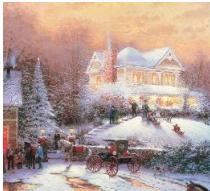




Hampden Historical Society

Newsletter – Fall 2024

Annual Christmas Bazaar



Saturday
November 23, 2023
8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Please stop by on **Saturday, November 23**, at the Kinsley House, which will once again be filled with holiday cheer! As in years past we will have holiday crafts, fancywork and soft goods, some antiques and jewelry as well as holiday arrangements and swags. Come to our delicious food sale, the White Elephant room and the biggest raffle yet! Volunteers are feverishly organizing this event, and you, too, can help. In fact, we can't do it without you.

We hope that all you crafters, knitters and others will consider donating items to be sold at the Bazaar. Items can be dropped off on Tuesdays, between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. We are also looking for donations of baked goods that can be dropped off on Friday, November 22.

Gift certificates and items from local businesses and individuals for the holiday raffle have been collected. The generous support of Hampden businesses is allowing us to offer nine "baskets" ranging in value from \$195 to \$400. You should have received your raffle tickets to sell, and if you need more tickets, please contact us by email, hampdenhistorical@gmail.com.

If you have any questions, call 862-2027 or email Jane Jarvi at janejarvi1@gmail.com.

Annual Appeal under way

Many thanks to those who have responded to and supported our Annual Appeal. Donations can be accepted up to December 31. We hope you will consider donating to ensure that the Society has the funds to continue operations. Please make checks payable to HHS and mail them to P.O. Box 456, Hampden, ME 04444 or click on the PayPal "donate" button on our website site - hampdenhistoricalsociety.org.

Facebook

Are you on Facebook? Be sure to check out our Facebook page and follow us.

Upcoming programs and events

Nov. 11 – 6:30 p.m. - Board meeting

Nov. 23 – 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. - Christmas Bazaar

Recent programs

Our October speakers were Douglas Coffin and Sigrid Coffin, Coffin and Daughter Lettercutters in Belfast. They presented, "Preserving History, One Stone at a Time," and informed us in wonderful detail about choosing and cutting stone for gravestones, on donor walls and buildings and the history of gravestones. They were engaging, knowledgeable and great fun. Douglas is also a Maine author of a charming book, "One Maine Christmas Eve," and he signed books for us.

In September, Bryce Waldrop, Executive Director, [The Historical Society of Wells and Ogunquit](http://TheHistoricalSocietyofWellsandOgunquit.com), presented "Looking In/Looking Out: Access and Outreach Efforts at the HSWO. Bryce gave a terrific presentation on his work with the Society, including helpful details about fundraisers they hold and events that they organize; he really gave our members some new ideas! He also provided some helpful information about digitizing their records.

April Costa, Land Protection Project Manager, and Emily Gherman-Lad, Assistant Director of Engagement, from Maine Farmland Trust were our July speakers. April and Emily gave a joint presentation on the mission of Maine Farmland Trust and the ways the organization works to preserve Maine land. They highlighted several farms as examples of how an easement works and answered many questions from our members.

Veteran's Day

Hampden Medal of Honor recipient Wilbur N. Taylor was born in Hampden on December 2, 1846. He enlisted in the U.S. Army in Boston, Mass., and was sent west to the frontier. Sergeant Taylor, Company K, 8th U.S. Cavalry, received the Medal of Honor on September 6, 1869, for bravery during the Indian Wars. Taylor died on November 20, 1903, at age 56.

Has your contact information changed?

Let us know if your contact information changes, including email address, telephone number and mailing address.

Did you receive this newsletter in the USPS “snail” mail?

If you have an email address, please send it our way – hampdenhistorical@gmail.com. We will send the newsletter to you via email. You will receive it more quickly and the links will be live. (If you do not have an email address, we will continue to mail it to you!)

Heritage Day was a success!

Forty volunteers made our biennial Heritage Day a big success! Featured exhibitors included a blacksmith, outdoor cook, cedar shake maker, spinner and candle maker plus displays of pelts, handmade boats, goats and chickens, Native American baskets, butter making, cider making and more. Docents were on hand to answer many questions from our visitors, who were able to visit Hannibal Hamlin’s law office, the summer kitchen, carriage house, and Kinsley House and museum. A hugely popular scavenger hunt, mostly for the children, let them discover some of the Society’s more than 5,500 collections! Thanks to all who participated as volunteers and guests.

