



# Hampden Historical Society

## Newsletter – Summer 2021

### Annual Appeal Update

We couldn't be more grateful to our members and supporters for their generosity in support of our first-ever Annual Appeal. To date we have received over \$12,000. We are deeply appreciative. You are all shining stars in our eyes.



### Annual Yard & Book Sale (Look for great photos by Patsy Husson throughout this newsletter!)

People visited us in droves on July 31. Our first yard sale since 2019 was as successful as ever. We appreciate all who donated to make this one of the best yet. We raised \$3,100! It is a lot of work and our volunteers were tired after it was over, but in the end, it was well worth it. Seems like we are saying thank you a lot in this newsletter! We wouldn't be where we are without all of you. Our 51<sup>st</sup> year as a Society is off to a good start and we have all our members and supporters to thank for that milestone achievement.



L-R: Steve Brown, Randy Whinery, Jim Husson, and Bob Hawes. Thanks for all your hard work with the yard sale.

### My Granny the Witch – Part II

It's always nice to have folks react to our articles in the newsletter. In the Winter 2021 issue I wrote about my ancestor who was hanged as a Salem witch in 1692. That prompted Kathy Walker (long-time Hampden resident) to recall one of her ancestors who suffered the same type of accusations and trial, and Kathy has very kindly offered to compose a newsletter article on that subject.

The Salem witch panic began early in 1692 when several young women began to writhe and roar and accuse their neighbors and even their family members of being witches. Some of these early accusers were young women from Maine and were in Salem Village as refugees from the Maine frontiers. An armed conflict between the English settlers and the French and Indians was under way for the control of Northeastern New England. Sometimes called "King Williams War" or "The Second Indian War" (The first being King Phillips War of the 1670s), it raged during the late 1680s and early 1690s.

Perhaps the young women had been shocked by the atrocities of the Indian attacks they had witnessed. The girls had been present at some of the attacks on the settlement of Falmouth and the Casco region. Perhaps the memories of those raids left permanent mental scars on the girls. Whatever the cause of their hallucinations, the results were most unfortunate. A total of 54 people confessed to witchcraft; 14 women and five men were hanged; three women, a man and several infants died in custody; and the death of one elderly man was caused by being crushed with heavy stones in an attempt to extract information from him. It was a dark period in American history, but Kathy's story is one that ends in a positive manner. - Bob Hawes

The winter 2021 issue of the HHS Newsletter contained an article by Bob Hawes about Susanna

Martin, his ninth great-grandmother, who was hanged in 1692 as a witch in Salem, Massachusetts. My own story about my tenth great-grandmother, Mary Bradbury has a somewhat happier ending.

Mary was arrested for witchcraft on June 28, 1692, at her home in Salisbury, Massachusetts. Her subsequent appearance on July 2, 1692 was before the Court of Oyer and Terminer (“to hear and determine”) in Salem, Massachusetts. Governor Sir William Phips, appointed to his position by King William of England in October 1691, named this court in May 1692. Phips had grown up on the coast of Maine [then part of Massachusetts] and was a respected merchant and sea captain in Boston.

The Court of Oyer and Terminer was to convene in the affected county where accusations of capital offenses were made. It replaced the Superior Court, which could sit only at certain intervals. Witchcraft was a capital offense. Before Phips named the Court of Oyer and Terminer in May, more than 150 in Salem and the surrounding area had been arrested and jailed on charges of witchcraft.

Charles W. Upham, author of the highly acclaimed *Salem Witchcraft*, wrote, “A witch was regarded as a person who had made an actual, deliberate, formal compact with Satan [who] agreed to exercise his supernatural powers in her favor, and communicate to her those powers...” Upham further noted, “Every thing that was strange or remarkable was attributed to supernatural interposition.” The new country of America was believed to be the “last stronghold” of Satan, whose power could be usurped only by destroying his followers.

