

History comes alive at the Buttonwoods Museum!

From Native American settlement to present, the Buttonwoods Museum tells the story of life in the Merrimack Valley. Visit the 1710 John Ward House, the 1814 Duncan House and the 1850 Daniel Hunkins Shoe Shop. Experience our hands-on education programs that make this unique history come alive for families, seniors, and students!

Our programs are diverse, affordable, and customizable. We use crafts, games, lectures, hearth cooking, scavenger hunts, and more to help visitors engage with the past. Topics include early American life, Native American tribes along the

Merrimack River, the American Revolution in Haverhill, Haverhill's shoe industry, and graveyard history at nearby Pentucket Burial Ground.

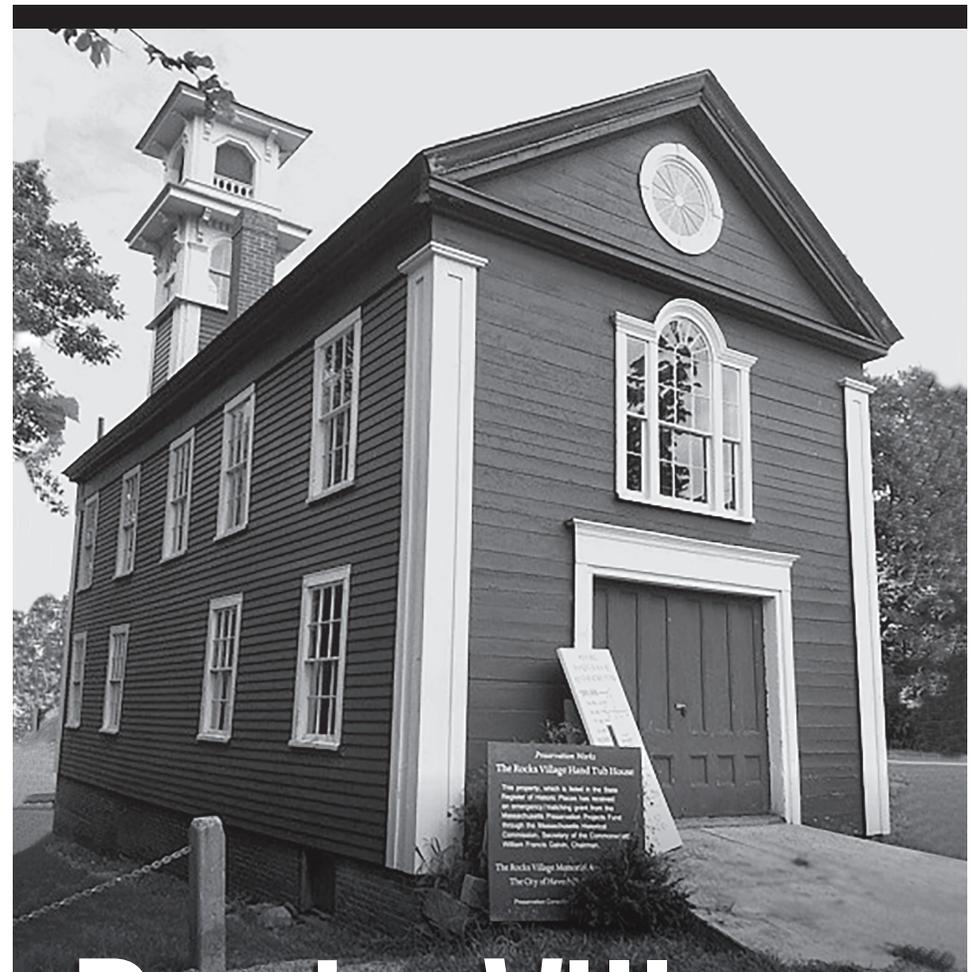
We offer programming for senior citizens, Scout groups, preschool age children (ages 2-5), and students in public, private, and home schools (both field trips and in-school visits). We also liven up school vacations through our public *Past Finders* program, which includes February & April vacation workshops, plus a summer program that has been going strong for more than 21 years!

We look forward to your visit!
For more information,
go to buttonwoods.org or
call 978-374-4626!



Buttonwoods
 museum

Connect with History Together



Rocks Village

Historic District Walking Architectural Tour



By
Samantha
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The Buttonwoods Museum Mission

To collect and preserve the history and culture of Greater Haverhill, while educating the public through on-site and outreach programs.