Hampden Children’s Day

Though we didn’t have a float this year, thanks to Will Nickerson and Ellyn Chase, we were represented with a wonderfully decorated truck!

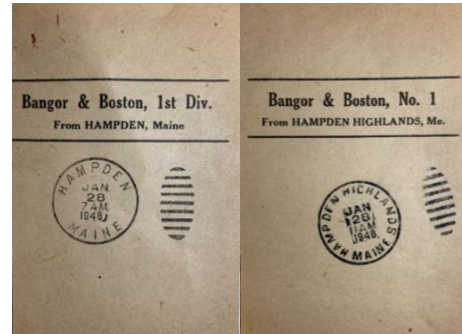


Was There a Train Station Where the Tracks Crossed Kennebec Road?

by Jim Husson



This is a picture of the train station at the intersection of Western Ave. and the train tracks that cross over it. From the look of the cars, it is circa 1940. This building still stands. If you look closely, you can see the HAMPDEN sign. However, was there ever a train station at the intersection of Kennebec Road and the train tracks?



I found these two items in my postal history collection. These are postal-facing slips that label bundles of mail being sent onto trains. The one on the left came from the Hampden Post Office. The one on the right would be from the Hampden Highlands Post Office bundle (up till 1909, it was the Hampden Corner Post Office). So yes, we know the mail was sent and probably received by trains in Hampden. The one on the left would have been sent to the tracks that crossed Western Ave. (Hampden Station). But were there two stations in Hampden? Did the Hampden Highlands bundle go to a Station on the Kennebec Road? Or did the mail from Hampden Highlands go to the station on Western Ave.? Or did it get picked up and delivered by a hook (mail crane) located on Kennebec Road?

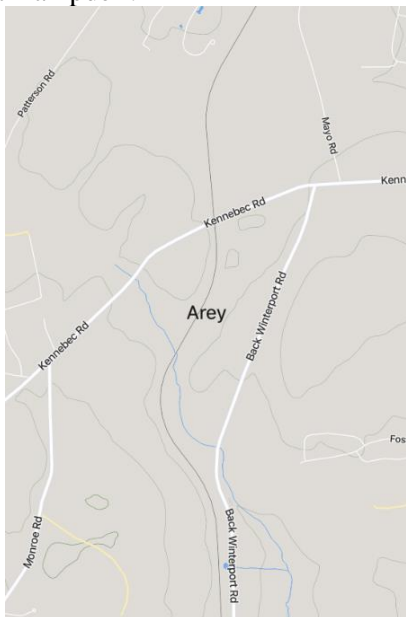
The mail would be picked up by a train and delivered to another station, such as Bangor, or sorted on a Railroad Post Office Car (R.P.O.) on the Bangor and Boston line. Incoming mail would be dropped off. The two slips that have been recovered have cancellations from the same day, Jan. 28, 1948. The first one from Hampden is timed at 7 AM. The second from Hampden Highlands is timed at 11 AM. These are the times that the bundles left the post offices.

Walking around the Kennebec crossing doesn’t reveal any structure, foundation or roadbed that would indicate a railroad siding or that an old train station was once there. However, *Rail Lines of Northern New England* lists the stations going north on the Bangor and Aroostook line as Frankfort, Winterport, Arey, Hampden, South Switch, Northern Maine Junction and North Bangor. Thus, there was something near the intersection of Kennebec Road and the tracks that crossed it. It was named Arey, which matches Arey’s Corner, an area around Kennebec and Back Winterport Roads. However, was it just a railroad siding or a railroad station? After reviewing maps over the last one hundred years (including the recent Delorme Maps), I can find an area on the railroad line labeled Arey. However, all the maps show this location to be in the middle of the woods, a few miles South of the intersection of the railroad tracks and Kennebec Road. Using Google Maps, one can see that there is a siding just south of the intersection of the railroad tracks and Meadow Road in Winterport. However, that

would be further south than the older maps indicate. Local railroad workers have also told me this siding is called the Arey Siding.

Walking along the tracks in this area does not reveal any area where there might have been any building or railroad railbed.

