



Hampden Historical Society

Newsletter – Winter 2020

Christmas Bazaar a Huge Success

We are pleased to share with you our wonderful news. The Christmas Bazaar 2019 raised \$6,118.75, the largest and most successful fair in the history of Hampden Historical Society! It would not have been possible without the help and support of our wonderful members, supporters and volunteers. As you know, the funds raised are used to pay our everyday bills and to support ongoing maintenance and upkeep of our Museum and Archive. The doors opened at 8:00 a.m. with people waiting in line to get in, and, people were still shopping as we closed the doors at 2:00 p.m. We owe a debt of gratitude to everyone who joined us on November 23. Here's to 2020!

Our History Lives Here **Capital Campaign Update**

As most of you know it was our hope to raise our final \$9,000 by the end of December 2019. We came close...but we do have a little ways to go. We have now raised just over \$493,100 or over 98.5% of our total goal. We have another \$6,900 to raise in order to fully achieve our \$500,000 goal. This final push will allow us to have raised enough to help fund some digital equipment for the Archive and establish a future fund for maintenance of our property.

If you have not yet had an opportunity to give, or if you would like to make an additional contribution to ensure that we are able to complete the *Our History Lives Here* Capital Campaign, we are accepting pledges to include payments through December 31, 2020. We also accept gifts of stock and can accept credit card donations through Paypal on our website at:

www.hampdenhistoricalsociety.org.

The campaign has been a Herculean effort for such a small, completely volunteer, not-for-profit organization. We appreciate how hard all of our

volunteers have worked and how generous our community and members have been throughout. WE ARE SO CLOSE! Please help us with the final push to \$500,000. - Mary Poulin, Campaign Chair

Update from the Board of Directors

While Board members and volunteers took a well-deserved break in December, we are already working on matters at hand for 2020. Volunteers have been working to clean and organize the Museum in preparation for the 2020 season. The Archive is back in working order as well and some reorganization efforts are under way to ensure ease of finding information in our library.

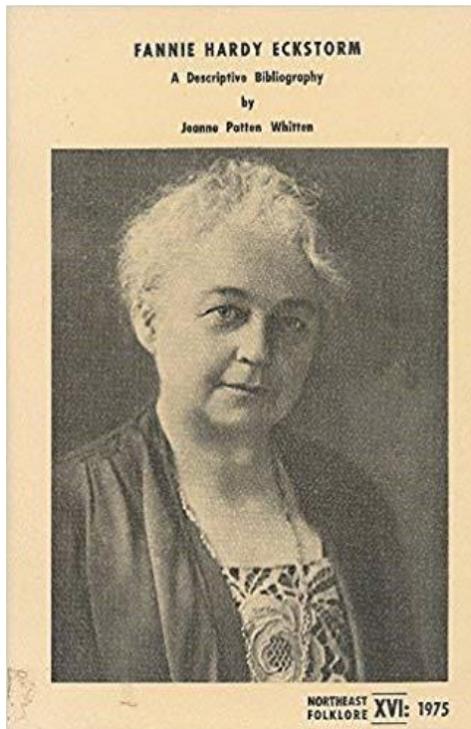
The Board will be meeting in February to pick up where we left off with regard to celebration events that are forthcoming. In June, not only will we hold our annual Yard, Book and Bake Sale, we will also host an open house to celebrate our 50th Birthday as an organization. Part of the celebration will include the unveiling of our Capital Campaign Donor Wall. In September we will host Heritage Day, which we have not been able to hold for a couple of years due to construction. We are very much looking forward to bringing the event back. Please watch future newsletters, the HHS website and Facebook page for details as they become available.

In the meantime, the Board will be overseeing the everyday workings of the Museum and Archive. There is always something to be done and we are blessed with a group of dedicated individuals on the Board and with volunteers who make themselves available to help out with special projects at the drop of a hat. Last year alone, volunteers gave in excess of 3,000 hours to HHS. There are not enough words to express the Board's gratitude. Simply put...THANK YOU! If you or someone you know would like to become a member and/or volunteer, please feel free to contact us at 207-862-2027 or hampdenhistorical@gmail.com.

