



Hampden Historical Society

Newsletter – Winter 2022

Christmas Raffle Results

Thank you to all who helped make the 2021 Christmas Raffle a big success. While we were disappointed not to be able to hold our Bazaar safely, everyone stepped up and sold just over \$3,000 worth of tickets. We couldn't have been more pleased with the result.

And thanks to the following businesses and individuals that donated gifts:

Maureen Carter
(for yet another of her fabulous quilts)
PDQ Door
Hampden Floral
The Keeping Room
Angelo's Pizzeria
Chase's Family Restaurant
Coffee Break Cafe
River Town Auto Sales
Hannaford (Hampden)
Pat's Pizza
R & K Variety
Rawcliffe's Garage
Dyer Library Store

And congratulations to the winners:

Nancy McAvoy
Ruth Frost
Dale Morgan
Linda Costello
Mary Beth Richards
Brandon Stanhope

Update From Your Board of Directors

The Board of Directors has taken a month off to catch our breath and to enjoy the holidays with loved ones. But, the responsibilities that we shoulder to ensure that our, and your, museum and archive are well cared for are never really very far from our minds. And now, we go back to work!

The Board will meet in February and at that time will yet again discuss how best to move forward with opening the museum and archive given continuing COVID concerns. Even though we are closed to the public, we have continued to do our best to respond to inquiries that have come in to us via email and telephone. It is our hope that we will be able to resume our monthly meetings/programs in the spring. Soon our thoughts will turn to our Annual Yard and Book Sale, and hopefully planning for our Heritage Day festivities. We will keep you posted as things change going forward. You can follow us on Facebook and on our website.

The data project continues to be a major focus. New internet service lines have been installed, providing for a more significant boost in our capacity. This is one of the very first steps we have taken as we look to the future and enhance our abilities to provide information online.

Thanks to the generosity of our members and others resulting from last year's first-ever Annual Appeal, we have been able to address a couple of significant safety concerns. The Carriage House stairs leading to the second floor and the carrying beam supporting the second floor have been replaced and shored up. The other significant safety concern that has been addressed is the replacement of the stairs leading to the Museum basement. Each of these repairs have been cause for concern for some time and we are thrilled to have had the financial ability to do this work.

Finally, this coming summer we are planning on replacing the Carriage House roof. Again, our ability to do this is due in large part to our members' generosity. The other major project in the works will be painting the Carriage House once the roofing project is complete.

Clearly, our job would be so much more difficult if we had to worry about how we were going to pay for all that needs to be done. Our goal is to continue to use your financial support wisely in order to ensure that our Museum, Archive and grounds will be around for many years to come. The words Thank You are two very little words, but they mean a great deal when extended from the heart. So, from our hearts to you ... THANK YOU!



Hampden Businesses Throughout the Years

A special project created by Jerry Stanhope involved identifying businesses that have operated in Hampden. With the able assistance of Vivian Gresser, they have over the past year worked tirelessly to develop a file identifying 778 businesses with over 700 actual files dating back to 1872. Some of the folders contain more than one business name, such as barbers and beauty salons. They have cut, copied and researched information in the folders. Some folders contain only an ad found in the Hampden Academy Sedan or Paper Talk Magazine. Some businesses have good descriptions submitted by a business owner or operator. Some folders contain newspaper articles.

They even went out and took pictures of existing 2021 businesses in town! Fortunately, no one complained about seeing two ladies going around taking pictures! They plan to keep their eyes open for new businesses that come into Hampden. If you know of a new business, or have information regarding an old business, we invite you to reach out.

Our thanks to Jerry and Vivian for this tremendous undertaking. It will be deeply appreciated for years to come.

Ye Old Hampden Cemetery

This piece was provided by Bob Hawes. He found it when going through a file of Alice Hawes. Our continued thanks for Bob's efforts to ensure we have stories of interest from Hampden and beyond.