Our Purpose

The Haverhill Historical Society (HHS) was established in 1897 and opened the Buttonwoods Museum in 1904. The economic, social and cultural history of the Merrimack Valley is embodied in the Museum site and buildings, placed on the National Historic Register in 2005. The Buttonwoods Museum houses over 20,000 objects relating to Haverhill history: ceramics, glassware, textiles, portraits, furniture, shoes and shoemaking tools, Native American stone tools, pottery fragments and bone implements.

The Museum staff and volunteers serve a wide range of constituents from pre-school age to elders at the site and through outreach programs. These programs make use of the collections, site, structures and historic themes to provide hands-on experiences. The geographic service area includes all of Essex county, as well as southern New Hampshire.

In addition, the Museum serves as a regional Visitors' Center for the Essex National Heritage Area, introducing local and international visitors to the historic, cultural and natural resources within the 34 communities of Essex County and providing information for travelers.

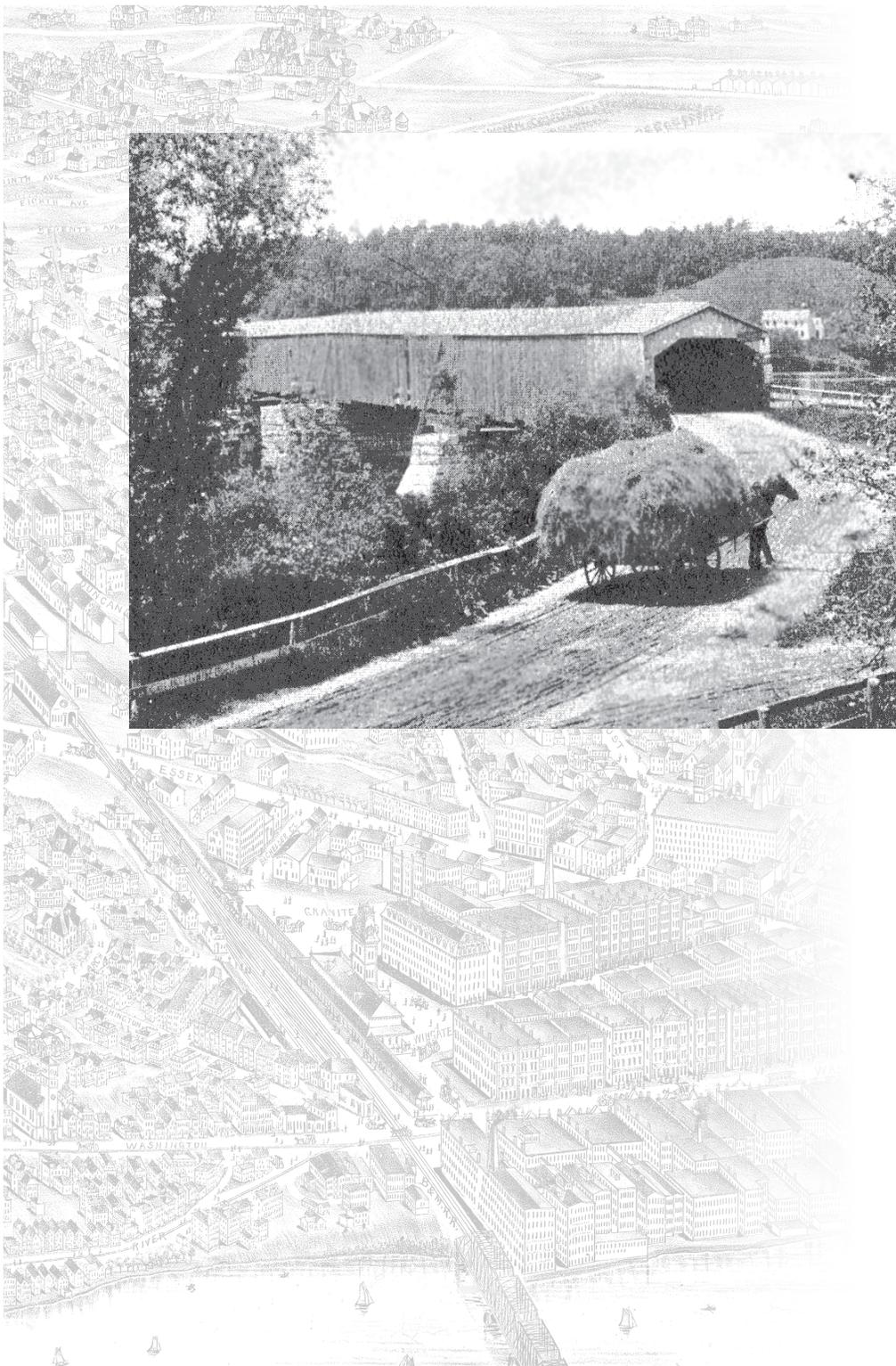
For more information or to become a museum member, contact us at 978-374-4626 or email us:

info@buttonwoods.org (General Info)

programs@buttonwoods.org (Education Programs info)

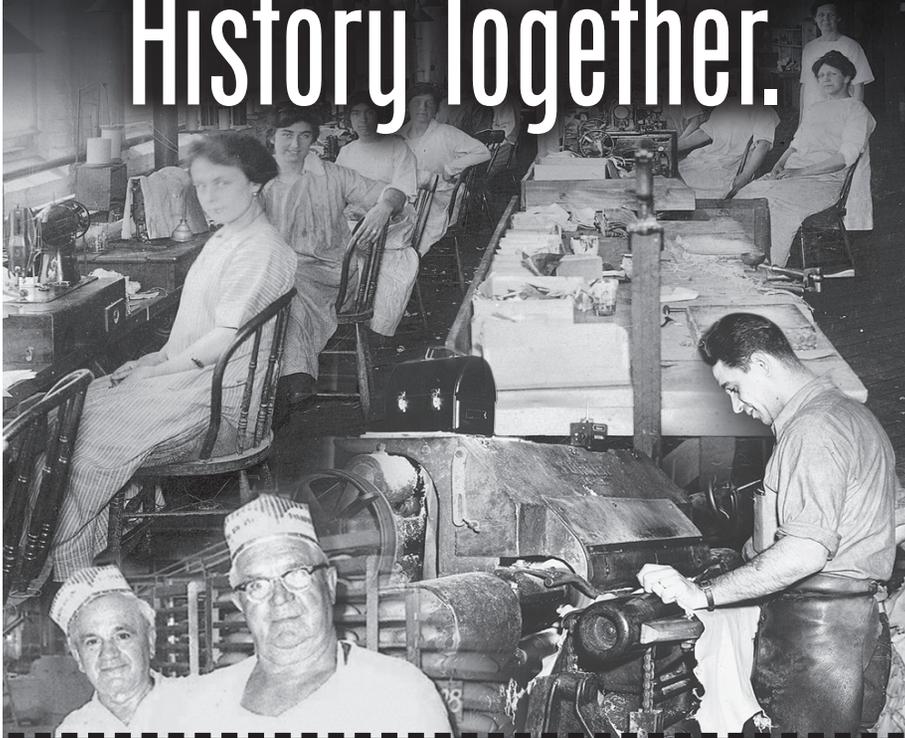
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Connect with History Together.



Become a Buttonwoods Museum member today!

Membership entitles you to special benefits. For a complete listing of benefits at each level, go to buttonwoods.org. Your support helps us to care for the museum and run public/education programs including our summer camp. Sign up online OR send this form with payment to *Buttonwoods Museum*.

Member Level: Senior \$25 Individual \$30 Family \$50
 Benefactor \$100 Inner Circle \$250 Corporate \$1,000+

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Buttonwoods
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Welcome to Historic Rocks Village located in the East Parish of Haverhill, MA. As you can probably guess judging by the water you see behind me, Rocks Village is situated along the Merrimack River. Rocks Village actually gets its name from rocks situated not too far upstream in the river. When the area was first settled in the 1600s a man named Nathaniel Holt got stuck on some boulders at a bend in the river and thus earning the location the name "Holt's Rocks". It has been well documented that by 1652 there was a tavern being operated not too far from where the bridge stands now; said tavern was named Coffin's ordinary.

Originally an agriculturally settlement Rocks Village grew into a commercial and industrial center. During the heyday of shipping Rocks Village was home to shipyards and several smaller cottage industries scattered throughout the settlement. During the harsh New England winters because they could not farm many turned to making shoes and other means to provide for their families. Although it may appear to be a sleepy corner of the city, Rocks Village was once a thriving center with a shipyard, its own groceries, a post office, a school, a doctor and many other enterprises that you would expect to find in a functioning town.



