



# Hampden Historical Society

## Newsletter – Fall 2019

### Christmas Bazaar 2019



Autumn is upon us. Cooler days, cooler nights. Hard to believe it is already here. We hope that you have all been busy crafting for our upcoming Christmas Bazaar, scheduled this year for Saturday, November 23 from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. As in the past, we will feature holiday crafts along with knitted, crocheted and hand-sewn items. We also will be selling some beautiful antiques, costume jewelry and baked goods. And we mustn't forget our always popular white elephant goods and annual raffle, holiday arrangements and wreaths.

Volunteers will be busy making our Kinsley House Museum ready for the holidays in the near future. The Christmas Bazaar is our largest fundraiser of the year and provides funds for ongoing maintenance and upkeep to ensure that our facilities and grounds will continue to provide enjoyment for many years to come. We are a true resource for what life looked like in years gone by and for genealogical research. Part of our core mission is education and we look forward to sharing all that we have available. Hampden has a proud history and we are the proud stewards of that history.

We will be sending out a communication soon to members seeking assistance with the selling of raffle tickets. We appreciate everyone's help with this. This year's raffle will include a homemade quilt along with several gift certificate packets. Always popular and fun, the raffle accounts for a significant portion of the funds raised in support of the Christmas Bazaar.

If you, or some crafty individuals that you know, are willing to donate goods for us to sell at the Bazaar, we deeply appreciate it. Together we can help make this year's bazaar one of the best ever. Should you

have items to donate, please feel free to drop them off any Tuesday between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. before the end of October, or give Ellyn Chase or Jerry Stanhope a call at 862-3832 and 862-3463, respectively.

As the time draws near, we will be contacting members to make baked goods for the food sale. Our cookie boxes are always a big hit. After all, who doesn't like good home-baked cookies as well as breads and pies! Food items can be dropped off at the Kinsley House Museum between 1:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. on Friday, November 22.

Again, a huge thank you in advance to everyone for your ongoing support of Hampden Historical Society. We look forward to seeing everyone on November 23 if not before. **Happy Holidays!**



## **“Our History Lives Here” Capital Campaign Update**

As most of you know the “Our History Lives Here” Capital Campaign is on the home stretch. Due to our ongoing generosity we have now raised \$495,415 toward our \$500,000 goal. That would leave us just \$4,585 left to raise. But the truth is that though the glamorous part of the campaign is over and we have built and celebrated the new wing, the updates to the museum and the grounds, there is more work to be done.

As might be expected when working with a building of this age, the construction part of the campaign ran some overages. Much of the overages were donated in-kind by our generous contractor and his subcontractors. For that we are very grateful! There were some contingency dollars built in our budget and we were able to save cash in other areas due to other forms of in-kind donations. To date we have received over \$100,000 in in-kind materials and services.

However, there remains in the budget \$17,258 in items, including digital equipment and a reserve for future maintenance of our new facilities, that require being funded with cash. Although, as I said, this is not the exciting and glamorous part of the Campaign, it is a necessary part to complete our stated objectives. If each of us can step up with another donation of whatever amount works for us individually between now and December 31, we can close out this campaign at year’s end and turn our focus to celebrating the Hampden Historical Society’s 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2020.

Thank you in advance for considering this request.  
Mary Poulin, Campaign Chair

### **The Second British Invasion – It Went Well**

Now there were two memorable British encounters that occurred in Hampden. One wasn’t very friendly, but the second was an incredibly positive experience.

Well, the first British encounter took place early on the morning of Sept. 3, 1814. The British, under the command of Colonel Henry James, had anchored ships at Bald Hill Cove. They marched up the Bangor Road and met the local militias just south

of the old Hampden Academy. Their aim was to capture the ship “Adams” anchored at the end of Elm Street East at Crosby’s Wharf. The meeting ended rather badly for our side. The locals were poorly armed, some with pitchforks and barn shovels. Muskets and powder were passed out to the volunteers but probably many had never shot a musket before. After spending a wet, soggy night at their stations along Academy ridge they were ill prepared for the sight of the well-appointed Brits in their bright red uniforms when they appeared through the mist over Reeds Brook. It was too much for the locals and as history has sadly recorded they broke ranks and retreated in a most disorderly fashion. The Adams was fired upon and burned at the wharf to prevent the British from capturing her. The battle lasted about 20 minutes.

