



Hampden Historical Society

Newsletter – Fall 2020

Annual Christmas Raffle

The holidays are sneaking up on us!

As you know, the annual Christmas Bazaar is critically important to the Society’s financial success. However, the Board of Directors has made the difficult decision not to hold our Bazaar in 2020 due to COVID-19 restrictions. We simply do not have the space to physically distance in order to ensure the safety of our guests and volunteers.



But we are excited about continuing with our raffle, and we again have terrific raffle items! We just need everyone to pitch in and sell tickets! If we all sold five books, we would make over \$4,000. This year, in particular, it is critically important that we work to achieve this result. While we operate on a small budget, repairs and upkeep are still necessary. Our fingers are crossed that we will be able to reopen next spring and get back to holding our monthly meetings, open houses, yard sales and yes, our Christmas Bazaar.

We deeply appreciate your understanding during this difficult time for everyone. We are grateful for your continuing support of Hampden Historical Society. Through the generosity of individuals and local businesses, over \$1,000 worth of gifts and certificates have been donated for this year’s raffle. Without their support our raffle would not be possible. Raffle items include a *Handcrafted Windsor Bench*, a *Handmade Holiday Quilt*, a *LiftMaster ½ HP AC Chain Drive Wi-Fi Garage Door Opener* as well as Gift Certificate packages from numerous local businesses. We will be sending raffle tickets to our members and supporters this month so watch your mail. Together we can make this raffle one of the best ever.



Handcrafted Windsor Bench



LiftMaster ½ HP AC Chain Drive WiFi Garage Door Opener



Holiday Quilt (72x84)

Grant Received for Energy Efficiency Project

The Hampden Historical Society has received an \$8,840 grant from the Belvedere Historic Energy Efficiency Fund of the Maine Community Foundation to purchase and install heat pumps that will be the final step in completing the energy efficiency upgrades to the Kinsley House Museum and Archive. This grant allows our collections and archived documents to be kept in a temperature-controlled environment. This much appreciated investment will ensure the preservation of our precious and rare documents for future generations.

Headquartered in Ellsworth, with additional personnel in Portland, Dover-Foxcroft and Mars Hill, the Maine Community Foundation works with donors and other partners to provide strong investments, personalized service, local expertise and strategic giving to improve the quality of life for all Maine people.



One of three installed heat pumps.

Update From the Board of Directors

First and foremost, we hope that you and your loved ones have continued to be safe and well during this unprecedented time. We miss you and our monthly meetings and look forward to the time when we can be back together.

In the meantime, your Board of Directors has continued to hold its monthly socially distanced and masked meetings in recent months. The business of running the archive and museum continues even when we are closed. Some of our volunteers have been working to play catch up with the backlog of paperwork, and we think (!) we are pretty well caught up at this point. The museum is in good order and will be ready for visitors when we reopen, hopefully, next spring.

We are continuing to seek out grant opportunities to help cover the costs of ongoing repairs, etc. A couple of the larger projects that need to be addressed are the Carriage House and Law Office roofs. We have had initial conversations about an annual appeal for next year that will help address these projects. If there is something that we may assist you with, or if you have questions or concerns, please let us know.

Hampden's Oldest Homes Project

The Historical Society is reviving efforts started by past volunteers to identify Hampden's oldest and most historic homes that date back prior to 1895. We receive numerous requests each year looking for historical information about homes in town that may have been recently sold and the new owners are interested in learning of its past. The list is far from complete and we have added a few recently in our attempts to update the list. If you have any information on older homes in Hampden that you would be willing to share, please contact us at 207-862-2027 or hampdenhistorical@gmail.com.

Apples....Apples....Apples

Remember all those different kinds of apples we once enjoyed? Can you think of anymore?

Baldwin – Bellefleure – Belles Early – Ben Davis – Black Oxford – Cortland – Crabapple – Douse – Duchess – Fall Pippin – Gilleflower – Yellow Transparent – Gravenstein – Grimes Golden – High Top Sweet – Jonathan – King – Lady Apple – MacIntosh – Northern Spy – Pumpkin Sweet – Pound Sweet – Red Astrakan – Red Delicious – Russett – Rusty Coat – Seek No Further – Staymen Winesap – Star – Stark – Sweet – Wagner – Winesap – Winter Banana – Wolf River – Yellow Delicious – York Imperial.

Phew!!! Each had its own special use, either for pies, cider, baking, good eating, good keepers and such. Which is your favorite Fall treat?



Little Bits of Nostalgia

A Farewell Fall trip down the Penobscot

On December 27, 1935, the last passenger ship of the Boston-Bangor Line left on her farewell trip down the Penobscot River. Mr. Libby, Quartermaster on the S.S. Belfast, was on that occasion at the wheel for the trip down the river.