Fannie Hardy Eckstorm and Her Hampden Connections

“There are two kinds of people in the world, those who strive for what they can get out of it and those who strive to leave something in it.” It was a very simple philosophy, but those of her friends who received the neatly embossed words on a holiday greeting in December 1941, five years before her death, knew where Fannie Hardy Eckstorm stood. A perennial toiler in the field of Maine history, hers had been a life purposefully lived. She was an authority on the Maine Indians, their language and customs, on natural history, on Maine ballads and on lumbering in Maine. Mrs. Eckstorm had written and published an amazing number of articles in such journals as *Sprague's Journal of Maine History* and *The Northern*, both issued in Maine, now defunct; the *Atlantic Monthly*, *Forest and Stream*, *The New England Quarterly* and *Old-Time New England*.”

So opens a biographical history of Fannie Hardy Eckstorm written by our own Hampden native, Mrs. Jeanne Patten Whitten.



Fannie Hardy Eckstorm as seen on the cover of Jeanne Patten Whitten's Bibliography.

Fannie Hardy (1865-1946) was born in Brewer, the daughter of Manly Hardy and Emmeline Freeman Wheeler Hardy. She was educated in the public

schools of Brewer, attended Abbot Academy in Massachusetts and in 1888 graduated from Smith College. In 1893 she married The Reverend Jacob Eckstorm of Chicago, by whom she had two children. The Rev. Eckstorm died in 1899 and Mrs. Eckstorm returned to Brewer, with her children, and a comfortable house on Wilson Street, her home and workshop for 47 years. Besides her published work, Mrs Eckstorm left a wealth of manuscript material, which was purchased by the Bangor Public Library after her death.

Although not a Hampden native, Mrs. Eckstorm had definite Hampden ties. Her father, Manly Hardy was related to the Hardys of Hardy Hill. The Hardy family owned land along Rt. 1A near the present Dyer Estate and the area from there up to the south end of the Old County Road became known as “Hardy Hill.” Manly Hardy was a fur buyer and naturalist and had made his own study of wildlife before Fannie had graduated from Smith College in 1888. Prior to her marriage she had tramped the woods with her father learning of wildlife and of the native people who were still scattered over northern Maine. She learned their language, the meaning of their nomenclature and studied their tribal customs.

Through her father she was the grand-niece of Jeremiah Hardy (1800-1888) whose life, entitled “*Jeremiah Pearson Hardy – A Maine Portrait Painter*,” Mrs. Eckstorm recorded and published in *Old-Time New England* xxx (October 1939). Jeremiah Hardy was the artist who painted the portrait of The Rev. Stephen Loper, first settled minister of the Congregational Church. The story of the recovery of that painting by the Hampden Congregationalists, after many years of absence and neglect was written up by Hampden's Wayne Riley for the *Down East Magazine* (December 1985). Hardy's original painting now hangs in the Edyth Dyer Library. It is coincidental that one of Hardy's works should end up in the same geographical area as his families' homestead. A copy of the painting hangs in the lower entrance to the Congregational Church. This is the same artist who, fictionally, painted the portrait of the enigmatic Jenny in Ben Ames Williams, “*The Strange Woman*” (Cambridge, 1941). As might be supposed, Mrs. Eckstorm was not pleased with the association of the real with the fictional. Jeremiah Hardy was at one time a Hampden resident but later (1838) built a house in Bangor.