The winds are always softly sighing through the lofty spruce and fir trees, which for many years have been growing within an enclosure sacred to the memory of the dead. A place of uncommon historical meaning and of intense value as a local landmark intended to perpetuate the memory of those long since passed to the Great Beyond who, when alive, did such things as merited them honorable mention in the pages of history. Ancient stones marking their last resting places rear themselves in solemn dignity, striving to show their heads above the brambles and bushes that are so abundant. Some of these markers, as though weary of their mission amid the fast growing bushes, have fallen to the ground and are lying nearly covered with the accumulation of time and the spills that fall noiselessly from the sheltering trees. Doubtless some are buried, perhaps forever.

Such is the setting in the ancient burying ground of Hampden, Maine, located to the rear of the present "Town Hall." Yet herein lie the remains of Lt. Col. Gabriel Johonnot of the 21st Mass. Militia, that sterling patriot, who, for a time, was an aide of the staff of General Washington in the war of the Revolution; nearby is the resting place of Sarah, his "consort." Also here lies Capt. Andrew Grant of the Revolutionary Militia and "Doct." Jonathan Haskins who was a surgeon of that war. Then there is the grave of Daniel Neal, Esq., one of the very earliest of the members of the bar of the Province of Maine.

This hallowed spot contains the remains of those who were makers of history, both local and national. Such names as Benjamin Wheeler, whose roof provided a shelter where the early citizens gathered to debate the affairs of the Township of Wheelersborough before Hampden was a town. Under this roof in 1794 the town of Hampden succeeded the Township of Wheelersborough and came into being as a body corporate and where the first town meetings of the new town were held.

Under the hospitable roof of this man's home were held the first meetings of one of the oldest fraternal bodies of the state, Rising Virtue Lodge No.10, now of Bangor. With him are buried his wife, Joan, and two sons, Benjamin Jr. and Robert.

Recorded interments were made here as early as 1793 and slabs marking many graves still stand; some of the stones are fallen but are not completely hidden; how many may be fallen and hidden perhaps forever?

Ross St. Germain
Bangor, Nov. 7, 1922

From: Sprague's Journal of Maine History, vol 11, No. 4, Oct Nov Dec, 1923

N.B. This interesting article has a couple of errors when speaking of the Wheeler family. The first Benj. Wheeler was buried at the upper end of Dudley Street near his early home. Those graves and markers are long gone. The two generations of Wheelers buried behind the old Town Hall are Benjamin II (who built a house on the Coldbrook Road - that house no longer stands) and his son Benjamin III (also known as Benjamin Jr.).

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Kinsley's - *Believe It or Not!* **WANTED - TYTHINGMEN**

On April 7, 1794 at 9 a.m. at Benjamin Wheeler's home, near the mouth of the Souadabscook Stream, at the very first town meeting for Hampden, Nathaniel Ward and Thomas Snow were elected as Tythingmen. Between the two of them they had the Power and Duty to "inform of all disorders or misdemeanors which they shall discover or know to be committed in them to a justice of the peace or the General Sessions of the county."

They were to inspect all licensed houses for all disorders or misdemeanors and the selling of spirituous liquors without license. They shall also "inform of all idle and disorderly persons, profane swearers, and the like offenders, to the end they may be punished."

They may enter into any of the rooms or other parts of an inn or public house of entertainment, on the Lord's Day, and the evening preceding and succeeding. If any landlord or licensed person refuse such entrance, he forfeits 40 schillings.

They may examine all persons whom they shall have good cause, from the circumstance thereof, to suspect of unnecessary traveling on said day and to demand of all such persons the cause thereof, together with their names and place of abode.

They are held and obliged by law to enquire into, and inform of all offences:

- a. That no person shall keep open his shop, warehouse, or workhouse, nor shall upon the land or water do any manner of labor, business, or work. [works of necessity and charity only excepted] nor be present at any concert of music, dancing, or any public diversion, shew, or entertainment, nor use any sport, game, play or recreation.
- b. That no traveler, drover, waggoner, teamster, or any of their servants, shall travel on the Lord's Day.
- c. That no vendor, retailer of strong liquors, or innholder or other person keeping a house of public entertainment shall entertain, or suffer any of the inhabitants of the town...not being travelers[sic], strangers, or lodgers in such houses, to abide and remain in their houses, yards, orchards, or fields, drinking or spending their time either idly or at play, or doing any secular business on the Lord's Day.
- d. That any person being of able body, and not otherwise necessarily prevented, who shall, for the space of 3 months together, absent him or herself from the public worship of God on the Lord's Day, providing there be any place of worship at which he or she can conscientiously and conveniently attend, shall pay a fine of 10s.
- e. That if any person shall on the Lords Day, within the walls of any house of public worship, behave rudely or indecently, he or she shall pay a fine not more than 40 schillings, nor less than 5 schillings.
- f. That if any person either on the Lord's Day, or at any other time, shall willfully interrupt or disturb, any assembly of people met for the public worship of God, within their place of their assembly or out of it, he or they shall severally pay a fine not exceeding 10 pounds, no less than 20 schillings.