The officers on the trip that day were: Captain Alfred Rawleigh of Hampden, First Officer Harry G. Whitney of Hampden, Second Officer Malcom H. Carmen of Deer Isle and First Mate John McGinnis of Boston.

The trip down the river was routine except for a fall of snow dust before Rockland was reached, adding gloom to the already heavy hearts of the crew. Captain Rawleigh went ashore, shaking hands with everyone and bidding all farewell.



S.S. Belfast on its Final Farewell Trip

*Memories of
the "Lower" Corner (Hampden Highlands)*

The Wallace building, seen far left in the photo, is facing the Kennebec Road (formerly known as Church Street). It was a horse shoeing business operated by John Wallace who had lived directly behind the building. That home was demolished years ago and stood behind the building that for years housed the Town Office (prior to its move to the new facility on Western Avenue) and a Barber Shop. Sadly, that series of buildings is now near collapse. Mr. Wallace also delivered coal in a horse-drawn "coal cart." The coal was obtained at the dock on the river at the end of Summer & Ferry Streets. On the west side of the Wallace building (and the former Matthews home ... now apartments) was another building used as a paint shop. It was owned by Frank Rogers, who ran the local drugstore.

The largest building in the photo was a store run by Joe Lewis. Over the years the store was run by Frank Robinson, George Sanford, Leslie Stanley, Lounsbury and Perry to name a few. While it has served Hampden residents as several different businesses over the years, it currently is Angelo's Pizzeria. The sign over the right side of the building reads Hampden Post Office. The postmaster at the time was Carl Snow.

The building to the far right was a garage operated by George Clark and later by a Mr. Peterson (the father of Betty Millner who was a charter member of the Hampden Historical Society). Clark sold Bay State Automobiles, which were manufactured in Massachusetts. Bill Page sold gas from the pump shown in the photo. Later Mr. Page operated a filling station on the opposite side of the street (Route 1A), which for many years has been owned and operated by the Rawcliffe family.



Lower Corner (Hampden Highlands)

From Our Kitchen to Yours

Apple Crescent Rolls

- 1 can Crescent Rolls
- 1 large Granny Smith apple
- ½ cup butter
- 1 cup sugar
- 2/3 cup Sprite (yes, Sprite.....that's correct!)
- Cinnamon

- Peel, core and slice apple into 8 pieces
- Roll each piece of apple into a crescent roll
- Place in a 9 x 13 baking dish
- Sprinkle cinnamon over each roll
- Melt the butter and stir in sugar and Sprite
- Pour the mixture over the rolls
- Bake in a preheated oven at 350 degrees
for 30 minutes or until golden brown.

YUM YUM YUM!!

Kinsley's - *Believe It or Not!*

If one drives out the Shaw Hill Road, one will notice on the left a large gravestone next to the driveway of a newer home. This is shortly before the road crosses the interstate and becomes the Newburgh Road. This is the Patten Cemetery and it marks the approximate location of the old Patten Farm which no longer exists. Now all forest, the land around this area was all fields. It was also the location of the North Hampden Post Office from July 11, 1849 to July 11, 1853. Jeremiah C. Patten was the only Postmaster.



Patten Gravestone

It has been rumored that sometime during this time, on this farm, two of the Patten Boys came across an unusual pile of rocks in one of their fields. They took down the rocks to a point where there was only one large flat stone laying on the ground. With a team of oxen, they removed this last stone to find a hole. In this hole was a **kettle full of gold**. If the rumor holds true, the value of the gold amounted to \$6,000 (about \$150,000 today). It was said the gold was evenly divided amongst the boys.



View from the Patten Farm looking toward Hermon
Note: Hermon Mountain is in the background

No one is sure where the money came from or why it was there. Was it hidden there by someone trying to prevent the British from taking it during the Battle of Hampden? Was it illegal money? Pirates? Was it the pot of gold at the end of a rainbow? If anyone has any other information on this rumor, we would love to hear it. That is, if you Believe it or Not.

In Memoriam

The Society is saddened to have lost a long-time supporter and benefactor of Hampden Historical Society. Our condolences go out to the family of Raymond Spaulding who passed away recently. In more recent years, unable to be an active member, Ray always took the opportunity to find his way back "home" to the Kinsley House whenever events were scheduled. His warm and friendly smiles will be greatly missed.

Exhibit Room Makeover

During the past months, volunteers have been finding time to refresh some of our displays for when the museum is able to reopen. The Exhibit Room in particular has seen the largest makeover. The old display case has been replaced with a wonderful piece of Hampden history. The long display case is one that was used in Rowell's Hardware Store (now Hampden Hardware) in the early 1900s. The case was generously given to the Society by Toby Hart who used the case for displaying some of his smaller sculptures. We are thrilled to become the steward of such a beautiful piece of our town's history. The white cabinet in the background was given to the Society by Bill and Rachel Shakespeare. It was recently updated with a beautiful paint job by member Rick Bagley. The case has helped brighten the room and is a wonderful addition that holds our collection of antique glasses, cameras, silk goods and the like.