Although the Bradburys lived in Salisbury, some of Mary’s accusers were members of the Carr family who had moved from Salisbury to Salem. Mary’s difficulties with the Carr family dated back more than 13 years. Ann Carr was the wife of Sergeant Thomas Putnam of Salem. She was 28 years old and pregnant with her eighth child at the time of the trials, and her daughter, referred to in the records as Ann Junior or Ann JR, was twelve. They were among the original group of mostly women in Salem Village [now Danvers] who accused many people of witchcraft, and who were present at most trials, providing written statements against the defendants. Their more damaging “testimony,” however, came in the form of convulsions and other bodily contortions whenever one of the accused entered the courtroom or so much as glanced in their direction.

Mary Walcott, Ann Putnam JR and Mercy Lewis first recorded complaints against Mary Bradbury on May 26, 1692. These young women testified to seeing Mary commit “certain detestable arts called witchcraft and sorceries wickedly, maliciously and feloniously” against Sarah Bibber of Salem. Bibber was “tortured, afflicted, consumed, pined, wasted and tormented” by Mary, according to a statement made to the court on July 2, 1692.

The trial of Mary Bradbury began on September 5, 1692. A summons for witnesses stated: “Greeting. We command you all excuses set apart to be and personally appear at the next Court of Oyer and Terminer to be held at Salem on Tuesday next at twelve o’clock or as soon after as possible there to testify the truth on several indictments to be exhibited against Mrs. Mary Bradbury and other prisoners to be tried for the horrible crime of witchcraft.”

Upham noted that the law in Massachusetts at the time of the trials required that all testimony be taken in the form of depositions that were to be preserved forever. This written testimony was used at the trials, and the witnesses in capital offense cases were also required to be present for further questioning. Because of this law, the depositions in the witchcraft trials have been preserved verbatim and are available in many different media, including the Internet.

At the time of her arrest and trial, Mary was at least 75 years old. A common mistrust of lawyers in the seventeenth century meant that defendants like Mary had to present their own defense and question witnesses. Her answer to the charge of witchcraft was to plead “not guilty.”

Richard Carr provided the following deposition against Mary. “About 13 years ago,” he stated, “presently after some difference that happened to be between my honored father, Mr. George Carr, and Mrs. Bradbury, the prisoner at the bar, upon a Sabbath at noon, as we were riding home, by the house of Captain Tho. Bradbury, I saw Mrs. Bradbury go into her gate, turn the corner of, and immediately there darted out of her gate a blue boar, and darted at my father’s horse’s legs, which made him stumble; but I saw it no more. And my father said, ‘Boys, what do you see?’ We both answered, ‘A blue boar.’”

Another member of the Carr family, James, testified against Mary by blaming her for his physical ailments. Carr stated that, “... I was taken after a strange manner as if every living creature did run

about every part of my body ready to tear me to pieces and so I continued for about three quarters of a year.” A Doctor Crosby told Carr that “he believed I was behagged [bewitched].” Carr agreed but was reluctant to name anyone until the doctor insisted, and then he mentioned Mary Bradbury. Crosby told Carr “he did believe that Mrs. Bradbury was a great deal worse than Goody Martin [Bob’s grandmother].” Carr concluded by stating, “I believe in my heart that Mrs. Bradbury the prisoner at the bar has often afflicted me by acts of witchcraft.” (“Goodwife” and “Goodman,” or “Goody,” were forms of address used for persons of a lower social status than those addressed as “Mrs.” or “Mr.”)

Not all members of the Carr family believed Mary Bradbury was a witch. William Carr and his wife Elizabeth signed a petition asking the court to dismiss the charges against her. One hundred and eleven individuals signed this petition “concerning the character and disposition of Mary Bradbury.” This deposition was submitted to the court on July 22, 1692.

On September 10, 1692, Mary Bradbury and the other five women tried during the week with her “were found guilty of witchcraft and sentenced to hang.” Mary’s supporters, according to an account by Marilynne K. Roach, “having exhausted the possibilities of petitions, somehow broke the old woman out of jail and secreted her away.” The other women who were tried and sentenced on the same day as Mary were hanged on September 22, 1692. My family has never determined how Mary escaped. She remained hidden in an unknown location until May 12, 1693, when she rejoined her family in Salisbury, dying there in 1700 at the age of 85.

