

NEWPORT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MILL TOWN MESSENGER

THIS NEWSLETTER IS GENEROUSLY FUNDED BY SUMMERCREST SENIOR LIVING COMMUNITY

Volume 6, Issue 3

July, 2012

From the President's Pen . . .



by Cathryn Baird

"A nation that forgets its past can function no better than an individual with amnesia." ~ David McCullough

As president of the Newport Historical Society, I am honored to serve the community and work with a dedicated group of historic-minded individuals who wish to maximize past memories of local history. Unfortunately, our group is small and our memories are limited. With your input a "collective memory bank" would help to expand the knowledge of Newport's past. Please stop by the Historical Society booth at the Book Fair/Apple Pie Festival on August 25th, visit the museum, or call members listed in this newsletter. We really need your help to identify photographs, documents and artifacts so future generations can remember and appreciate their heritage. Sometimes Historical Society members feel like they have amnesia – your interest and help would be a perfect antidote to save the past and enrich the future.

NEWPORT HISTORICAL SOCIETY PROGRAM FOR AUGUST 13, 2012:

Runaway Wives: When Colonial Marriages Failed, presented by Marcia Schmidt Blaine. *"When 18th century wives tired of the marriage contract, they could run, but they could not hide. Husbands chased them down via newspaper ads, effectively removing their sources of credit and income. In the vocabulary of the war between the sexes, one reads of surprisingly enduring economic and social barriers to runaway wives."* Program made available by the NH Council for the Humanities, thru Richards Library.

Thank you to our April thru June volunteers!

Staffing the museum and the Farmer's Market booth and newsletter production and distribution has been made possible due to the generous gift of time from the following members: Larry Cote, Dotty Collins, Rita James, Pris Hagebusch, Gordon & Jackie Bell, Michelle Hamilton, Susan Ordway, Virginia & Peter Irwin, Cindy Horgarty, and Stan Sweeney. The Newport Historical Society Executive Board is most appreciative of your volunteer contributions.

Contact Christina O'Brien to join these volunteers 603-863-6905

2012 Lecture

Series

Meeting Times:

Executive Committee Meeting, 6 PM

General Membership Meeting, 6:30 PM

Programs, 7 to 8 PM

Monday, Aug. 13

Runaway Wives, When Colonial Marriages Failed

Monday, Sept. 10

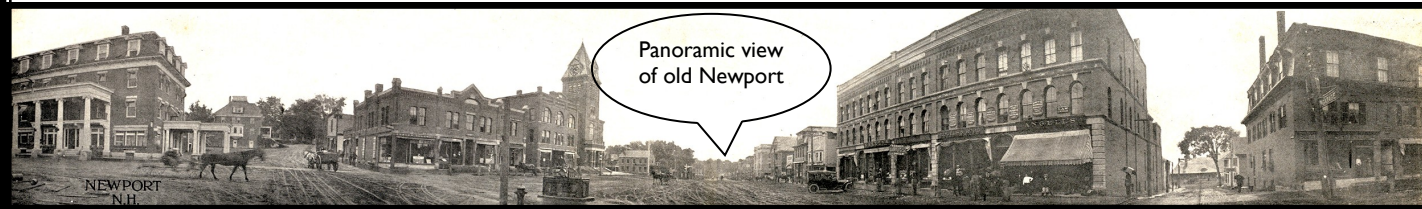
New England: Myth or Reality?

Monday, Oct. TBA

Open House

The Inside Scoop

- **Newport Notables:**
Dr. James Corbin
- **High School Memories**
- **Who Was Mary Dwinel Chellis Lund?**
- **Help Wanted!**
- **Treasurers Page:**
Membership Drive



NEWPORT NOTABLES:

Dr. James Corbin

By Larry Cote

Doctor James Corbin was born in Dudley, Mass. in 1762, he “read medicine” with Dr. Cory of Sturbridge, Massachusetts, and later with Dr. Hamilton of Somers, Connecticut. He married Lois Kibbie of Somers, Conn. and they had six children: Austin, Lois, James, Mary Ann, Polly and Charles.

