



# Hampden Historical Society

## Newsletter – Summer 2024

### **Yard and Book Sale Results**

A few months ago, we were worried that we wouldn't have much to offer for the annual yard sale this year. The flooded basement destroyed over 750 books we had stored away and some other sale items. We put the word out that we needed help, and the response from the community was unbelievable. We were swamped with items and books. We are indebted to the community members who took the time and made the effort to donate items and books this year.

On the day of the sale, we were overwhelmed by patrons. Hampden Historical Society had its biggest annual yard sale ever. We sold twice as many books as last year, more plants this year and more items than last year. The grand total was over \$5,000—more than \$1000 over previous sales. This will surely help keep the lights on and the house heated this year.

Thank you to the volunteers who made this all happen: Karen Bagley, Rick Bagley, Pam Briggs, Steve Brown, Storie Brown, Ellyn Chase, Wendy Davis, Betty Filliettaz, Barb Fister, Jeff Fister, Vivian Gresser, Drake Groves, Bob Hawes, Jim Husson, Patsy Husson, Eric Jarvi, Jane Jarvi, Jean London, Nancy McAvoy, Will Nickerson, Ethan Scobey, Joan Speyer, Jerry Stanhope, Rod Stanhope, Randy Whinery and Martha Whitehouse.

**Jim Husson**

### **Heritage Day**

**Saturday, September 14**

**10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

Come one, come all, for the best family day and a chance to see and experience how things used to be done! Heritage Day will feature a scavenger hunt for the kids; a blacksmithing demonstration; candle dipping; a cedar shake demonstration; outdoor cooking; boat building; spinning demonstration; cider making; clothes washing on a scrub board; pelt display; tour of the law office; and a tour of the tools in the barn!

### **Programs and Events 2024**

**August 12 – 6:30 p.m. - Board meeting**

**August 26 – 6:30 p.m.**

#### **Hampden's Postal History**

Jim Husson

Did you know that Hampden had more post offices than any other town in Maine, except for Turner?

**September 9 – 6:30 p.m. - Board meeting**

**September 14 – 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.**

#### **Heritage Day**

**September 23 – 6:30 p.m.**

#### **Looking In/Looking Out: Access and Outreach Efforts at the HSWO**

Bryce Waldrop, Executive Director, [The Historical Society of Wells and Ogunquit](#)

**October 14 – 6:30 p.m. - Board meeting**

**October 28 – 6:30 p.m.**

#### **Preserving History, One Stone at a Time**

Douglas and Sigrid Coffin, [Coffin and Daughter Lettercutters](#)

Douglas is a Maine author, and will read from his book, "One Maine Christmas Eve," available for purchase and signing.

**November 11 – 6:30 p.m. - Board meeting**

**November 23 – 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.**

#### **Christmas Bazaar**

## Update from the Board of Directors

Yay! We have finally reopened!

The mold remediation and repairs to the damage caused by the water backup in the basement of the new archive addition have finished. We have moved everything we saved from the water and mold back into the basement. It is amazing how important a small sump pump is and the impact it causes when power is lost for over three days.

It was also amazing how the Historical Society volunteers came together to save as many items as possible (yes, we lost some valuable items) from the flooded basement. For many months, one could hardly walk through the museum, which was full of books and documents being dried and saved from mold and mildew. Then, we also had to prepare for our annual yard sale. It would be an understatement to say our 30+ volunteers are awesome.

Despite Mary Poulin's heroic efforts in dealing with FEMA, we were denied any financial help. Insurance did cover some of our losses and repairs, but not all, and we realize we need a generator backup for the building to prevent a similar event from happening again. You will soon see our annual fundraiser drive with a slogan like "Generate funds for the Generator." We hope you will consider a donation.

Along with all that activity, other "stuff" continued.

- The trolley restoration is well under way.
- Plaques to explain the trolley system in Hampden and the Trolley Hut are being readied.
- We acquired a new hitching post.
- The items and records given to us from the Congregational Church are now cataloged and on display or available.
- The bulkhead was replaced.
- Our monthly meetings and programs have resumed.

Plus, the usual day-to-day operations continue, such as filing records and photographs, retrieving items and documents for those who have made requests, organizing what we have, dealing with items added to our collection, cleaning, etc.

Unfortunately, we lost the ability to send our newsletter at the bulk rate, which forced us to rethink our newsletter. Mailing a newsletter three or four times yearly at first-class postage rates is too expensive for our budget. Thus, we will lean more on an electronic newsletter and social media. Check out our website at <https://www.hampdenhistoricalsociety.org/>. It is undergoing extensive revision and upgrades. Check out our Facebook Page, "Hampden Historical Society," for the

latest updates. We will continue to put out newsletters, but they will be emailed to all Historical Society Members who have email, and to those who do not have an email account, we will still snail mail a copy.

Looking forward:

- The Tin Ceiling will be stripped and painted starting July 1.
- We have a new tenant for our apartment beginning July 1.
- The porch needs repair.
- We hope to put up an open-faced shed near the Blacksmith Shop for the larger old farm equipment we hope to obtain.
- The ever-popular Heritage Day Event will be here soon. Save Saturday, September 14.

We have been very busy at the Historical Society; our volunteers are amazing, and our future is bright. We are open; visit us on Tuesday or Thursday or by appointment. This is your museum.

Jim Husson, President

## Christmas Bazaar 2024

Following a very successful Yard and Book Sale in early June, this is just a reminder that our next big fundraiser is the November Christmas Bazaar. As in years past, there will be holiday crafts, soft goods of all kinds, jewelry and a few antiques as well as our handcrafted holiday arrangements. And what would the Bazaar be without our delicious food sale!

As we work to build our inventory of items for sale, we hope that in the months ahead you will remember us as you consider your creative endeavors. Our goal is to always welcome everyone into "our home" and ensure that everyone leaves with a holiday smile to help brighten the season. So, keep those hands busy! We need you if we are to have another successful event. Thank you in advance for all you do to support Hampden Historical Society. Together we are a mighty force. Have a great summer and fall!

- Ellyn Chase

§

### In Memoriam

We want to acknowledge the loss of our member, Glendon Dean. Our deepest condolences are extended to Glendon's family

## Maine Farmland Trust

Our July program, “Protecting Farmland and History in Maine,” was presented by April Costa, Farmland Protection Project Manager, and Emily Gherman-Lad, Assistant Director of Engagement, from Maine Farmland Trust, [www.maineFarmlandtrust.org](http://www.maineFarmlandtrust.org), and was very well received. April and Emily discussed the value and process of preserving farmland and answered numerous questions about easements, taxes, how many acres saved and more.

### Two wonderful stories from *Echoes From the Past* Submitted by Sandra Boynton

#### Burpee Calkins (age 84) – April 20, 2000

When I was growing up in Hampden back in the Twenties, life was quite different. We walked to school or our parents took us. The road was not paved so we couldn't ride our bikes until spring.

We helped our dad cut ice in the river in the winter for home use and to sell. We also cut wood to heat our 8-room house, which wasn't too warm some days. Vegetables kept well in the cool cellar.

I did smelt fishing in the spring and shipped them to the Fulton Fish Market in New York City. I trapped for fur-bearing animals in season and was able to buy my own car at age 15.

There was plenty to do on the farm, like haying in the summer, slaughtering a hog and a steer for winter, milking and feeding animals and selling milk, cream and butter. We also had homework for school.

Every Thanksgiving I skated up the river to Veazie to Grandmother's house.

#### Ella Edgecomb Kelley – April 2000

##### Memories of Early Days

One of my earliest memories is of standing with my mother in our front yard, looking down the road to the cove into which Reed's Brook empties. I was about 2½ years old, and Mama had caught me running down toward the river and was scolding me. I do not remember her words, but I knew I was not to do that again – EVER!

We lived on lower Summer Street – some folks called it Shore Street – and to me the river was the place where all the action was. It was a noisy place then with all the boats passing, whistling and tooting, and lots of squawking gulls following along.

As I grew older, the ban was lifted and I was allowed to race down to the shore with my older brother to see the boats, hoping someone would see us waving and would salute with their whistle. There were many kinds of boats, tall-masted schooners, freighters, tugboats, barges, oil tankers, yachts and Eastern Steamship Lines' so-called Boston boats – the “Belfast” and the “Camden.” The master of the Belfast was Captain Alfred E. Rawley. The Boston boats always saluted near the Old Steamboat Wharf and those great blasts woke my baby sister from her afternoon nap.

Actually the prettiest view of the river was from the hill behind our house and one could see the NARROWS – that was before Holtra-Chem and PERC in Orrington marred the view.

Many of the men who lived near the water had row boats and were often out fishing, tending their nets or just enjoying being out on the water. During the spring freshet, they could pick up logs or pulpwood that had escaped from the drives farther up the river.

My father always built his own boats, making sure they were large enough, well balanced and safe for his family. He would take us kids all over the river, pointing out danger spots, such as protruding ledges and the eddy at the end of Ram Island. He told us the names of all the old rotting wharves and special places, like “Pull and Be Damned” point, and always had a story about things that happened on the river when he was a boy. When we were big enough and strong enough to hold the oars, we were taught to row and eventually when we had proved we could handle the boat safely, we were allowed to go out on the river alone. By this time, there was a lot less traffic on the river, and the chance of being in the way of large ships was nil.

My sister and I sometimes rowed across the river, landed on the beach there, pulled the boat up a bit, tied the painter to something solid and run up to the store in Orrington for ice cream cones or candy. I loved being out on the water and had dreamed of going to Boston on the Belfast or the Camden, but I had to settle for the short trip I had taken down the river to Bucksport when I was about twelve, for in 1935 the Boston boats steamed down the river for the last time.

## From Our Kitchen to Yours

### Chocolate Cheese Layered Bars

*Courtesy of Jerry Stanhope*

½ cup butter, softened  
1 cup sugar  
2 eggs  
1 teaspoon vanilla  
1 square unsweetened chocolate, melted  
1 cup flour  
1 teaspoon baking powder  
Pinch of salt  
½ cup pecans, chopped

Put in 13" x 9" greased pan

#### Cheese layer

6 oz cream cheese, softened  
¼ cup butter  
½ cup sugar  
1 egg  
2 Tbls flour  
½ tsp vanilla  
¼ cup chopped pecans  
1 cup semisweet chocolate chips  
3 cups miniature marshmallows

In a large bowl, cream butter and sugars until light and fluffy. Beat in eggs and extracts. Combine the flour, baking

soda and salt; gradually add to creamed mixture and mix well. Stir in the coconut, chocolate chips and almonds.

Drop by rounded teaspoonfuls 2 in. apart onto ungreased baking sheets. Bake at 375 degrees for 9 – 11 minutes or until lightly browned. Cool for 1 minute before removing from pans to wire racks. Yield is about 4 ½ dozen.

## Hours of Operation

Tuesday and Thursdays – 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.,  
March through October

Membership meetings are held on the fourth Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m.

Let us know if your contact information has changed.

### 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

**Hampden Historical Society**  
**PO Box 456**  
**Hampden, ME 04444**