However by the late 1800's Rocks Village had regressed back to a quiet, rural village and a great place to raise a family. (In 1711 John Swett was appointed the ferryman at Rocks Village, a position he would hold for forty years. By 1718 it was known that he had been charged with carrying people across the river for "penny a single person and four pence for a man and horse".)

This tour represents a progression of time in Rocks Village. The buildings we are going to see today date back to the 1700's and up until the late 19th century. The homes we will see today range in style from Federal to Colonial Revivals and are often a mix of architectural styles and features known as vernacular architecture.



in the form of grants to help fulfill this vision. (the windows are 9 over 9.)

Recently students from Whittier Regional Vo-Tech rebuilt the toll house which you can see here to the right of the hand tub house. The original toll house was taken to Michigan to be a part of Henry Ford's Deerfield Village; this tollhouse sat next to the bridge from 1828 to 1911. Students constructed the building in a shop at the school, where once it was complete, was disassembled and then re-assembled here on site; students used also used the historic blueprints. All materials were donated by local businesses. Originally the collector in the building would have gathered fees from those using the bridge and during down time would have made shoes there, another industry for which Haverhill is famous.





Hand Tub House

89 River Road, Haverhill, MA 1840

The Hand-tub house is a central figure in the district; it is the only public building in the central part of the district. Called a hand tub house because it housed manually operated fire-fighting pump, the hand tub house is essentially an early fire-house. Built in 1840 this public building has been used throughout its existence as a fire-house, community center and meeting space. The building was constructed primarily using Federal stylistic elements, however the window above the fire door on the façade of the building gives the building a slight classical air. This type of tri-part window is known as a Palladian window is most common in classical revival styles. In 2011 the City of Haverhill received funding from the state historical commission to repair and restore the brick piers and also the buildings masonry. Owned by the City of Haverhill and under stewardship of the Rocks Village Memorial Association, the building does not currently have any permanent function but is occasionally used by the memorial association as a function space and a meeting hall; however the association hopes to turn it into a museum and education center. In recent years the association has received aids



Major Zebulon Ingersoll House

1 Wharf Lane, Haverhill, MA 1782-1783

This house is known as the Major Zebulon Ingersoll House. Zebulon Ingersoll was an officer during the American Revolution and was also a successful merchant and businessman. Constructed in two separate phases, it is reflective of typical architectural practices of the Federal style. What is most worth noting about this house however, and what is noteworthy about most of the houses/buildings of the neighborhood is the fact that they are not oriented towards the river, but rather they face the road or towards the center of the village.

No matter how one looks at the house if you were to cut it right down the middle it is symmetrical; this is true if you look at the



Photo taken 1938.



front (North) façade which faces East Main Street and the side (west) façade which faces Wharf Lane. On the north façade there is a centrally located door and two windows to each side. The door on the west façade is also centrally located, but there are only two windows on this façade owing to the fact that the structure is five bays wide and three bays deep. (A bay is an opening in the wall of the structure i.e. a window or a door.) The first phase of the home was built sometime before 1782 (this is the half of the home which is closest to the river); the second phase of the home was completed in 1814 and was undertaken by the Colonel and his son John. The home used to have a central staircase but that was removed in the 1930's along with some interior walls to create a large living room; the original back stairs remain.



Swartz House

20 East Main Street, Haverhill, MA ca. 1898

One of the newest homes constructed in the village, the Swartz House is still more than 100 years old having been built ca. 1898. The house was not built to conform to any particular architectural style

but more likely was built to suit the needs and taste of those the house was being built for. With elements reminiscent of the Federal style, (symmetry and simplicity), but no distinguishing features this home represents a vernacular style home. (A vernacular style home is one that does not fit into any particular architectural style but rather may represent a style unique to a particular region.)



Circa 1977-78

In comparison to the previous dwellings we have seen, the contrasts between the eras of

construction can be observed in the slope of the roof, the appearance of the windows and the overall mass of the house. For example, the first two buildings we observed were built in the late 1800's, and the shape of them might be described as short/stocky, whereas the home we are in front of now, was built almost a hundred years later and is much taller/skinny in appearance. (Owing to this the ceiling heights are higher and the space in the attic is most likely accessible for something other than storage.) The roof is steeply pitched and it has varying slopes; it is a front facing, gabled roof.