Dr. Corbin came to Newport in late 1790, as its first permanent physician/surgeon. He purchased a farm on Oak Street and built his home in 1791. His house stood on the sharp corner as you drive down Oak Street to the North Newport (green) Bridge. In recent years the home was known as the Minnie Davis farm and later the Lavigne home. It was believed to be a stage coach stop on one of the roads leading to the Cornish Turnpike. The house had a distinctive second story porch that really gave it character. This photo is of the 2006 remains of the home, just before it was razed by Kenneth Lavigne.



Photo by Andy Andrews

An interesting point about the farm is that Dr. Corbin's first born son, Austin, built his home and farm at the opposite corner of Dr. Corbin's property on the present location of the Corbin Mansion; and, they could look across the valley and see each other's farm.



Field at south end of the Corbin property, taken by Jackie Cote, in the 1950's.

In the 1790's Newport and the surrounding area was very rural and Dr. Corbin would make his “house calls” to the sick on horse back. By all accounts it is clear that Dr. Corbin was a dedicated physician who also had a

love for farming. He cultivated the land, built stone walls, raised horses, cattle, sheep and hogs and shared the bounty of his land with those in need.

The following story will give one a taste of his wit and compassion for his fellow man:

Returning to his house at a midnight hour, he noticed a man hastily leaving his cellar window. Quickly dismounting, he at once observed by the window a basket of pork. Stationing himself by it, he was soon approached by a man from within, who passed up to him more pork, and said, ‘I have reached the last laying; had I better get any more?’ “Yes”, was the reply, “get the whole, and then come quietly out.” He obeyed the direction, but, to his utter surprise, was confronted by the proprietor of the mansion. The matter was generously compromised, the invaders humbly confessing, and imploring concealment. The reply was, “Your names shall never be disclosed: the facts are mine, and I will not relinquish my right to relate them.”

From Wheeler's History of Newport, 1766 to 1878

Dr. Corbin died Jan. 16, 1826, at the age of 64 and was fondly remembered by the town's people for his dedication to his practice of medicine, his love of the land, his wit and humor in relating stories.

Recently, Ellen Edgell Simmons donated, among other important artifacts, Dr Corbin's medicine recipe book. NHS is grateful to the Edgell family for this important donation.



Dr. Corbin's Medical “Recipes”

This is the first in a series of *Newport Notables*

on members of the Corbin, Edgell, Champollion families. See future Milltown Messengers for the continuing saga. Stop by the museum to see Dr. Corbin's book. **NHS Museum is open 10AM-2PM, Sundays.**

"Like a High School reunion!"

MEMORIES OF YOUR HIGH SCHOOL YEARS AT THE NETTLETON HOUSE MUSEUM

By Priscilla Hagebusch and Larry Cote, Photos by Jackie Cote

Would you like to take a look at your Richards, Towle or Newport High School yearbook and remember all the friends you made there? The new display in the Newport Room of the Nettleton House Historical Society museum has an assortment of yearbooks from the 1940's to look through. See the listing below, right .

Want to see a picture of that football or basketball team your grandpa played on? Many team photos from 1899 thru 1928 are on display. Also, many school class photos from the past are mounted on the walls of the Newport room and the hallway. Care to see what the pennants, pins, hats and varsity letters looked like long ago? The display case in the Newport room has many examples.



**Newport High School
band uniform from 1970's**



Most of all, would you like to help us complete our school collections and preserve your own treasured Richards, Towle or Newport High School yearbooks and/or memorabilia for future generations? The Newport Historical Society would treasure and display your donations! High School yearbooks are of special interest to many people who visit our museum. If you can help, call the Museum at 603-863-1294, or Larry Cote, 603-863-3105. Thank you.

We need to complete
our High School year-
book collection.
Do you have any of these
we need?

HAVE NEED

1941-1949	Before 1941
1954	1950-1953
1964-1966	1955-1963
1976	1967-1975
1985	1977-1984
1994	1986-1993
1999-2010	1995-1998
	2011



Attention Band Members



We have an instrument on display of which we are not quite sure. It may be a trumpet, it may be a coronet. If you played one, we would appreciate it if you would come by the museum and help us identify it correctly.

DID YOU KNOW?

