

NEWPORT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MILL TOWN MESSENGER

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Volume 11, Issue 1

January, 2017

From the President's Pen
by Cathryn Baird.....



John Hancock

1737-1793

Founding father, patriot and statesman, John Hancock is perhaps best remembered for his large, flowing signature on The Declaration of Independence. The term "John Hancock" has become synonymous with signature - one of the most recognizable signatures in the world.

January 23rd is John Hancock's birthday and in 1977 this date was declared National Handwriting Day. Unfortunately, the increased use of technology has decreased written communication. Penmanship has been eclipsed by digital font. Twitter, texts and email have served to degenerate the art of handwriting and personal contact.

And so I choose to write to all of you in cursive to express my gratitude to each of you for supporting the Newport Historical Society. I wish you all the courage of your convictions to achieve a healthy, peaceful New Year!

Cathryn

Meetings & Programs

All members and the public are invited to all meetings and programs.

BUSINESS MEETINGS: NHS museum, 6:30-8 PM Mon., Feb.13 - Mon. Mar.13 - Mon. Apr.10

PROGRAMS: Tue. Apr.4. 6:30-8:00PM

NH Cemeteries and Gravestones, by Glenn Knoblock. Richards Free Library Ballroom, 28 N. Main St., Newport, NH.

NEW!! AFTERNOON PROGRAMS:

12:30-2:00 PM, at the Newport Senior Center. Programs will be a mutual sharing of NHS photos, artifacts and stories, and those of area residents. Bring and share your treasures & tales.

Tue. Mar. 7 **Sawmills of Newport.**

Tue. Mar. 14 **On the Common.** How our Common has changed over the years.

Tue. Mar. 21 **250th Birthday Scavenger Hunt, Reprised.** Can you recognize the photos from this 2011 list of memorable local sights?

Tue. Mar. 28 **Store Fronts of Newport.** Local Businesses through the years.

ASSOCIATION OF HISTORICAL SOCIETIES OF NEW HAMPSHIRE AWARDS CELEBRATE LOCAL HISTORY SUCCESSES

The Association of Historical Societies of New Hampshire honored two outstanding projects at a recent ceremony. These awards pay tribute to outstanding examples of preserving, interpreting or promoting appreciation and understanding of an aspect of New Hampshire history.

"We feel that this awards program is an important way to thank people for their innovative and generous contributions, and to inspire others," said AHSNH Board President Heather Mitchell, who is the Executive Director of the Hopkinton Historical Society. "The two historical society projects that received awards this year are significant for their use of best practice and level of community involvement," she said.

"The projects brought in new visitors, new partners, and a new vision for the organization as to what could be done next," said Awards Committee Chair, Jennifer Carroll, Director of Education at the Historical Society of Cheshire County.

The 2016 winners are:

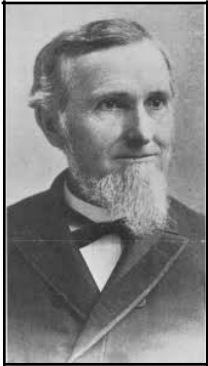
Madison Historical Society, an award for Public Education/Public Programming for *Wedding Dresses through the Ages*

Newport Historical Society, two awards:

1. