



Hampden Historical Society

Newsletter – Winter 2021

2020 Raffle Results

While we were not able to hold our annual Christmas Bazaar in November, we could not be more pleased with the results of our raffle. The amount received was phenomenal. While typically we bring in a little over \$2,000 from the sale of tickets, this year we raised just over \$4,100! THANK YOU! Without the support of our members and others this would not have been possible. We truly can't thank everyone enough. And we were blessed with participation from the business community and private individuals as well who provided goods and gift certificates for the raffle. During a year when everything was upside down, we were a little nervous about what the result would be, but, boy, were we surprised. We offer our heartfelt thanks to our supporters and congratulations to the winners. THANK YOU!

Raffle Donors:

Jeff Fister - Windsor Bench
Maureen Carter – Holiday Quilt
PDQ Door – Garage Door Opener
Hampden Floral
R & K Variety
The Keeping Room
Rawcliffe's Garage
Long Time Sun Art Gallery
Chase's Family Restaurant
Pat's Pizza
Coffee Break Cafe'
Tradewinds
Pizza Gourmet
Angelo's Pizza
Angler's Seafood Restaurant

Raffle Winners:

Joan Speyer – Windsor Bench
Carol Lamb – Holiday Quilt
Beth Doughty – Garage Door Opener
Faye Randall – Gift Certificate Basket
Mary Beth Richard – Gift Certificate Basket
Gail White – Gift Certificate Basket
Ann Bennett – Gift Certificate Basket
Judy Dann – Gift Certificate Basket

Update from the Board of Directors

Welcome to 2021 and Happy New Year! We survived 2020 and, while there is still a ways to go before we can all be together again, at least we are on the right path. Our hope is that you and yours have been safe and well and that as we move into 2021 you all remain so.

Board members have been staying in touch throughout this pandemic. We are hopeful that we will be able to return to some semblance of normalcy as the year unfolds. While the Museum and Archive currently remain closed to the public, Board members and volunteers have continued to come together – masked and socially distanced – to get some work done. Right now, it does not appear that we will open anytime soon but that is not stopping us from thinking about the year ahead and all that needs to be accomplished. Whether we will be able to hold our annual Yard Sale, Heritage Day, Open House, etc. remains to be seen but we will, as always, do our best to do the right thing during these difficult times and keep you informed.

Should you have any questions or concerns, or if you simply want to say hello, please feel free to drop us an email. You can also give us a call at 862-2027 to leave a message and we will get back to you as soon as possible. We miss seeing everyone and look forward to us all being back together again soon. Financially we are on sound footing because of the generosity of our members and other supporters. We thank you for your continued support and understanding as we move into 2021.

Oh Dear! My Grannie was a Witch?

Here's a question: How many of you can point to a witch in your family? It's always interesting to me to see from what type of ancestors a person may have sprung. My wife, Alice, is always finding folks in my pedigree that I never knew were there. I'm sure that my accumulation of ancestors is similar to most folks of my age who come from central Maine: lots of farmers, a couple of statesmen, a pound keeper, a school teacher, a poet, maybe a

minister, maybe even, a steam-boat captain! But the one ancestor I did not anticipate was hung as a witch in 1692, a victim of the Salem witch trials.



Anna Hawes shown with the plaque that marks the site where Susanna Martin's house once stood in Amesbury, Massachusetts in 1692. The spot is at the end of Martin Road, which intersects with Route 110 approximately one-half mile west of the intersection of Routes 110 and 150. Anna is the 11th Great-granddaughter of Susanna.

Susanna North married George Martin in Salisbury, Massachusetts in August 1646. At the time Susanna was 25 and George was 28. A little late in life compared to other couples at that time period, but they caught up, producing a total of eight children. One of these children was Esther, born in 1665; she married John Jameson and their daughter, Hannah, married Jonathan Blaisdell in 1699. Three generations later, Naomi Blaisdell married Samuel King Emerson and following five generations of Emersons I appeared on the scene (1935), a bundle from heaven. That makes Susanna (North) Martin my 9th great-grandmother. Not very close, for sure, but I like to think that I have a couple of strands of Susanna's DNA quietly multiplying and having been passed on to future generations. Just a side-bar: Samuel King Emerson came to Hampden in 1805 with nine sons and one daughter. The Hampden Academy Alumni List produced by Richard Newcomb and daughter, Suzanne, lists 45 "Emersons" who attended H. A. Those Emerson boys certainly helped populate the town.