Roach noted that on May 25, 1709, nine years after her death, Mary Bradbury’s family members joined with other families in “asking for the restoration of the suspects’ reputations and reimbursement of their estates.” The Reversal of Attainder, passed by the General Assembly in October 1711, “...nullified all judgments against Mary Bradbury of Salisbury” [and others].

Many pages of Upham’s two-volume work focused on correcting a common belief that those accused of witchcraft were from the lower classes of society. Upham could have been describing both Susanna and Mary when he wrote that the accused were “...persons of great moral firmness and rectitude, as was demonstrated by their bearing under persecutions and outrage, and when confronting the terrors of death. Their names do not deserve

reproach, and their memories ought to be held in honor.”

My family was fortunate in that our ancestor was not executed in the public spectacle of a hanging. I cannot help but feel sad, however, about this very shameful part of American history, with sympathy for the descendants of those convicted women and men who were executed.

Kathy Walker, Hampden



Our long-time member, Bob Hawes. He is a book salesperson and tool specialist.

## **New Route 1A Bridge over the Souadabscook Officially Named**

We are pleased to report that on July 19 the Hampden Town Council officially named the new bridge crossing the Souadabscook the *Wheeler Grist Mill Bridge*. Benjamin Wheeler and his family were the first settlers of Hampden in 1767. The cabin they built as their first home was on what is now Dudley Street very near the bridge. Benjamin also built the first grist mill, which was also located on the stream near the bridge, as well as a saw mill. Hampden Historical Society members showed up in force for the Council’s work session at which the naming was to be discussed. We were very pleased to have had the opportunity to speak in support of and advocate for the naming of the bridge as a remembrance of Benjamin Wheeler and his family and all that they gave to establish Hampden, formerly (very early on) known as Wheelersborough.

## Annual Christmas Bazaar

We are hopeful that we will be able to hold our Annual Christmas Bazaar in November, however, we will be watching for guidance from the Maine CDC as the virus continues. The Board of Directors will make a decision as appropriate to ensure the health and safety of our guests and volunteers. In the meantime, we hope that you, the crafters, knitters, crocheters and all others, will think of us. Our Bazaar wouldn't be possible if not for the creative generosity of our donors. Please keep us in mind and we will keep everyone posted on the status. Thank you.



Seated L-R: Past President Jerry Stanhope, Immediate Past President Mary Poulin, and current President Ellyn Chase. Standing: 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, Jim Husson

## Kinsley's - *Believe It or Not!*

### ROBBERY AT HAMPDEN ACADEMY?

It has been rumored that around the mid 1860s a large amount of money was missing from the Hampden Academy accounts. Gossip was that one or both of the Crosby brothers, John and Daniel, took that money to use for the startup of a company in Michigan. There were three Crosbys at that time on the Board of Trustees for Hampden Academy: Charles was elected to the Board first in 1849. John was elected to the Board in 1858 and he soon became Treasurer of the Board. Daniel was elected in 1864. From a report "History of Hampden Academy" written by Annette Matthews, class of 1922, for her Principles of Education class around 1922, she states:

*On the Board of Trustees at this time (editors note – 1853) is found the name of Hannibal Hamlin. The names of Hon. Charles Stetson, Hon. Daniel*

*Emery, Reuben K. Stetson, John Crosby, Charles Crosby. Dame Rumor tells an interesting story concerning the latter two men. There are several versions, but the following one is told most often. For many years John Crosby was treasurer of the Trustees. Being a "keen man of affairs" and hoding (sic) the confidence of the whole Board, most of the financial transactions were left entirely to his judgment and care. At this time, the land, granted to the Academy, was being sold, Mr. Crosby, together with Charles Crosby, had entire charge of this. Soon they reported that the land had been sold, but the price which they reported they had received and which they turned over immediately to the Board, was very small compared with what many thot (sic) they ought to have received. Fully trusting the integrity of the Crosbys however, no investigation was made. Within a short time, the same Crosbys left town to go out West. They never returned to live here. In the West they very soon amassed a large fortune. The foundation for this, Dame Rumor insists, came from the Academy transaction. Also, the records of the Academy which John Crosby had, disappeared at this time. The story goes that these may be in an old safe, the combination of which has been lost, that is said to be in one of the old storehouses at the lower corner...an interesting fact if true."*

The story is supported by Daniel and John both resigning suddenly from the Board on Aug 14th 1886 (source Old Trustee Records). Records indicate that at least John joins with a Cadwallader Washburn in 1877 in Michigan. The company they formed is named Washburn Crosby Company which later becomes General Mills!



