short toll at "old Mills."

A concise method of studying divinity – and (perhaps) Law.

A dissertation on Constancy, and Religious Courtship.

Strictures upon dressing and preserving hair – chiefly clerical – and with sundry other expositions.

In the December 13, 1790 issue, the editor of *The Cumberland Gazette* apologized for having included the article by Ultimatum in the newspaper. In conversation with the gentlemen who felt themselves injured by the piece, the editor used soothing language, acknowledged that he had done wrong, promised to publish an apology, and requested them to communicate these observations to all concerned. In answer to which, some said they feared it was too late. These injured parties felt that publishing the piece signed Ultimatum was not the only cause of offence, and that the editor had been too severe in his treatment of some topics. This situation created considerable tension in the community, and the editor wrote:

And now, my fellow townsmen, agreeably to the above mentioned threats, four of your citizens are this afternoon to be driven from their habitations and from their families; one of them for inconsiderately writing certain reflections on private characters, and immediately acknowledging that he had done wrong; another, for printing the same productions and then publishing his error; a third, for laughing at what has proved to be no laughing matter; and fourth, who has never yet been charged with guilt even of one unreasonable smile."

Samuel Cooper responded to criticisms of his article in the June 12, 1790, edition of *The Cumberland Gazette*:

Nothing tends more to the general corruption of morals than those party bickerings which break out into personal invectives: they dissolve the bands of social union; and convert human society into a nest of hissing serpents. It is strange that men cannot differ in opinion upon political subjects, without transferring that public dissent to private life.

The division of sentiment on the subject of Federal Representative, has infused an acrimony in

our disputes, pregnant with consequences fatal to peace and concord.

Judge Thacher of Biddeford offers an alternative to the negative impression of Samuel Cooper's newspaper contributions Thacher wrote that Samuel Cooper was a major contributor to newspapers of Biddeford at that time.

Samuel Cooper's actions did not endear him to the citizens of Portland. He was reported to have kept the town in an uproar for two or three years by his satirical talents, and he was finally run out of town. After a brief return to Boston in 1791, Samuel Cooper emigrated to the British colony of Demerara (present-day Guyana) to engage in commerce, developing a successful commission business and becoming wealthy. In 1793, he was appointed consul for the US port of Demerara. The document announcing his appointment was signed by Thomas Jefferson, who noted Samuel Cooper's unusual command of languages. The appointment at the port of Demerara also included all ports under the same allegiance in America that were nearer to the said port than to the residence of any US consular or vice consul within the same allegiance.

In Demerara, Samuel Cooper married and had two daughters, Theresa and Judith. He remained in Demerara until his death in 1806.

Fourteen years later, Col. Johonnot recognized his granddaughters when he wrote his last will and testament.

Know all men by those present that I Gabriel Johonnot of Hampden in the County of Penobscot, Esquire, being now sound of mind and memory, though weak and infirm in body, do hereby make, ordain and establish the following to be my last Will and Testament, that is to say. In the first place, I give and bequeath to my two Grandchildren, Theresa due Pois, the wife of Monsiur du Pois of St. Pierre in the Island of Martinique and Judith Johonnot of the said St. Pierre in the Island of Martinique, single woman, both being the children of my late Son Samuel Cooper Johonnot Esq. Deceased, all the Real and personal Estate of which I shall die Seized excepting the articles herein [illegible] and oherwise disposed of and after all my just debts and funeral charges are paid. 5 October 1820

Col. Johonnot died on October 20, 1820 and was buried in the old cemetery in Hampden beside his wife. His gravestone has not survived.

Remember When...

Taken from *Echoes From The Past*, a June 2000 publication of Hampden Historical Society.

Remember when penny candy cost only a penny? Remember when it cost a nickel to get into Riverside Park? Remember when the trolley car ran from Hampden Highlands to Bangor and it only cost a dime? Or remember when you could go to Preble's Drug Store and get the biggest hot fudge sundae in the world for only twenty-five cents? And remember when gasoline cost twenty cents a gallon or six gallons for a dollar? Well, those days are long gone and seem so far away. Now that same twenty-five cents will buy you a piece of penny candy if you are lucky. Today everyone owns at least one car and it costs \$1.50 for a single gallon of gasoline, and the best hot fudge sundae in the world will cost you \$2.95 and you have to travel 10 miles to get it.

Remember when you didn't have to spend \$7.75 to go to the movies or \$20 to get into an amusement park? You made your own fun and entertainment.

With the arrival of old man winter there would come the time to go skating on the frog pond and building of bonfires with old tires to keep warm. The falling of soft white snow would bring time playing a wonderful game of fox and geese in the snow and skiing at Croxford and Foss Hills. And what would winter be without snowball fights and sliding and bobsledding down Summer Street, Treworgy Hill or Cottage Street and tobogganing down Hopkins Hill.