In 1654 George and Susanna Martin moved their family to Amesbury, Massachusetts, being one of the first families to settle that town. In 1999 the Ethan Hawes family moved to Amesbury and attached to this story is a photo of Anna Hawes, 11th Great-granddaughter of Susanna. The plaque in the photo can be seen where Susanna's house once stood, about two miles from Anna's house.



Seen at First Cemetery in Salem, Massachusetts showing the small rock shelf set into the cemetery wall commemorating the life of Susanna North Martin.

The plaque reads:

*Here stood the house of Susanna Martin,
an honest, hard-working Christian woman.
Accused as a witch, tried and executed at
Salem, July 19, 1692.
A martyr of superstition*

Anna has ties to Hampden; her father, grandfather, great-grandmother and two uncles all attended the Academy. A few years after the arrival of Ethan Hawes in Amesbury, his brother, Steven, and family settled in that town. So the Hawes family is currently well represented in Susanna's Amesbury.

George and Susanna Martin were prominent people in Amesbury. They were members of the first church and George was part of the Meeting House's seating committee. George, for an unknown reason, did not appoint Susanna with a seat at the Meeting House. This upset Susanna and he eventually changed his mind. I wonder why? Descriptions of Susanna say that she was "short, slightly plump, active, and of remarkable personal neatness." She was also said to be very outspoken, contemptuous of authority and defiant in the face of slander which had followed her for years. The Rev. Cotton Mather was minister of the first church in Salem and once described Susanna as, "This woman was one of the most impudent, scurrilous, wicked creatures of this world; and she did now throughout her whole trial discover herself to be such a one. Yet when she was asked what she had to say for herself, her chief plea was that she had led a most virtuous and holy life."

Susanna and George were no strangers to conflict. George had been involved with three court cases and in 1673 was actually incarcerated in Hampton prison. Susanna was involved in one of the lawsuits with her husband and in another dispute was

concerned with a “love triangle” involving her son and two other people. She was twice accused of witchcraft and in April 1692 a warrant was taken out against her for some very strange crimes. She apparently caused people and cows to become “crazy” and to have fits. One account stated that she could make herself invisible and thereby escape blows that might be aimed at her. Another story by Goodwife Atkinson reported that Susanna traveled to her home in Newbury on foot. This travel was during the rainy season. The ground was muddy, but when Susanna arrived she had not a bit of mud upon her clothes and she was perfectly dry. Martin was also accused to have been the cause of Elizabeth Brown's mental disturbance.

By 1692 Susanna was a widow and now 70 years old. How did this little woman, living 20 miles from Salem village, get caught up in the witchcraft accusations? Her reputation seemed to make her a prime suspect plus she no longer had a husband to defend her honor. She was a victim of decades of gossip and no stranger to altercations with her neighbors.

Susanna's trial began on June 26, 1692. She was accused by four young girls, who called her by name, saying that her “specter” had attacked them. When asked by the court how they knew the specter was Martin's, the girls said, “Oh she said her name was Goody Martin and that she was from Amesbury.” When the “afflicted” girls began having fits; Susanna laughed out loud. The magistrate asked why she laughed, and she responded, “Well I may as well at such folly.” She refused to express any thoughts on what may have ailed the girls but bluntly stated that she didn't think they were bewitched. Her further testimony shows that she realized the seriousness of her situation and yet maintained her innocence.

The trial ended. Susanna Martin was convicted of witchcraft and was sentenced to death by hanging. She spent two and a half months in Salem jail prior to her death. On July 19, 1692 she was hanged at Gallows Hill along with Sarah Good, Rebecca Nurse, Sarah Wilde, and Elizabeth Howe. Her body was buried in a mass grave. The lives of 14 women (some died in prison), five men and two dogs were taken during that wicked summer and fall.