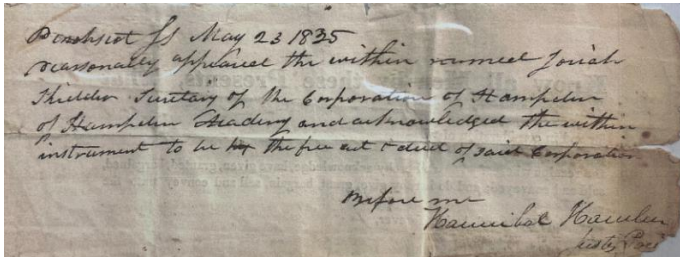
John Crosby

**John Crosby** (November 1, 1828 – December 29, 1887) was a businessman and early partner in the Washburn-Crosby Company (the forerunner of [General Mills](#)).

It is also known that Hampden Academy, when being incorporated, was given a large land grant by Massachusetts to finance the school. This grant was located in what would later become the town of Weston in Aroostook County. At least one copy of a deed dated 1836 has been found that shows 500 acres being sold for \$125 dollars (today slightly less than \$4,000) to an individual (name unreadable) from Washington County and witnessed by Hannibal Hamlin as Justice of the Peace.



Rod Stanhope, always there to lend a helping hand or repair something.



*Small part of the deed from 1835 selling land that Hampden Academy owned to raise funds for the school. Contains Hannibal Hamlin's signature as a Justice of the Peace.  
"Penobscot JS May 23 1835"*

*Personally appeared the within named Josiah Kidder Secretary of the Corporation of Hampden of Hampden Academy and acknowledged the within instrument to be the free act + deed of said Corporation. Before Me, Hannibal Hamlin"*

Did John steal funds from the Academy and/or not report the full funds from the sale of land? Why did the rumor suggest it was Charles and John who took the money, but it was John and Daniel who resign suddenly? Is there another deed from 1856 that can be found to support the claim? Where are the old financial records for the Academy? Is there an old safe hidden somewhere? Fascinating; that is, if you "Believe It or Not."

## **Hampden Neighborhood Food Cupboard Update**

Our thanks to all who donated to the Hampden Neighborhood Food Cupboard in the name of the Hampden Historical Society. Your generosity was described by the Cupboard's volunteers as "phenomenal." Thank you for your support of another very worthy organization within our community.

## **Water Lilies**

The pod is studded with jewels,  
White pearls with hearts of maize  
Placed in a dull green setting  
They shine in the morning haze.

The air is filled with their fragrance,  
Faint and elusive and sweet.  
They spread their delicate perfume  
When dawning and daylight meet.

But when the sun's in the heavens  
The milky jewels fade,  
Drawing their pearly whiteness  
Into the petals of jade.

If all that was lovely about us  
Withdrew when the sun was high,  
We should drink deep of the beauty  
Before it had passed us by.

*By Mildred Thayer  
Hampden  
1912-2005*





After the yard sale, we donated most of our unsold items to the Old Town/Orono Kiwanis. Here is a very tired crew.

### **Hampden Town Council Recognizes HHS with Spirit of America Foundation Tribute**

The Hampden Town Council recently honored Hampden Historical Society with the 2021 Hampden, Maine Spirit of America Foundation Tribute. It is with sincere gratitude and appreciation that we received this recognition. Following is the Municipal Resolution that was unanimously adopted by the Hampden Town Council.