Everyone knows that April showers bring May flowers. But springtime was also the time for catching pollywogs in the brook behind the house and tommy-cod fishing in Reeds Brook, baseball and Memorial Day parades when the HA band and Kiltie Band would spend the day traveling from one town to the next in the back of a truck. And the day WWII ended, a group of neighborhood kids held a concert on the front lawn and paraded through the village to celebrate the end of the war.

Summer would bring the usual mowing of lawns and haying at the family farm, games of horseshoes, riding bikes around the "mile square," swinging on the porch swing, riding the trolley, and visits to relatives out of state where the highlight of the trip was a visit to the Boston Pops and to see the Boston Braves play ball. Camp Jordan and Camp Roosevelt welcomed youngsters from near and far. And neighborhood kids put on plays and charged only a button for admission. Warm sunny days would find everyone swimming at the Interval and going for walks in the woods between the Main Road and Mayo Road.

With fall came the splendor of colors and the chore of raking leaves, football games and school activities. School brought participation in the Squawk Club, the Band, Junior Exhibition and Senior Plays. And what would an evening be without listening to the Grand Ole Opry and the Hit Parade on radio. Boy Scouts and church youth groups kept everyone active with an abundance of events and activities.

Ah yes ... those were the days – remember when it was fun to be a kid in Hampden.

Editor's note 2022: And now we are lucky to find gas for under \$5.00 a gallon, old-fashioned penny candy is found in gourmet candy shops rather than the little corner market across the street, and we are hard pressed to find a really good hot-fudge sundae for less than \$6.00. Ah yes!

Sweet Pea

Someone caught the butterflies,
orchid, pink and white;
And made them captive on a stem
To halt their airy flight.

Each butterfly became a flower
And folded back its wings;
All reconciled to spend its days
Amid the growing things.

Now the little hummingbird
And bees with stripes of gold
Pay daily homage to the blooms
As gently they unfold.

*By Mildred Thayer
1912-2005*

From Our Kitchen to Yours

Susan Hall's Lemon Squares

Preheat oven to 350 degrees

Note: Use a real lemon for the glaze. If the juice is not enough then use a little of the "plastic" lemon juice. Use pure lemon extract for the cake part.

Cake

1½ cups flour

2 cups sugar

1 teaspoon salt

Stir these together, then add:

2 sticks butter, softened (not margarine)

4 eggs

2 teaspoons pure lemon extract

1 teaspoon grated lemon zest

Pour into greased 9 x 13 pan

Bake for 25 minutes or until light golden brown and set. Remove from oven and pierce entire cake with a fork

Glaze while hot

Glaze

Stir together

1 cup confectioner's sugar

2 tablespoons lemon juice

1 teaspoon lemon zest

Pour glaze evenly over the pierced cake

Refrigerate once cooled. Enjoy!



Please let us know when any of your contact information has changed. This includes email addresses, telephone number/s and mailing addresses. It is important to us that we keep you apprised of all that is happening at HHS. You are important to us and we thank you for your help.

Hampden Historical Society

Heritage Day 2022

Saturday, September 10
10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Kinsley House Museum
83 Main Road South, Hampden

**Celebrating Hampden's history with
exhibits, demonstrations, museum tours and more!**



Exhibits & Demonstrations include:

**Blacksmithing, Cedar Shake Making, Candle Dipping, Buttermaking,
Outdoor Cooking, Spinning, Cider Making and Face Painting**

**Plus Pelt Display, Animals, Handiwork, Scavenger Hunt, Childrens' Games
and Baskets & Crafts for Kids**

**Tours of the Museum's Carriage House (Tool Room and Summer Kitchen),
Hannibal Hamlin's Law Office and the 1794 Kinsley House.**

Free Admission

(Donations accepted with deep appreciation!)

Lunch available for minimal charge

Includes hot dog, chips, drink and homemade cookie

Schedule of Meetings and Activities

Monday, July 25	7:00 p.m.
Monthly meeting	
Program: Hampden's History – Part 1	
Monday, August 22	7:00 p.m.
Monthly meeting	
Program: Hampden's History – Part 2	
Saturday, September 10	10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Heritage Day	
Monday, September 26	7:00 p.m.
Monthly Meeting	
Program: Vintage Clothing	
Monday, October 24	7:00 p.m.
Monthly Meeting	
Program: TBA	
Saturday, November 19	8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Annual Christmas Bazaar	
Monday, March 27, 2023	7:00 p.m.
Monthly meeting	
Program: TBA	
Monday, April 24, 2023	7:00 p.m.
Monthly meeting	
Program: TBA	
Monday, May 22, 2023	6:00 p.m.
Annual Meeting	

Note: All meetings/events subject to change.

Hours of Operation

Tuesdays 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Other days/times by appointment

Call 207-862-2027 or email

hampdenhistorical@gmail.com

to schedule an appointment

Masks are requested but not currently required.

To ensure the health and safety of our volunteers and guests, we will continue to monitor the situation as we move forward and will make adjustments as needed.

HHS Contact Information

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Facebook: Hampden Historical Society

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