Poisoning by the ingestion of ergot has become a popular belief in recent years to account for the confusion, spasms and convulsions suffered by the young woman in this saga. Ergot is a fungus which grows on rye grain. When ingested it may

cause symptoms of poisoning including nausea, vomiting, muscle spasms, weakness and rapid heartbeat. Rye bread was a popular commodity in early New England. The year 1691 had been rainy and wet; ergot grows well under these conditions. Most of the accusations in the witch trial came from those people living in western Salem where swampy meadows could have allowed this fungus to fester. Research shows that women and children are more apt to be afflicted by the effects of ergotism than men. The accusations stopped abruptly in September of that year when the Salem area was in a drought. All of these situations lead to the “ergot theory,” which was well researched by Linnda Caporael and her results were published in 1976. Not everyone buys this theory and in a recent publication by Stephen Martin (2006), a descendant of Susanna's, no mention is made of ergot poisoning. So there you have it. What caused these young women to be afflicted in such a depraved manner?

Susanna left behind a large number of descendants; eight children can do that! Our son, Steven, visited Susanna's memorial in Salem cemetery a couple of years back. The actual graves are not marked but along a stone wall on the edge of the cemetery there are small stone shelves that carry the name and death date for most of the women. It's quite a touching walk. While Steve was there, he met another descendant of Susanna's, a lady from Australia, on her way to Ohio to visit relatives. You never know where you'll meet a kinsman.

One of Susanna's more distinguished descendants was the poet, John Greenleaf Whittier (1807-1892) who wrote these words about his notorious ancestor:

*Let Goody Martin rest in peace, I never
knew her harm a fly.
And witch or not – God knows – not I?
I know who swore her life away;
And as God lives, I'd not condemn
An Indian dog on word of them.*

Bob Hawes -
Steven Hawes and Kimberly Keegan supplied the photos.

Sources:1. <http://www.salemwitchmuseum.com/tour/amesbury.html>, “1692 Sites Tour, Salem Witch Museum, Susanna Martin's House, updated June, 2000.

2. <http://www.history.com/topics/colonial-america/salem-witch-trials>, Salem Witch Trials, updated October 23, 2020.
3. https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Susanna_h_Martin&oldid. Susannah Martin, updated August 24, 2020.
4. <https://salemwitchmuseum.com>, Susanna Martin House Marker.
5. Martin, Stephen Hawley, 2006. *A Witch in the Family*, The Oaklea Press, Richard, Virginia.
6. Norton, Mary Beth, 2002. *George Burroughs and the Girls From Casco: The Maine Roots of Salem Witchcraft*, Maine Historical Society Quarterly, vol. 27, no.4, pp 259-277.

Bob's Top Ten Books on the History of Maine –

Well, boys and girls, here are the titles of a few books on Maine history, in chronological order, that Alice and I have accumulated over the years and have enjoyed. I don't make any pretense that these are the defining books on Maine's past—just our favorites. My idea of Maine history begins about 1600. There are some excellent histories on the Maine Native Americans prior to the arrival of English settlers. Many of these volumes are available online as “used” or as new reprints. We have a few of these in our library at the Kinsley. The comments below are a combination of mine and the authors.

Title: Maine: Its History, Resources and Government - 1947 (4th ed.)

Author: Glenn Wendell Starkey, Publisher: Silver, Burdett and Co.

This book was often used in the 30s thru the 50s in junior high schools when studying Maine history. A little dry, but factual.

Title: Maine Becomes a State - 1970

Author: Ronald F. Banks, Publisher: New Hampshire Publishing Co./Maine Historical Society

Considered by some as the best compilation of Maine's past – lots of references. I give it a 10.

Title: Our Maine Heritage – 1497 to 1820 - 1978

Author: Rita Stadig, Publisher: Rita Stadig

A quick and easy read; the highlights of Maine's history.

Title: My Life As a Maine-iac - 1984

Author: Muriel Young, Publisher: Puckerbrush Press

A spirited and entertaining account by the wife of an Orono minister on her eight-year “visit” to Maine, combining serious research and autobiography.

Title: Coastal Maine: A Maritime History - 1992

Author: Roger F. Duncan, Publisher: W.W. Norton & Co.

A book about real people who lived on the coast of Maine; a “sprightly” history of maritime Maine through four centuries.

Title: Trending Into Maine - 1994

Author: Kenneth Roberts, Publisher: Doubleday, Doran & Co.

Maine stories: factual and pleasant reading. Everyone should read a book by Kenneth Roberts. Several colored illustrations by N. C. Wyeth.