To confuse matters more: from the United States Post Office Department, Postal Bulletin 7994 May 21, 1906: "101019. South Lagrange, by Hampden Corner, Winterport, Frankfort, Sandypoint, Stockton Springs and Park, to Searsport. Bangor & Aroostook RR. Co., 55.12 ms. and back, 6 t a w, or as much oftener as trains may run. From June 4, 1906." This indicates that a Bangor and Aroostook train ran from LaGrange to Searsport at least six times per week (t a w) for 55.12 miles and back with a mail stop or drop off at Hampden Corner (name changed to Hampden Highlands in 1909) but did not stop at Hampden for mail. Is this postal bulletin wrong? Did it mean Hampden and not Hampden Highlands, or was there a stop at Hampden Highlands and not Hampden?



Mapcarta.com

So, I remain baffled. There is an indication that a Station may have existed at or near the Kennebec Road, but if it did, where was it? If anyone has more information they would like to share on this subject, please contact me at the Hampden Historical Society.

Update from the Board of Directors

Jim Husson, President

What an unbelievable year! We started with a devastating flood in the basement of the new archive building, and we ended the year stronger and better than before. Why? We have such strong support from the community and the best volunteers.

Our volunteers stepped up when the flood was discovered and did a tremendous job salvaging most of our collection in the basement. We went into high gear and got the basement cleaned and mold remediated. The walls were repaired and painted. A generator has been purchased and

installed to prevent any future reoccurrence. Despite these challenges, we still managed to put on our annual yard sale, our most successful one yet.

Then, the crew successfully got together and organized our biennial Heritage Days. Kids ran around all day learning to cook outside, wash clothes, make apple cider and do many other "old-time" activities. Over 40 volunteers made that event possible.

As I write this article, the volunteers are preparing for the annual Christmas Bazaar. A lot of work goes into preparing and pulling off this event. However, it is a huge fundraiser for the Historical Society. It helps us keep the lights on and the building heated.

In between all these events:

- We lost our long-time renter, so we took the time to do some apartment repairs.
- Work continued on the restoration of the Trolley Hut. The new roof is on, new signage has been obtained, and a "track line" has been constructed in front of the hut.
- We have received hundreds of items for the museum to display this year. One was the huge backdrop for the stage that hung at the old Eastern Star Grange. (It is stunning; please drop by to see it.)



- A massive project of refining the surname files has been nearly completed.
- Work has continued for our future project of digitalizing our pictures, items and files.
- Our website has undergone significant upgrades.
- Plus, we continue to help researchers who come to search our files, clean and organize the Carriage House, research items like Hannibal Hamlin's wife's sewing machine, clean the museum from top to bottom, and inventory every item we have.
- And we have remained financially sound, thanks to our fundraisers and some very generous community members.

We will only be open on Tuesdays (weather permitting) or by appointment for the winter months of December to the end of April. But I strongly urge you to come and visit. This is your Historical Society. We have a beautiful museum. Come and see what we have to offer. Become a volunteer!

How about a delicious Christmas cookie?

Pecan Tarts

1 3-oz pkg cream cheese
¼ lb butter
1 C flour

Cream butter and cheese. Add flour and mix well. Make 24 balls; put into small (mini) cupcake tin and shape as for tart shells.

Filling: 1¾ C light brown sugar, firmly packed
Pinch of salt
2 T melted butter
1 tsp vanilla
2 eggs
Pecans

Coarsely chop pecans. Put some in the bottom of tarts. Beat eggs slightly with a fork. Add sugar, then melted butter, salt and vanilla. Put teaspoonful of filling on top of pecans and sprinkle a few more pecans on top of filling. Bake at 350° for 30 min. (Filling may be enough for double dough recipe.) Don't make too full. - Janice Von Brook

HHS contact information

Telephone: 207-862-2027
Email: hampdenhistorical@gmail.com
Website: www.hampdenhistoricalsociety.org
Facebook: Hampden Historical Society

Hours of operation

January through March
Tuesdays by chance – 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
April through October
Tuesdays – 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Most Thursdays – 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Other days/times by appointment. Call 862-2027 or email hampdenhistorical@gmail.com

While masking is not currently required, we always want to ensure the health and safety of our visitors and volunteers. Masks are available if there is a need.

Hampden Historical Society
PO Box 456
Hampden, ME 04444

Address service requested