Cholera in Hampden - 1849

The following is taken from the Bangor Daily Whig and Courier. It is dated August 19, 1849, and was written by A.W. Mayhew. *Does it sound in some way familiar given events of 2020?*

This most destructive disease broke out in the west part of Hampden on the first day of the present month, in a farming community, upon a ridge of the high land, lying between the streams and ponds, along the banks and shores of which, in some places, are considerable meadows. While the land in other places is high and dry. The location is usually regarded as quite healthy. But what connection there may be between the low condition of these streams and ponds, and the fatal sickness that has prevailed, I leave for other better skilled in tracing effects to their causes to point out.

The disease first appeared in a family, in which ardent spirits were habitually used, and in which sickness had prevailed for several days, causing some members of the family to be quite sick. There is no good reason for supposing that it was brought into the place by anyone returning from sea, as has been reported. Although there was a man died that came home from sea about this time (and he lived nearest to this family).

The man in this family was suffering from cramps, pains and other maladies when he came home, so that the breaking out of the dreadful epidemic, and his return, is merely circumstantial. This man's wife had been unwell with the summer complaint about one week (though she was able to be about house all the time, and wait upon the other sick ones) when she was violently attacked with this fatal disorder. Another woman living about one mile distant, was seized a few hours after, in a similar manner, and both died within 18 hours from the time of attack. The latter woman had visited the former family while they were sick, and had prescribed for them but a hearty dinner of green vegetables, after experiencing some of the premonitory symptoms of the cholera with herself, which undoubtedly increased the malignity of the attack, and buried the victim at an unexpected moment to the grave.

The third case that proved mortal, was a neighboring woman that waited upon the first one while sick with the cholera, and who watched with the corpse the night following. The day after thus

exposed and deprived of her sleep, she ate freely of currants or raspberries, and the day after sickened and died. The fourth case was the physician, who was attacked while rendering professional services to the last named persons. He was addicted to the ardent spirits, and had been prevented from having his usual sleep for a few nights, and had worked hard at haying the day previous. The fifth was a little girl of the man who returned from sea. The sixth was a man who occasionally used spirits as a drink, and who worked one day for the second man whose wife had died, and whose son had been attacked the evening before, but who was that day convalescent. He ate dinner at the house but did not go into the room with the sick boy. But, he ate fresh fish that evening at tea, and died the next day.

There have been three cases that have proved mortal from Hermon and Carmel also. The first was a man who had been suffering for several days, and in this condition he attended the funeral of one of the persons who had died of cholera in Hampden. Both of the other persons attended upon this man, and died vey suddenly.

From these circumstances it would seem to be contagious under certain circumstances, and that it had all spread from the first two cases. But there are others who have been severely attacked with the same disease, who had not been exposed in any such way, while those who have been most exposed by their constant attendance upon the sick, and their assistance in burying the dead, have not been sick at all.

The whole matter is involved in great mystery...it is a "pestilence that walketh in darkness." There have, probably, been between 15 and 20 cases in all, 9 of which have proved mortal, the others have recovered, or are convalescent. The whole community was very much frightened. Fear and trembling seemed to take hold of the people. All business was suspended. Some shut themselves up and others fled, while a few maintained a calmness and manifested a devotedness to the necessities of the sick and the dead, that contrasted strongly with the timidity and negligence of others.

Health is again being restored, fears have subsided and the people are returning to their accustomed labors. #

Fall at the Kinsley House

While still closed to the public, the Kinsley House is ready for Fall thanks to our terrific tenant Renee. She has decorated the porch with corn stalks, pumpkins and mums. It is a warm and welcoming sight when driving by. Thank you, Renee!



In Search of Maine Registers

We would like to build on our collection of Maine Registers. With a donation last year of several Registers our collection includes copies dating back as far as 1820. If you or someone you know has Maine Registers that they are willing to donate to HHS, it would be much appreciated. Following is the list of Registers that we are missing:

From 1908-1909 through 1911-1912
From 1919-1920 through 1922-1923
From 1925-1926 through 1928-1929
From 1945-1946 through 1964-1965
From 1967-1968 through 1972-1973
From 1974-75 to Present

Any Ideas?

Do you have any areas of interest that we may be able to research for future newsletters, or do you have any stories of Hampden that you'd like to share, please let us know. Send your ideas/stories along to Ellyn Chase at ellynchase@gmail.com.

Hours of Operation (effective 2020)

The Kinsley House Museum and Archive are currently closed to the public due to COVID-19. Please feel free to leave us a voice message at 862-2027, email us at hampdenhistorical@gmail.com or contact us through our website at:

hampdenhistoricalsociety.org

or via Facebook if we may be of assistance at this time.

Change of Address

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.

HHS Contact Information

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