Title: Maine: The Pine Tree State From Pre-history to the Present - 1995

Author: Richard W. Judd, Edwin A. Churchill, Joel W. Eastman, Publisher: Univ. of Maine Press

The cover states that this is “The first comprehensive history of Maine to be published in decades; several maps and illustrations.”

Title: The Lobster Coast: Rebels, Rusticators, and the Struggle for a Forgotten Frontier – 2004

Author: Colin Woodard, Publisher: Penguin Books

“A well-researched and well-written cultural and ecological history of stubborn perseverance.” USA Today

Title: Half-Hearted Enemies – Nova Scotia, England and the War of 1812 - 2005

Author: John Boileau, Publisher: Formac Publishing Company Ltd., Halifax

From a Canadian author – the role played by Nova Scotia in the war of 1812.

Title: The British Capture & Occupation of Downeast Maine, 1814-1815/1818-2014

Author: George F.W. Young, Publisher: Penobscot Books

Concentrates on naval and coastal battles, with a fine chapter on “the Battle of Hampden.”

If you have others that you have enjoyed, please send me the titles via email: haweshome@tds.net.

Now, here are three more, all by John Gould that should be required reading for any one born (or living) in Maine. The entry entitled, *Maine Lingo*, is a great source dictionary for understanding certain words and phrases used by the natives.

Title: **The House That Jacob Built - 1947**
Author: John Gould, Publisher: William Morrow & Co.

Everyone chuckles when reading John Gould's stories of Maine; this is one of his earliest books

Title: **Maine Lingo – Boiled Owls, Billdads and Wazzats - 1975**
Author: John Gould, Publisher: Down East Books

A sort of dictionary of Maine-isms for such terms as “calibogus,” “finest kind” and “some.”

Title: **It is Not Now – Tales of Maine - 1993**
Author: John Gould, Publisher: W. W. Norton & Company

Gould has been called a “deceptively casual essayist.” This is his 27th book, they are all enjoyable.

And finally, if you would like to read the Maine lingo in its most undiluted form, read *The Green Shay*. This book has been called by one Maine writer, “the purest form of the Maine accent.” You really have to guess at some of the exchanges. I have a lending copy. (George Wasson also wrote *Sailing on the Penobscot*, an excellent book on local ships and ship building).

Title: **The Green Shay - 1905**
Author: George Savary Wasson, Publisher: Houghton, Mifflin and Co.

Fanny Hardy Eckstorm believed that George Wasson was the best writer of the Maine dialect. The story of the green shay (dory) is good but the conversations are the real treat. (Buy a reprint online or borrow mine.)

Happy History! Get vaccinated or stay home and read a book – Bob Hawes

Annual Scholarship to HA Graduate

Each year the Hampden Historical Society provides a scholarship to a graduating Hampden Academy student for furthering of his or her education. In prior years we have been fortunate enough to provide a \$500 scholarship. The scholarship is funded through donations received at each of our monthly meetings and the generosity of those members in attendance. As you know, due to the COVID 19 pandemic restrictions we did not hold our meetings last year. Given that, we are hopeful that members might consider making a donation to the scholarship fund so that we can ensure that another deserving student will benefit. Should you wish to make a donation, please make checks payable to Hampden Historical Society and mail it to P.O. Box 456, Hampden, ME 04444. Thank you for your consideration.

In Memoriam

Hampden Historical Society is saddened to note the recent passing of member George Patterson. George was a dedicated member of the Society. We will miss his warm smile and soft voice. He will be greatly missed by all of us. Our condolences to his wife, Judy Luro, and his family.

We also acknowledge the passing of member Clyde McDonald. Our deepest condolences are extended to his family.

Winter at Kinsley



In the foreground, the trolley track is the only visible sign of a road!

Kinsley's - *Believe It or Not!*

I am sure many of you are familiar with the old original brick building at Hampden Academy. Many of you probably attended classes in that building. However, I need you to imagine that building many years ago, long before any additions were added on, before the basement was dug, before running water, before electricity or before central heat. Imagine there is just a wood stove in the corner of the main classroom on the first floor and one on the second floor.



Most of us who did have classes in that building know how small it is. Now imagine the year is 1872 and the incoming class has 227 students. The eleventh highest number of students ever recorded in a year at Hampden Academy. Below is a picture of the class of 1924-25 with only 127 students. Thus, almost twice this amount plus the other upper classmates had to fit into that tiny building. It happened, believe it or not!