Now fast-forward 180 years to August 1994 and this encounter with the British was quite different. We invited them! And the results were fantastic. The year 1994 was the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the town of Hampden. It was also the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of John Hampden. You may remember that the name of our town went through a few overhauls: early on, some gave it the name Wheeler’s Mills and some called it Sowadabscook Plantation, in 1774 it was “officially” called Wheelersborough and in 1794, at the time of incorporation, it was to be Olive. But our citizenry, for reasons not entirely known, finally chose “Hampden” after the distinguished English patriot, John Hampden.

So now in 2019, we are celebrating the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the friendly coming of a British delegation. In 1993/94, after much correspondence back and forth across the great pond, it was concluded that eight members of the John Hampden Society would come to Hampden, Maine as guests of various citizens and they would take part in our Children’s Day activities. It was a most enjoyable encounter. Three members of the delegation arrived with full uniforms depicting John Hampden’s regiment and they were a great hit as they marched in the parade brandishing their swords. During their time here the delegation (some in proper uniform) laid a Union Flag at the grave of the British soldiers in the Old Burying Ground.

One of the highlights of the week was the dinner at Reeds Brook School, which was attended by folks who had descended from one or more of the original settlers of Wheelersborough. The meal was a traditional New England one of ham and beans with

brown bread and biscuits; then coffee and gingerbread – a hot meal for a very warm night! Folks attended from as far away as California and the Patterson Family won the award for the greatest number of descendants present.

Katie Arsenault, Jeanne Whitten, Marty Arsenault and Richard Newcomb spoke about our town of Hampden and its history. Frank Hansford-Miller of the visiting delegation spoke about the life of John Hampden and Roy Bailey then outlined the history of The John Hampden Society and thanked the Hampden citizens on behalf of the visitors for the pleasant time here. Roy Bailey also presented several books relating to the life of John Hampden, which are now kept at Kinsley House. (We present Roy Bailey's speech below.)

The evening finished with the singing of the two well-known anthems, “God Save our Queen” and “America” - both, of course, to the same tune.

Bob Hawes



Dr. John Whitehead and Derek Lester, dressed as a member of John Hampden's Regiment of Foot, after placing a Union Flag on the grave of the British soldiers at The Old Burying Ground in 1994.

**Following is the speech given at Reeds Brook School by Roy Bailey (The John Hampden Society) on August 19, 1994 at the Dinner for Descendants of Early Settlers**

“Good evening ladies and gentlemen. In the course of a fairly long and fairly varied life, I cannot think of anything that has given me greater thrill than to stand here tonight. On behalf of my seven colleagues and the rest of the John Hampden Society I would like to thank the Hampden Historical Society and the Bicentennial Committee for their generosity in issuing this invitation.

When Dr. Frank Hansford Miller and I met in a cafe in the city of London exactly two years ago to discuss forming a John Hampden Society, we had no idea that our actions would lead to such an exciting prospect as to visit the United States and stand in the town named after the man that we so much admire.

I must tell you that my presence tonight is due to the actions of American ladies. One of course is Alice Hawes, who has laboured so long and hard to organize this visit. Her energy and enthusiasm has been prodigious and she is a most valued overseas member of our Society. The other was an American schoolgirl.

Many years ago when I was a small boy, I spent a long period of illness in bed listening to the radio. In those days the BBC had a daily programme called 'Children's Hour' and there was a regular series called 'Jennifer's Journeys', about a girl from this country (US) who was traveling around England learning about our history and traditions.

I well remember two of the programmes. One was about the town of Stoney Stratford, where the rivalry between two adjacent coaching inns as to whose customers could tell the tallest tale led to the expression 'a Cock and Bull story'. The other memorable programme was about a gentleman called John Hampden, who had opposed King Charles the First's arbitrary taxation; had narrowly escaped arrest by the King in the House of Commons; and had been killed at the head of his troops early on in the English Civil War. I was fascinated about this fellow countryman of mine (I should explain that in the 17<sup>th</sup> century people referred to their county as their country) and that fascination has continued to this day.