On her mother's side, Mrs. Eckstorm was a descendant of Hampden's first settlers. Emmeline Freeman Wheeler was the 8th great-granddaughter of Benjamin and Elizabeth Wheeler. Mrs. Eckstorm was well aware of this connection and mentioned it in her writings. In 1910 she published in the *Bangor Daily Commercial* an article entitled "*Benjamin Wheeler, the First Settler on the Penobscot*," (April 3/April 23, 1910). Benjamin Wheeler built his first home, a cabin, at the upper end of Dudley Street. Both Benjamin and Elizabeth were eventually buried in that area. Later (1930s), Dudley Street was extended from its paved ending as a dirt road to allow residents to build and have access to camps along the banks of the Penobscot. When this road construction was under way workers disinterred human remains, presumably the Wheelers'. Fannie Eckstorm was "notified." She arrived with a wicker basket and transported the bones of her ancestors to the Crosby Cemetery in Bangor. (Mrs. Eckstorm was also of Crosby ancestry.)

The Crosby Cemetery in Bangor is a small nondescript plot on Crosby Street, which is off Lower Main Street. It is surrounded by private homes and industrial enterprises and the bones of the Wheelers lay unattended for many years. However, in 2013 Richard Newcomb (Hampden's Mr. History) and wife, Sharon, undertook to mark the grave site properly. On November 23, 2013 with assistance from Allison Muth Berube a small ceremony took place at the Crosby lot. Attending was the mayor of Hampden, the former mayor of Bangor, members from both the Hampden and Bangor Historical Societies and other interested friends. A new engraved headstone was dedicated. An account of this event can be read in the Winter 2014 edition of the H.H.S. Newsletter. Thus Mrs. Eckstorm was again associated with Hampden's history. (N.B. In the Old Burying ground, at the rear of Hampden's original Town Hall there is a grave marked "Benjamin Wheeler." Visitors to this cemetery often believe they have found the grave of our original settler, but this is Benjamin Wheeler II, son of the man who first arrived in 1767.

One final connection between Mrs. Eckstorm and the town of Hampden is through the work of Mrs. Jeanne Patten Whitten. Jeanne Patten's family, like Fannie Hardy's, were early Hampden settlers. Mrs. Whitten was born in Philadelphia, but following her father's death in 1936, she and her mother moved back to Hampden and settled in the ancestral home at Hampden Highlands. Mrs.

Whitten attended The Academy and the University of Maine and in 1964 began work on a Master's Degree in English. She chose as her subject the life and work of Fannie Hardy Eckstorm. Once her course work was completed, Mrs. Whitten needed to tend to the day-to-day business of earning a living as a teacher of English and her manuscript on Mrs. Eckstorm would not be published until 1976. That work was entitled *Fannie Hardy Eckstorm – A Descriptive Bibliography* and was heavily utilized for this article. While Mrs. Whitten had an intimate knowledge of Mrs. Eckstorm's work it appears that the two women never met, although Mrs. Whitten was acquainted with Miss Charlotte Hardy, sister of Mrs. Eckstorm. Miss Hardy contributed some of her knowledge of her sister's work to Mrs. Whitten's publication. Mrs. Whitten must have spent many hours researching Mrs. Eckstorm's work. She included a short description of 208 manuscripts and publications, as well as many, many personal letters to co-workers. A photograph of the cover of Mrs. Whitten's publication accompanies this article.

Jeanne Whitten was a charter member and long-time worker for the Hampden Historical Society. She passed away June 29, 2012, just three weeks before her 91st birthday. A copy of her publication can be seen and studied at the Kinsley House. A narrative of her early life in Hampden can be read in the H.H.S newsletter of Fall 2012.

A more recent and more extensive book has been published on the work and the life of Fannie Hardy entitled *Fannie Hardy Eckstorm and Her Quest for Local Knowledge* (2013). This rendition is more detailed in describing Eckstorm's work and her various activities. However, Whitten's work is still very useful as it has a complete bibliography in terms of Eckstorm's published work.

Here is one example, relating to Hampden, of the many place names researched by Fannie Eckstorm for her book, *Indian Place Names*. She provides a written evolution of the word "Souadabscook," which, to this day, is still often misspelled and mispronounced.

Hampden:

Sawad-apsk'-ek (officially, but less correctly, *Sowadabscook* or *Souadabscook*) "at the sloping ledge." Western tributary to the Penobscot, entering in Hampden.