Hampden Academy Attendees 1847 – 2023!

The Hampden Historical Society is very pleased to announce that it has updated and made many corrections to the List of Students Who Have Attended Hampden Academy from 1847-2023. Society Vice President Jim Husson has been working tirelessly to update the original listing of students prepared by Richard Newcomb and his family many years ago. It was a huge undertaking at that point in time and has been none the less so this time around.

The corrections to the list and the addition of over 6,000 new names now brings this valuable reference up to date. The list includes those students who attended Hampden Academy after the fire of 1847 which is believed to have destroyed all records of students prior to that time and lists students who attended the Academy, not just those who graduated. While the list is continuing to be messaged for spelling errors, etc., it will be available for anyone doing research on the Academy itself as well as for genealogical research. It will be added to the Society's computer and be a searchable document that can be updated easily in the years ahead. Since the Society is currently closed, should you wish to inquire about this information now available, please feel free to contact Jim directly at jimhusson65@gmail.com.

Thank you, Jim, for taking on this project. It is a treasure and we deeply appreciate your efforts.

SNOW-FLAKES



Out of the bosom of the Air,
Out of the cloud-folds of her garments shaken,
Over the woodlands brown and bare,
Over the harvest-fields forsaken,
Silent, and soft, and slow
Descends the snow.

Even as our cloudy fancies take
Suddenly shape in some divine expression,
Even as the troubled heart doth make
In the white countenance confession,
The troubled sky reveals
The grief it feels.

This is the poem of the air,
Slowly in silent syllables recorded;
This is the secret of despair,
Long in its cloudy bosom hoarded,
Now whispered and revealed
To wood and field.

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

Hampden Businesses Project

Member Jerry Stanhope, with the very able assistance of member Vivian Gresser, have spent innumerable hours developing a file on Hampden businesses. It is really quite remarkable how many businesses have come and gone in Hampden over the years. To date, 428 businesses have been identified dating from the present to as far back as 1872. The nature of the file is that it will never be complete given that new businesses are always opening. However, the information they have pulled together will be entered onto the Society's computer eventually and available via a searchable file for easy access and research.

We are blessed to have them be so enthusiastically committed to this project. They have done a remarkable job and we are deeply appreciative of the hours they have devoted to this project. Thank you, Jerry and Vivian.

Recipe

Another delicious treat from member Jerry Stanhope. Thanks, Jerry, for sharing.

SALMON CORN SCALLOP

1 large can salmon
½ cup chopped onion
¼ cup chopped green pepper
3 tablespoons butter (divided)
Milk
1 can creamed corn
1¼ cups crushed saltines (divided)
2 eggs, beaten
1 cup shredded cheddar cheese

Drain and flake salmon, reserving liquid. Saute onion and green pepper in 2 tablespoons butter and combine with salmon. Add milk to salmon liquid to measure 1 cup. Add to salmon mixture along with corn, 1 cup of crackers, eggs, cheese, and place in a casserole. Toss remaining cracker crumbs with 1 tablespoon melted butter and sprinkle on top. Bake for 45 minutes at 350 degrees.

Membership Fee Structure

This is the time of year when we begin to remind folks about our annual membership dues deadline. The yearly dues are due by May 1 of each year. The Society's fiscal year runs from June 1 through May 31. Receiving membership dues by the first of May allows the Board to establish a budget for the upcoming fiscal year. These fees are critically important to covering ongoing operations and maintenance expenses. The membership fee structure follows for your information and a membership form is enclosed with this newsletter for your use. You may also download a copy of the membership form from the Society's website at www.hampdenhistoricalsociety.org.

Membership Categories

<i>Individual</i>	\$25
<i>Family</i>	\$40
<i>Supporting</i>	\$50 or more
<i>Corporate</i>	\$200
<i>Patron</i>	\$500

Thank you in advance for helping us keep the doors of HHS open (except of course, and sadly, during times of pandemic). We will be back, though, stronger than ever!

Hampden Historical Society
PO Box 456
Hampden, ME 04444

Address service requested

Hours of Operation (effective 2021)

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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Website: www.hampdenhistoricalsociety.org

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