In 1992, when there was a lot of activity to mark the outbreak of the English Civil War, it occurred to me that the following year was also the 350<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Hampden's death and that this year was the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his birth. I felt that

we should do something and the best way to do it was to start a Society, dedicated to the great man, that would organize various events. So Frank and I had our historic meeting over a cup of tea and the upshot was that, with the help of John Hampden's descendant the Earl of Buckinghamshire and another of his biographers, Dr. John Adair, we formed the Society in October 1992. And we actually had our inaugural meeting in the Great Hall of John Hampden's ancestral home, Hampden House, with a guard of honor from Colonel John Hampden's Regiment of Foot in attendance.

Within a few months of its birth the new society was able to save the memorials to John Hampden in Great Hampden church by bringing together people interested in John Hampden who could use their influence to raise money. We honored the great man by a ceremony on the 350<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his death last year, when our Patron, the Earl of Buckinghamshire, laid a wreath at the memorial on the wall of the house where he died in 1643. There have been other, more minor activities and there are several planned for the future in England. At the moment the Society is campaigning to ensure that the battlefield of Chalgrove, where John Hampden was mortally wounded, is placed on a register of protected battle sites. A British Government body which has drawn up such a list has excluded Chalgrove on the grounds that it is not big enough and not important enough but we are hoping that we can persuade them to change their minds.

But I am sure all our members will agree with me when I say that this visit to Hampden, Maine is the high spot of the Society's existence and will be a hard act to follow.

A recent article about our visit in the *London Times* about our visit here stated that John Hampden is more honoured in the New World than in his native land. About 18 months ago Lord Buckinghamshire suggested that we contact a town in Canada called Hamden (without the P). In fact there are eight towns in the world called Hampden; one in Newfoundland with a P; one in New Zealand; and five in the United States.

It was very fortuitous that we should write to this particular Hampden at the time when you were preparing to celebrate your bicentenary. The fact that the town was incorporated with that name on the

200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of John Hampden's birth suggests that his character and achievements must have been remembered and appreciated here in New England.

So we are very happy that fate and the tireless work of Alice Hawes and her colleagues has brought us here at this time to this delightful town to help you mark your Bicentenary. We are very grateful for your hospitality and as a mark of our gratitude we have brought gifts. It gives me great pleasure to present to the Hampden Historical Society on behalf of the John Hampden Society a collection of biographies of John Hampden. The first is a two volume edition of Lord Nugent's biography published in 1832. This has the signature of Lady Antonia-Fraser inside the front cover. The second is Hugh Ross Williamson's, published in 1933. The third is the most recent one by our President Dr. John Adair, published in 1976. We hope that these will make a fitting addition to the Society's library.

It only remains for me to wish the town of Hampden, Maine, and all its inhabitants a happy and prosperous future for at least another 200 years, and to propose a toast. Bearing in mind who we all are, where we are, and why we are here. I will make that toast deliberately ambiguous

Ladies and gentlemen – I give you HAMPDEN!”



Roy Bailey and Alice Hawes having an English tea at the Hawes' home (1994).

## Loon Laugh

It is autumn and blue hills are purple  
From the maple-added red, in distance,  
And low haze fills the valleys full  
Of lakes that whisper time.  
Autumn is a month of dream  
Where far is near and near is far.  
One loon laughs bitterly and low  
Across the bay and in the air.  
We both prepare to rise and go  
Into secret wilderness  
Far away from here.  
The loon mocks the lake and takes  
Some glory from the days of sun,  
But I carry sun-swept days.  
Loon laughter holds the years,  
The glory and the fears.  
I die content  
With what the solitude has sent,  
And the Light no rhyme can scan.

Rev. Manfred A. Carter (*former Hampden resident*)  
from *Slow Proposal*, circa 1960

## Hampden Children's Day – 2019

Hampden Historical Society participated again this year in the Hampden Children's Day Parade. The float pictured, featuring Barrows General Merchandise c.1800, won Best Theme! Thank you everyone who helped make this another terrific day for HHS.