*Municipal Resolution* *April 19, 2021*

*The 2021 Hampden, Maine Spirit of America Foundation Tribute honors the Hampden Historical Society for commendable community service.*

*A Resolution by the Hampden Town Councilors follows:*

*Whereas, the Hampden Historical Society preserves and promotes the culture and heritage of the Town of Hampden, including the Kinsley House, Hannibal Hamlin's Law Office, out buildings, historical artifacts, unique collections, and the Katherine Trickey Archives, and*

*Whereas, the Hampden Historical Society successfully completed the Our History Lives Here capital campaign in 2020, to preserve resources, increase access, and improve archival conservation, and*

*Whereas, the Hampden Historical Society leveraged the campaign funds with over \$100,000 of in-kind donations, and*

*Whereas, the Hampden Historical Society celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2020,*

*Therefore, Be it Resolved by the Hampden Town Councilors of Hampden, ME, in sincere gratitude and appreciation, that the Hampden Historical Society is hereby recognized for exemplary citizenship and outstanding achievements and honors brought upon this community, with the 2021 Hampden, ME, Spirit of America Foundation Tribute.*

*Signed:*

*Eric J. Jarvi, Deputy Mayor for Shelby Wright,  
Mayor*

*Paula A. Scott, Town Manager*

*Town Councilors: Mark Cormier; Christine Cubberley; Peter Erickson, Allen Esposito; Eric Jarvi; Ivan McPike*

### **From Our Kitchen to Yours**

We hope that you enjoy this delicious summer salad courtesy of Jerry Stanhope.

#### **Summertime Salad**

- 1 head of romaine lettuce torn
- 1 medium green pepper chopped
- 1 medium onion chopped
- 1 10oz. package of green peas
- 1½ cup mayonnaise
- 2 cups shredded cheese
- 4 strips of bacon cooked and crumbled
- 1 medium tomato cut into wedges
- 3 hard boiled eggs cut into wedges
- paprika
- minced parsley

In 3 quart bowl layer first 6 ingredients  
Cover and refrigerate at least 2 hours  
Before serving top with bacon, tomato, eggs  
Sprinkle with paprika and parsley

Serves 8 – 10 people

## Archive & Museum Hours of Operation through September 2021

The Board of Directors met recently and established the following hours of operation for at least August and September. We hope that by extending our hours to include days other than just Tuesday, we can provide an opportunity for more people to visit all that we have to offer. Clearly this involves more of a commitment by our volunteers. If you, or someone you know, is interested in volunteering at the Society, please give us a call.

Tuesdays 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.  
Thursdays and Saturdays (through September)  
Open by Appointment or by Chance

As of this writing, the Society is reinstating the wearing of masks. We appreciate everyone's patience and understanding.



Make a splash or two and enjoy the remaining days of summer!

## Monthly Meetings & Programs Set to Resume!

We are very happy to welcome everyone back to the Kinsley House. A complete list of meeting dates and scheduled programs for the 2021-22 follows. Meetings begin at 7:00 p.m. (*unless otherwise noted*) and are held on the fourth Monday evening of each month. Our fingers are crossed that we will not need to make adjustments to our schedule, but because COVID continues the Board of Directors will keep monitoring the situation. We do ask that attendees, whether vaccinated or unvaccinated, please wear a mask to ensure the safety and good health of all in attendance.

July 26, 2021

Handiwork Tools and Treasures

*Jerry Stanhope & Mary Poulin*

August 23, 2021

Riverside Park

*Jim Husson*

September 27, 2021

The Battle of Hampden, Part 1

*Jim Husson*

October 25, 2021

The Battle of Hampden, Part 2

*Jim Husson*

November 2021 through February 2022

No meetings

March 28, 2022

A Woman's World 1800s

*Jean London*

April 25, 2022

Hannibal Hamlin's Son

*Jeff & Barbara Fister*

May 23, 2022 – 6:00 p.m.

Annual Meeting & Potluck Supper



Meet Wendy Davis, one of our weekly volunteers on Tuesdays. She helped to sell books at the yard sale.

### **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.



Meet Patsy Husson, a former Board Member. She has a shutter finger and takes lots of photos for the Society.

### **HHS Contact Information**

Telephone: 207-862-2027

Email: [hampdenhistorical@gmail.com](mailto:hampdenhistorical@gmail.com)

Website: [www.hampdenhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.hampdenhistoricalsociety.org)

Facebook: Hampden Historical Society

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