

Greetings to all our History Enthusiasts.

Here we are once again beginning a brand 'New Year'. Wishing you the very best of health. We thought perhaps you might like a bit of update of what has been going on at the Historical Society.

For those of you who attended the annual meeting in the fall you will have memories of a special time. Thanks to our secretary Linda Coonrod who helped organize the lunch and tour of the historic 1st Congregational Church and for Emily Cook who designed the flowers for the tables; it was an exceptional gathering. About 50 people enjoyed some very good food and learned a little more about our own wonderful history. Society board member Raymond Whipple gave an interesting talk on the Whipples and at the brief ceremony afterwards, Secretary Linda Coonrod, Vice President Emily Cook and Past President Arthur 'Butch' Crosbie were honored for their long service to the Society. From our collection of antique photos, Arthur 'Butch' Crosbie presented to the minister, Dorington Little and the congregation, a handsomely framed picture of the church.

It has been a lot more comfortable in the Society Room, this winter in spite of the frigid weather, and it has made our working conditions much more enjoyable. In addition the new dehumidifier has functioned non-stop and has helped to improve the climate control in the room. Klaus Saggerer is still in-putting data, on a regular basis. All the Town reports that were sent off to Digital Commonwealth in the spring were returned safe and sound and can now be accessed via your computer at <https://archive.org/details/hamiltonhistoricalsociety>. Go to box titled 'this just in (more)'. This means that you can peruse town records from the 1800's to the present. It saves hours of research time.

Emily Cook, Louise Halliday and I have bundled up and shipped off the general file materials and pictures to be digitized according to the grant we received through the Community Preservation Act. We were awarded about a third of the cost that it will take to finish all, but it is a good beginning. Four maps and all the postcards are included in this batch of materials.

In December, shortly before Christmas we had two unfortunate and time-consuming set-backs when the basement flooded. Our wonderful Hamilton fire-fighters and town hall staff came to the rescue right at the beginning, and it saved us major loss. Ray Whipple, Butch Crosbie, Klaus Saggerer, Emily Cook, Louise Halliday and I cleaned up a discouraging mess of pulpy papers and ruined posters. After another major storm, the basement flooded again and we had to start all over. It will take a lot of work to get back to where we were, but it could have been worse. We have been assured that all that can be done is being done and we are very grateful for that.

We are much in need of workers for labeling, filing, arranging, and many other small tasks. For those of you who are helping out on a regular basis, Thank you! Thank you! For those of you who would like to join us, you will have so much fun!! Any new ideas, suggestions or info send them along to us.

Coming soon: In affiliation with H-W Library an archeological program on Masconomet. (Date not set)

Also Saturday April 4th 2:00 PM at Hamilton-Wenham Library, 14 Union Street, Hamilton. Historian Jim McAllister 'Life and Death at Sea: A harsher side of Salem's lucrative maritime trade.' Includes tales of pirates, cannibals, mutineers and disease.

Yours truly,

Annette V Janes President- Emily Cook Vice President