## Civil War Era Painting Donated to HHS

The Hampden Historical Society is proud to be the recipient of a 19<sup>th</sup> Century oil painting by artist Hugh Ditzler. The acquisition is the result of a generous donation to the Society by Col. Ronald E. Bishop, US Army Retired (a former Hampden resident). The 1886 oil on canvas, entitled "Life in Camp – Artillery Men Playing Cards," depicts Civil War soldiers at rest. The painting is on display in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Exhibit Room along with other military memorabilia dating back to the War of 1812 and the Battle of Hampden.

*Pictured below L to R:* Vivian Gresser, HHS Secretary/Treasurer, Jerry Stanhope, HHS Past President, Col. Ronald E. Bishop, Ellyn Chase, HHS President. The Ditzler painting is displayed in the background.



## Thank You Capital Campaign Donors

On September 14, the HHS Board of Directors and Capital Campaign Committee welcomed those individuals and businesses who so generously donated to the *Our History Lives Here* Capital Campaign. While the day was perhaps not as sunny and warm as we would have liked, those who attended didn't notice. There was enough warmth to go around because of their generosity. The Kinsley House Museum, the new Archive, the Carriage House and Law Office welcomed our visitors. All were treated to some wonderful fresh apple cider, home-baked goods and delicious Wild Cow Creamery ice cream. Our guests could not have been more pleased, and all of our volunteers who worked tirelessly to ready the property for the day were proud of all that we accomplished together. However, this reception for our donors would not have happened without their generosity. In what to some seemed like a long three years, it is truly quite remarkable that in just three years, the Campaign raised \$480,000 of its \$500,000 goal – AND THE CONSTRUCTION PORTION OF THE CAMPAIGN IS COMPLETE! While there is still a bit more to be raised to finish off the campaign, we did not want this opportunity to say thank you to pass us by.



Volunteers Phyllis Bartlett and Sandra Boynton welcomed guests Raymond Spaulding (white sweater) and his son-in-law for refreshments in the Dining Room.

Guests gathered for remarks by HHS President Ellyn Chase and Campaign Chair Mary Poulin.



Volunteer and member Phyllis Bartlett enjoyed a cup of Wild Cow Creamery Ice Cream. Owners Sarah Wilder and Ryan Cowan of Hampden donated their wagon, time and gourmet ice cream to help celebrate and thank our donors.



## Surprise Treasure Donated to HHS

At its August 2019 monthly meeting, members were pleasantly surprised by a donation from David and Laura McIntyre. Self-proclaimed flea market and antique hunters, they uncovered a find that they generously donated to the Hampden Historical Society. Included was a treasure trove of Hampden Academy memorabilia and personal items they recently acquired. We are deeply indebted to them for their generosity. The items will become part of HA history housed in our Archive. Thank you David and Laura!



*Wishing you all a joyous, blessed and peaceful Holiday Season and New Year!*

## From Our Kitchen to Yours

*Date Nut Bran Muffins (Recipe courtesy of Jerry Stanhope)*

2 cups All Bran  
1 cup crushed shredded wheat mix  
1 cup boiling water (400 degrees)  
Let mix stand for 5 minutes  
3 cups flour  
2½ tsp baking soda  
½ tsp salt  
2 cups sugar  
2 beaten eggs  
2 cups buttermilk OR 8 tblsp powdered buttermilk and 1 cup water  
½ cup oil  
1 cup chopped dates  
1 cup raisins  
1 cup chopped walnuts

Bake 20 minutes at 400 degrees.

*Yield is 24 delicious muffins!*

### **Open Hours**

It is hard to believe but the end of the season for HHS is near. The Archive and Museum will be closing for the season on Tuesday, October 29. However, we will continue to be open by appointment. Please call 207-862-2027 or email us at [hampdenhistorical@gmail.com](mailto:hampdenhistorical@gmail.com) to request an appointment. It has been a great and very successful year for HHS and we look forward to providing increased opportunities when we open in April 2020.

### **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](http://www.hampdenhistoricalsociety.org)



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