

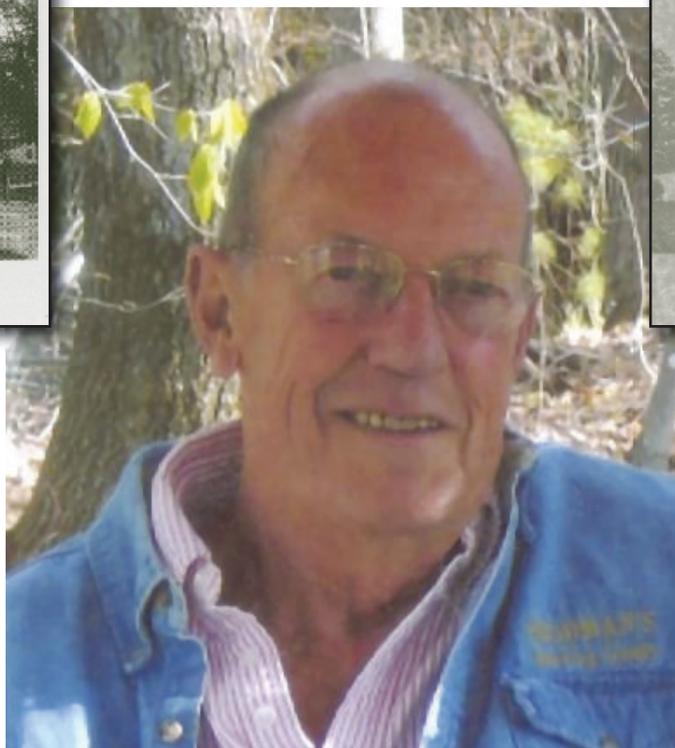
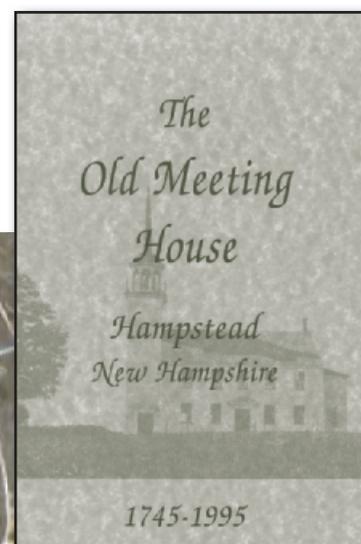
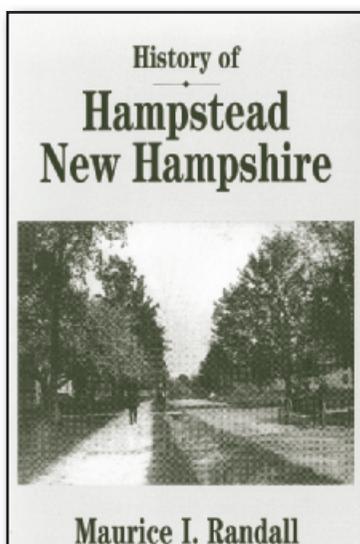
TOWN of HAMPSTEAD

NEW HAMPSHIRE



ANNUAL REPORT
2009

DEDICATION



**Maurice I. Randall, Jr.
Town Historian**

Maurice is a life-long resident of Hampstead and graduate of Hampstead High School. Over the years Maurice has served many rolls in Hampstead including Fireman, Little League Coach, Planning Board, Civic Club, School Board, Historical Society, Historic Commission, and the author of "The History of Hampstead" written in 1999.



Paul Revere Jr. Bell

Mr. Thomas Hughs of West Newbury and Governor's Island in Hampstead, decided that the empty belfry needed a bell. He told the minister, Mr. John Kelly, that if he would go to Brookfield, Massachusetts to George Holbrook and speak for a bell, he would pay for it. The minister kept it a secret until the bell was ready to be delivered, at which time he contracted a carpenter and helpers.

History has two stories about where the bell came to in Hampstead. One is that the carpenter built a frame between two trees to hang it. The other story is that it hung from the limb of the great oak, which was on the lawn of the house that is now 33 Main Street, and may have been the parsonage at the time. The story goes that the bell was brought in and hung during the night. The next morning, it was rung and everyone rushed to see what their ears could not convince them to believe! It was raised into the belfry on December 19, 1809.

Around the neck of the bell is the warning: "The living to the church I call, and to the grave I summons all." On one side is inscribed, "Presented by Thomas Huse, Esq. 1809." The other side bears the trademark, "Revere, Boston." The trademark indicates that the son of Paul Revere probably cast the bell in his foundry. Paul Revere Jr. was not accustomed to dating or numbering his bells. The bell does not appear on the list of Paul Revere and Sons' records, which would indicate that it was made by Paul Revere Jr. after he set up his own business. It is not known how many bells Paul Jr. made, but it is believed to have been very few.

The bell was deeded to the town by Mr. Huse for use in civil matters, funeral occasions, and in particular, for the use of the Congregational Church and Society, forever.

The bell's price was six hundred dollars, and it weighs 1,212 ½ pounds, and has been looking over Hampstead from its lofty perch of ninety-eight feet for two hundred years.

It was rung for church services, tolled for funerals, and used to summons help for fire or emergencies. Also, it has been a tradition to ring the bell at 12:01 a.m. on the Fourth of July to celebrate our independence. This is still being done today.

About 1910, the selectmen decided to discontinue the ringing of the bell on the Fourth of July. Four young men crawled under the building during the day on July 3rd, and came up through a trap door in the floor, which is still there. They climbed to the belfry and tied one end of a long roll of fine wire to the clapper of the bell and dropped the rest of it over the side of the building and hid it on the ground. That night they unrolled the wire out into the field behind the Meeting House, and at 12:01 a.m. July 4th, they began to ring the bell. Soon, the selectman that lived close by, came up the road, lantern in hand, and went through the building. Finding nothing, he left. Soon the bell started ringing again! After a few trips, the selectmen decided it was best to give up. *This story was told to me by one of the young participants, my father, Maurice Randall.**

*Excerpt from *The Old Meeting House* written by Maurice Randall Jr.

EMERGENCY
Fire, rescue, medical or police

CALL 911

TOWN DIRECTORY

MAIN NUMBER (603) 329-4100

Administrative Assistant	extension 100
Animal Control Officer	(603) 329-5700
Assessing Department	extension 105
Board of Adjustment	extension 104
Building Department	extension 103
Code Enforcement	extension 116
Fire Dept. (Non Emergency)	(603) 329-6006
Health Officer	extension 116
Highway Department	(603) 329-5110
Human Services	extension 113
Library	(603) 329-6411
Planning Board	extension 102
Police Dept. (Non Emergency)	(603) 329-8398
Recreation Department	extension 112
Selectmen's Office	(603) 329-4100
Town Clerk/Tax Collector	extension 110



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