Richards School was opened in 1897 and held grades 5-12 there until 1905 when the Primary School, now the Town Offices, was opened for grades 1-6. Towle was opened in 1925 as a High School and continued so thru 1966. What is now the Junior/Senior High School was built in 1957 as a Junior High School. An addition was put on the school so it could become the current Junior/Senior High School in 1967. Towle now is just for the 5th & 6th grades.

Who Was Mary Dwinel Chellis Lund?

What is Her Connection to Newport, N.H.?

By Larry Cote

In June of 2012, the Newport Historical Society was contacted by a PhD. Candidate from Texas Christian University requesting information on Mary Dwinel Chellis Lund. She knew when Mary was born, who she had married and when she had died. She told us that Mary was an author who had written extensively on temperance; and, her books were in public libraries and Sabbath-schools of the time. She was looking for temperance ledgers and other original documents that may have survived. It was this lady's wish that the world get to know Mary Dwinel Chellis Lund.

Not having heard this name before, my first inclination was to look in *Wheeler's History of Newport, N.H. 1761-1879*. As is the case in most instances, the genealogical section of Wheeler's History only has information on the men of the time. Luckily, when I looked up Lund, there was an entry for Stephen Frank Lund. It said that Frank, as he preferred to be called, had married Mary Dwinel Chellis on June 19, 1877, she was his third wife and she was 51 years old at the time.

The literature section of the *Wheeler History of Newport* showed a half page about Mary on page 145. She was a native of Goshen, born in 1826 and during the eleven (11) years that Mary lived in Newport she wrote twenty-six

(26) of the more than forty (40) books that she authored. Wheeler states that many of Mary's works were outstanding, for which she won valuable prizes. Mary also wrote poetry, dramas and articles for periodicals. The *Wheeler History of Newport* has a listing of some of the "more popular" works that Mary wrote.

This is about all of the information that could be found in Newport about Mary. I contacted the Goshen Historical Society, the Richards Free Library and several of the more active historians within the Newport Historical Society, Mary was unknown to all.

A search in the Maple Street Cemetery found the grave of S. Frank Lund and his first two wives, but I couldn't find the grave of Mary. I expect that she may have been buried in a family plot in Goshen. Mary died in 1891 and Frank died in 1906.

If anyone can help the Newport Historical Society gain information on this important lady from Newport's past, please contact us:

Newport Historical Society,
P.O. Box 413, Newport, N.H. 03773
email newporths1761@gmail.com
phone 603-863-1294.

YOUR DONATIONS ARE WELCOMED, TREASURED AND SHARED AT THE NEWPORT HISTORICAL SOCIETY!

Do you have something old, historical, or of Newport town interest? Do you have old photos of Newport or old postcards. Many people come to the Museum looking for an early picture of their home. Donate these treasures to the Historical Society, where they will be looked-after and shared with future generations. Donations are tax deductible and leave a lasting legacy .



The Newport Historical Society Museum Needs Your Help with an Interesting Project!

By
Larry
Cote

One of the ways that the Newport Historical Society supports the Museum is through sales of its historical books. We are lucky that Newport has a rich past and that our members both past and present have kept and donated documentation on our people and it's accomplishments.

One of the Museum's resources is a great diary from 1853 by Charles Emerson detailing his voyage from Boston around South America to San Francisco. The voyage is interesting; but, Mr. Emerson goes on to describe the jobs that he had while in San Francisco and how much he was paid. The diary ends with a note that the four Newport men who went on this journey of a lifetime met, and had dinner at the Newport House in the 1890's, making a great finish to the story.

The diary is a type written copy from the original. We do not know who typed it or who donated it to the Museum. We are looking for a volunteer to retype the diary in the digital format so that we may get it printed into a booklet to sell at our store. This serves two purposes:

- 1) it helps support the Museum,
- 2) it helps get the information out to the public about Newport's people.

It isn't an especially long diary; but, is detailed enough to keep it very interesting.

If interested, please call and leave a message at the Museum 603-863-3105 or call Larry Cote at 603-863-3105.