1764. *Sowardebscot*- Chadwick, Large Crown Map (London)

1767. *Sowerdebscot*- Chadwick, Map of Heirs of General Waldo (Maine Historical Society, Portland).

1786. *Sowadabscook*- Massachusetts Archives (Town Plan #893).

1792. *Sowadapscook*- Massachusetts Archives (Maps and Plans # 1000).

1802. *Sawadapscook*- Osgood Carleton's Map: the best early form.

1832. *Sowesdabscook*-Williamson, History of Maine I, 62.

1890. *Sowadapskek*- O'Brien.

“The word comes from *sawade*, “sloping”; -*apskek*, “ledge,” with the locative ending; -*ticook*, “stream,” is understood. “The Sloping Ledge Stream.”

“The influents to a river named from some characteristic feature near the mouth by which they could be identified. This name is no longer applicable. When the first settler, Benjamin Wheeler, the writer's ancestor, built his home at the mouth of the stream, in 1768, near its entrance to the river the stream ran over a high sloping ledge. Upon this the settler built a mill. Later, wishing to have both a grist mill and a saw mill, he started to make a canal around the other side of the out-crop of rock; but a great freshet took the stream out of bounds and sent it pouring down his ditch and forever changed its course, so that for a century and a half the sloping ledge has been high and dry. Thus runs the family tradition. The name, however, has become fixed in use and is still retained.

“After much indecision, I have settled upon *Sowadapskek* as the best form. Some support from Rasles and Nudenans, with the English pronunciation of *a* as *o* (thus accounting for the earlier spellings) outweighs the later recording of father O'Brien.”

Even with Mrs. Eckstorm's explanation it is somewhat difficult to pin down the exact location of “the sloping ledge” as there are many sloping ledges along the mouth of the Souadabscook. At one time there was a small island in the mouth of the stream but the “great freshet” referred to above appears to have caused the water to cease flowing to the north of the island, leaving a sort of peninsula, once referred to as “Emerson's Point.” This story is also recounted in the town history book, *Historical Sketches – Hampden, Maine*. My house

(Haweshome) now sits on that peninsula. My hope is that global warming will not result in its return to an island.

Although throughout most of her life Eckstorm conducted research and wrote articles and books to supplement her family income, she did work in the salaried world. Eckstorm was hired as the first superintendent of schools in Brewer. It was a challenging and unhappy experience and she resigned after one year.

During her life Mrs. Eckstorm published six books and many articles on natural history, woods culture, and Indian language and lore. She was recognized for her work; in 1926 she received an Honorary Master of Arts from the University of Maine; in 1946 she was made an Honorary Member of the New Brunswick Museum, New Brunswick, Canada, the only woman to be so honored. Her biography appeared in *Who's Who in America* in 1946 and in *Notable American Women (1607-1950)* in 1971. In a letter written in 1947 to the Smith College Class of 1888, Miss Charlotte Hardy (Mrs. Eckstorm's sister) wrote that a few days before her death, Mrs. Eckstorm had said that she had finished nearly all the work that she had planned for herself. Over 200 pieces of written work are evidence of a lifetime devoted to research and writing.

- Bob Hawes

Sources:

HHS Archives – *Hardy Family Folder*
Indian Place Names of The Penobscot Valley and The Maine Coast, Fannie Hardy Eckstorm, 1941. The University Press. Orono, Maine

Fannie Hardy Eckstorm – A Descriptive Bibliography, Jeanne Patten Whitten, 1976. The University Press, Orono, Maine

Fannie Hardy Eckstorm and Her Quest for Local Knowledge, Pauleena M. MacDougall, 2013. Lexington Books, Lanham, Maryland



Ice Harvesting in Hampden

Uncle Joe and the other men in the neighborhood got together and decided when the ice was thick enough for harvest to begin. The operation was organized by Floyd Whitney, who took the lead in most neighborhood enterprises. The other farmers paid him two cents a cake for the ice and he furnished the equipment for cutting and the cutters.