In about 1810 a two story addition was made to the house thus allowing for its current appearance.

The building is now shaped like an L. The home is also unique due to the presence of murals painted by Rufus Porter a well-known itinerant painter from the 19th century; these murals cover many of the walls within the house. On the first level the windows are 12 over 12, and on the second level the windows are 12 over 8. The centrally located front door has a fanlight above, and pilasters on either side. (Fanlights are so called because their shape resembles how a fan looks when it is unfolded.) Pilasters are commonly referred to as columns, but this is an incorrect use of terminology as columns are freestanding and pilasters are not. Columns too are much more common in Greek revival homes, than in Federal style homes. The home has a low-pitched, side-gable shaped roof and two end position chimneys.



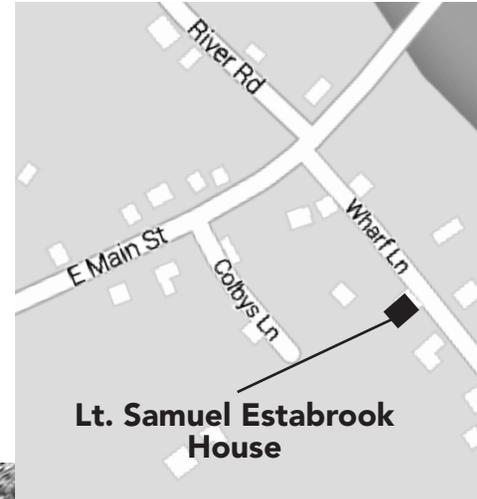
Photo taken 2016.



Lt. Samuel Estabrook House

20 Wharf Lane, Haverhill, MA Before 1782

Lt. Samuel Estabrook/ Esterbrook served as a soldier during the Revolutionary War. This home has the appearance of a cape, an architectural



style common throughout New England and it is arranged to accommodate two families. Samuel Estabrook whom had the house built was the first to have a house built orientated towards the river. The house is 1.5 stories in height and did not originally have any windows installed at the back of the house. There are two chimneys on the house, one on each gable end, thus to accommodate two separate

living quarters. The home does not much resemble its original appearance owing to an extensive renovation undertaken by Dr. Timothy Kenison a subsequent owner of the home. (Despite an this extensive project he never actually resided in the house and sold it not long after completing the project and most of this early renovation has been replaced by a more modern renovation completed in the 1970's).



Deacon J. Foote House

49 East Main Street, Haverhill, MA ca. 1760

One of the only brick buildings constructed in the village, it also one of the oldest buildings still standing. Built originally as a grocery store that is what it has remained for most of its existence. Mr. Foote not only ran the grocery store but also lived above it while he maintained proprietorship. Currently the store is a private residence. The brick of the building is laid in a pattern so as to make the building as sturdy as possible. The bricks are laid in a 1, 5 common bond pattern; this means that there are five rows of stretchers (longer side of the brick) for header row (short end of the brick) of brick. This allows for bricks to form a sturdier pattern of interlocking rows. Observing the type of bond pattern the brick is laid in is helpful in determining when a building was constructed.



Photo taken 1938.

Although knowing the pattern does not give an exact date it can narrow the time frame down as certain brick patterns were used before concrete was invented, and vice versa (only certain patterns were used once concrete was used in construction). Also only certain brick patterns were used in high style buildings or on portions of buildings which could be observed by the public (Flemish bond).



The Countess House

29 East Main Street, Haverhill, MA ca. 1750

This home has a more romantic history than most. In 1805 an exiled French aristocrat, the Comte de Vipart married a girl from Rocks Village by the name of Mary Ingalls and thus she became a countess. (This is from an inscription written by John Greenleaf Whittier, who also wrote a poem about Mary: "Her wedding dress, as described by a lady still living, was "pink satin with an overdress of white lace, and white satin slippers." She died in less than a year after her marriage. Her husband returned to his native country. He lies buried in the family tomb of the Viparts at Bordeaux".) This home is where she grew up. The oldest part of the home is a mid-eighteenth century center chimney cape; this is the portion of the house where the countess would have lived.



Circa late 1800's/early 1900's.