

Museum Report

by Larry Cote, Museum Director
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2016 was a good year for the Newport Historical Societies Museum. We had 340 guests sign the attendance roster and had 66 donations of Newport related artifacts totaling 1,178 items. We changed the displays in September so we had all new or refreshed displays for October 6th the "Town's 255th Birthday".

In this years displays we have hung much of our local art, paintings from: Kenneth Andler, Barbara Huff, Felix Smith, Edna Eggleston and Madeline Reed. Much of this art work may have never been seen by the public; and, we are proud to display it.

We have a Billy B. Van display on the second floor, and are displaying much of our souvenir glass on the first floor display. Most of this glass was sold by Johnson's or Emerson's Dry Goods.

We augmented our alarm system with the smoke detector to provide the collection a safe environment.

We have started to organize our collection in the "annex", our storage area above the Courthouse Restaurant. Funds to purchase wire frame rolling carts for this purpose have been donated by the Newport Rotary Club, Thomas A. Shadis, Jan McMahon and Louise Russell. This will help us better preserve our collection and make it easier to locate items when we are changing displays. The cost for a rack with six shelves with wheels is approximately \$110.

Our membership is strong and we have a small but dedicated group of volunteers that staff the Museum on Sundays from 10 A.M. until 2 P. M. every Sunday all year except for holiday weekends. The Museum is also available by appointment by calling ahead, 603-863-1294, and making arrangements; a couple weeks notice is suggested. We welcome new members and for those who wish to volunteer to staff the Museum on Sundays, training will be provided. We believe it will be an enjoyable experience.

We have several new items on our gift table; stop in to see what is new. We are always accepting donations of Newport related items as we need a large inventory to be able to change displays every year. What is a Newport related item? Anything made in or by someone from Newport or something owned by someone from Newport. The Museum is a great place to archive your family pictures. Too many pictures of your ancestors are thrown into the trash for several reasons. We are always looking for Newport postcards and photos of Newport through the years. Pictures of Sunapee Street are in demand but in short supply. What did Sunapee Street look like before 1920 and after, when many residences were razed to build gas stations or businesses.

A visit to the Museum, at 20 Central Street, is free. We believe you will enjoy it.