Before the ice could be cut, it had to be plowed and scraped to get rid of the loose ice and the snow. A special ice saw was used for the cutting. The large cakes were about 22 inches square. Before cutting could actually start, the ice had to be scored to mark the cakes. At times during an extremely cold winter the ice froze to quite a depth and it took a strong man to get the blocks up and out of the water.

A 12-foot square platform was built near the cutting area and a sluice was run from the platform to the edge of the water. The sluice was built of hard wood slats with a ridge of 2 x 4s along each side. One man would "paddle" the ice along to the end of the sluiceway; then two men with picks hooked it up onto the platform. The picks, with six foot long handles, had two points; one curved upwards to push the ice and one curved back for pulling.

The men took the ice to their farms on long double runner sleds drawn by two rugged farm horses. Each farmer loaded his own sled and while they were doing this, the crew would refill the platform with ice cakes.

This operation was not free of danger. There was hardly a season but what one horse went into the frigid water. Nearly always the men got the horses out safely but once in a while a horse was drowned. One year a man lost his whole team; a good team of horses meant a lot to a farmer.

At the farm, the ice had to be unloaded, cake by cake and placed in the ice house. Most farms had a building just for storing ice. Unloading was done by means of a block (made of hard wood, probably ash) and tackle (a very large rope about one inch in diameter). The block was fastened to a rafter at the top of the building with the rope around the cake of ice. The cakes were brought up an inside wooden run where a man with a pick placed each one in the

right position. Each cake was then packed in sawdust, two inches on all sides. This would keep the blocks from melting until warm weather when they were needed the most. Along with the use in the kitchen, ice was needed to cool the milk in the barn to keep it from spoiling before it could be taken to the milk plant.

Uncle Joe sometimes sold milk to the folks in the cottages along the river. His price was a quarter for a quarter cake of ice.

N.B. This article was written by Mildred Thayer, a long-time Hampden resident, and first appeared in the HHS Newsletter for April 1988. At the Kinsley Museum (in the Carriage House), we have examples of some of the ice harvesting tools mentioned in the article. Bob Hawes



***Volunteers gave 3,000 plus
hours
to Hampden Historical
Society in 2019.***

**3,000 hours is equal to
75 people working a 40-
hour week!!**

**No wonder we took a break
in December!**

**We couldn't have done it
all without you.**

See you in 2020!

Archive Continues to Grow its Collection

The Archive recently received a wonderful donation of over 30 Maine State Registers covering a multitude of years dating back as far as 1820. Previous to this donation, the Archive library included only three Registers. The books list information across the state by county and under each county individual towns are listed. The town information lists businesses and the people involved. These registers are a tremendous resource for people doing genealogical research on family members. We encourage you to stop by and see all that is available. If you, or someone you know, have similar information or materials that you would like to consider donating, please contact Jean London at 862-2027.

Collections Update



Can you help us identify this item and its possible use? It is made of bark and is intricately carved. If you recognize the box or have suggestions, please contact us at hampdenhistorical@gmail.com or give Jerry Stanhope a call at 862-2027.



Winter Joy

Now's the time for patchwork making,
When the wind is swirling 'round.
And a white and fluffy blanket,
Covers all the frozen ground.

Warm and cozy in my castle,
Not a "Castle by the sea."
But a dear old fashioned farm house,
Many years it's sheltered me.

As I sort and plan the making,
Of crazy patchwork twelve inch square.
I close my eyes and pause a moment,
To lift my heart to God in prayer.

"Dear father I do thank thee
"For my many blessings here.
"Food and shelter, warmth and clothing,
"And loving friends throughout the year."

Then once more I start my sewing,
Sweet contentment comes my way.
A contented mind is a continual feast,
Oft I've heard my mother say.

So when winter comes a'howling,
Don't give up in deep despair.
Pass the time in patchwork making,
And a sincere, "Thank you prayer."

*From "Home Made Rhymes"
By former Hampden Resident
Clara (Carrie) Baker Dunton – 1954*

From Our Kitchen to Yours

The recipe this time around is a little different than the usual. It comes to us courtesy of Bob Hawes and is from “an old Emerson/Frost Family Cookbook.” Perhaps it will bring back some memories for a few of our readers.