That was the life during the early 1800s. If you need a job these positions are currently open in the town of Hampden, THAT IS... if you believe it or not.

IN MEMORIAM

It is with heavy hearts that we remember the following Society members and extend our sincere condolences to their loved ones.

Karen Riley
Pauline Baron

From the Collections Corner



Stove donated by Steve and Storie Brown has a new home in the Museum Parlor



Detail of information on the "new" stove.



Originally in the Museum Parlor, this stove has been moved to the hearth in the Museum Great Room.

While items for collections have continued to roll in even though we have been officially closed, Jerry Stanhope and Mary Poulin have been doing a grand job taking an inventory of our collections to ensure that everything is catalogued. Talk about a major, and very important, undertaking. We are thankful for both Jerry and Mary for their perseverance, unending energy and love of HHS.

In Other Archive news

Jean London continues to identify projects for us to work on. We are thankful and grateful to Jean for her wonderful oversight of the Archive and all that it contains. Storie Brown continues to work on cataloging and identifying photos and computerizing the information; Jane Jarvi, along with Jean, has been transferring information on our book collection from cards to the computer so that it can be more easily searched; Ellyn Chase, Vivian Gresser and Betty Filliettaz have continued to transfer information in the surname files from the hanging file folders to 3-ring binders; and Wendy Davis continues her work with old town reports. All of that good work aside, we still have a list of projects needing attention. If you or anyone you know would like to volunteer in the Archive to help out with the myriad of projects lying in wait, please give us a call or shoot us an email. We'd love to have you join us.

Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening

By Robert Frost

Whose woods these are I think I know.
His house is in the village though;
He will not see me stopping here
To watch his woods fill up with snow.

My little horse must think it queer
To stop without a farmhouse near
Between the woods and frozen lake
The darkest evening of the year.

He gives his harness bells a shake
To ask if there is some mistake.
The only other sound's the sweep
Of easy wind and downy flake.

The woods are lovely, dark and deep,
But I have promises to keep,
And miles to go before I sleep,
And miles to go before I sleep.

From Our Kitchen to Yours

The recipe for *Yummy Bars* that follows is courtesy of Jean London who says, "they are TOO good." Guess you will have to try them and see for yourself! Enjoy.

Yummy Bars Serves 12 (if everyone only has one)

Cookie Dough:

½ cup butter
½ cup sugar
½ tsp vanilla
1 cup flour
¼ tsp salt
¼ tsp baking powder

Chocolate Layer:

1 cup brown sugar
2 eggs
1 tsp vanilla
¾ tsp salt
1 cup finely chopped walnuts
1 cup chocolate bits

For the dough (prepare this first):

Preheat the oven to 350F. Cream butter and sugar until it is light and fluffy. Stir in the vanilla.

Sift together the flour, salt and baking powder and add to the creamed mixture – blending well.

Press into a 9 by 13-inch baking pan. Bake for 15 minutes, set aside to cool somewhat.

For the chocolate layer (prepare this second):

Combine the brown sugar, eggs, vanilla, salt and beat until mixture is thick. Stir in the nuts and chocolate bits.

Spoon the mixture over the baked cookie dough, spreading it to make an even layer.

Bake for 25 minutes at 350F.

Once baked, cool enough for the chocolate to set and then cut into 12 (or more!) bars.

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.

Hours of Operation

The Archive and Museum at Kinsley House are currently closed until further notice due to COVID. However, individuals can call or email to make an appointment to visit the Archive for research purposes, but the Museum remains closed. We appreciate everyone's understanding and patience during this trying time.

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