Help us Complete these Collections:

Newport Town Reports:

We do not know when the Town of Newport started to produce Town Reports. The oldest one that we have is 1883. We are looking for anything older than 1883. We also need 1888, the only issue between 1883 and 2012 that we are missing!

Sullivan County Reports:

Again we do not know when Sullivan County started to produce reports. The oldest issue that we have is 1879. We need anything older than 1879. We are also missing 1892, 1990, 2001, 2006, 2009 and 2010. These would complete our collection from 1879 to 2012.

Volunteer Opportunities with the Newport Historical Society

I would like to be contacted to volunteer in the following area(s):

Docent at the Nettleton House (open Sundays 10-2PM and by appointment) _____ *Docent training provided!*

Working at the Historical Society's Sales table at various public venues throughout the year _____

Bringing refreshments for monthly meetings _____ Writing/suggesting articles for the Newsletter _____

Providing/suggesting a meeting program (topic: _____) _____

Research projects at the museum, working with Museum holdings _____

Retyping Museum materials into digital format for publication _____

Assisting with cataloging and preserving Museum holdings _____

Mail to: Newport Historical Society, P. O. Box. 413, Newport, NH 03773

or call Christina O'Brien 603-863-6905

FROM THE TREASURER'S DESK: BY JACKIE COTE**Upcoming 2012 Membership Drive:**

Fall is fast approaching, even if we don't want to think of it! NHS's fiscal and membership year runs from October 1 to September 30; and, our Membership Drive begins each September. We currently have 203 members; extraordinary for a small town like Newport. Each year we hope that all current members will renew their membership; and, we look to grow our member ranks.

Thanks to the support of our members, we are able to preserve, protect and display the many wonderful donations of photos, school related items, uniforms, clothing, old kitchen utensils, furniture, documents, and ephemera of all kinds, from Newport's past.

Since its opening on October 5, 2011, our museum has been well received by all who have visited. Since 2007, we have published a quarterly newsletter, the printing costs of which have been donated by local merchants. NHS covers the mailing costs. We collaborate with Richards Library offering monthly programs related to Newport or the history of the general area. We have displays in WCNL's window and Lake Sunapee Bank, sharing photos of Newport with townsfolk. We are currently adding to previous documentation of our cemeteries. We are constantly looking for memorabilia related retail items to sell to fund our mission and operating costs of our museum

and building. All of these activities would not be possible without you, our valued members.

As in past years, our Membership Drive is aimed at renewing members and attracting new folks. As we ask for your support, we try to make the process fun by offering a raffle of gift certificates donated by local merchants who support our cause. Any new members or renewing members that have signed up by a date to be announced around mid November, will have their names placed "in the hat" and are eligible for the drawing that takes place at a Tuesday, Revite meeting (Newport Revitalization Committee). Any new members who have joined NHS in August or September 2012 will be considered a member for the next fiscal year, October 2012 to September 2013. You may use the form on this page to get a jump on a new membership or renewal or wait to receive the Membership Drive letter in September.

We look forward to seeing you at the Museum. We hope that you will make the decision to join us or renew your membership, as we continue to work diligently to make your Museum the best it can be and fulfill our mission to educate the public and preserve Newport's history.

**The Mill Town Messenger is published quarterly by the Newport Historical Society
P.O. Box 413, Newport, NH 03773**

Website www.newportnhhistory.org, Email newporths1761@gmail.com

Contributors to this issue: Cathryn Baird, Pris Hagebusch, Jackie & Larry Cote

Newport Historical Society Membership Form

Date: _____

New Membership _____

Renewal _____

Name(s): _____

Address/City/State/Zip: _____

Email: _____ Telephone: _____

Personal Membership Type: ____ Individual (\$15) ____ Family (\$25) ____ Junior (\$1)

Corporate/Business: ____ Bronze(\$25) ____ Silver (\$50) ____ Gold (\$75) ____ Platinum(\$100) ____ Diamond(\$100+)

Here's my additional donation to the: Museum \$____ Operating \$____ Buildings\$____ Cemetery \$____

Payment Method: ____ Cash ____ Check (Newport Historical Society) Total Enclosed \$____

Please mail to: Newport Historical Society PO Box 413 Newport, NH 03773