Recipe for Homemade Sausage

Ten pounds of sweet pork (one-third fat and two-thirds lean)

Grind it fine and season with one-fourth pound of salt

One ounce of pepper and one-half ounce of sage
Mix thoroughly

Make cotton bags and soak in strong salt and water, then dry

Press meat into the bags

Keep in a cool place

When needed, turn back the bag and slice off the meat and fry

There you have it!!

Do You Have a Suggestion?

As HHS plans its programming for the year ahead, do you have a particular thought in mind about something that might make for an interesting story? Obviously it would be a topic that has significance to Hampden and our history. If you have a suggestion, or if you have an interest in learning more about a particular topic and would be willing to prepare a program on it, please let us know. As we move forward, we believe it is important to reach out to our membership and others to ensure that everyone feels engaged. Hampden is steeped in history and our goal is to share as much about that history as possible. As an organization, HHS has been around for 50 years this year. As a town, we have been around for 225 years. Help us celebrate our milestones! So, consider this our ‘suggestion box’ and contact us at

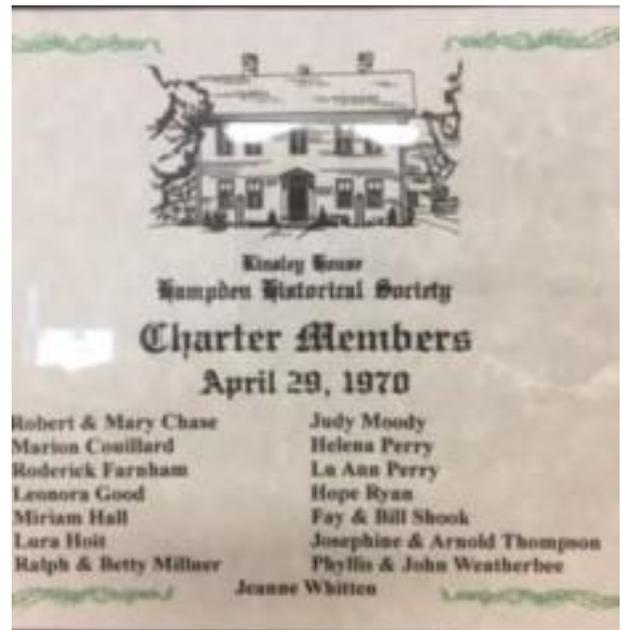
hampdenhistorical@gmail.com or 207-862-2027.

50 Years Ago

The following “tidbit” was reported in The Observer dated May 7, 1970:

The Hampden Historical Society held its monthly meeting at the Town Hall recently. The business session was conducted by the president, Mrs. Ralph Millner. Copies of the by-laws compiled by the Executive Board was passed to the members. The chairman of the program committee, Arthur Ellingwood, is to engage a speaker for the next meeting.

And so it goes ... fifty years later we are still going strong! Our thanks to those dedicated individuals who first chartered our Society. We owe them a debt of gratitude for their dedication and for believing in the importance of our work to Hampden and the region.



Upcoming Meetings and Programs

Monday, March 23, 2020 – 7:00 p.m.

Monthly HHS Meeting

Presentation: *From Collections –*

Handiwork: Tools and Treasures

Jerry Stanhope and Mary Poulin

Monday, April 27, 2020 – 7:00 p.m.

Monthly HHS Meeting

Presentation: *Maine at War – Vol. I*

Brian Swartz

Tuesday, May 26, 2020

Annual HHS Potluck Dinner – 6:00 p.m.

Annual HHS Meeting – 7:00 p.m.

Meetings are held the fourth Monday of each month (March through October) at 7:00 p.m. unless otherwise noted. Meetings are held at the Kinsley House Museum and Archive, located at 83 Main Road South in Hampden. Meetings are open to the

public and all are invited to attend. We hope you will join us. We would love to see you.

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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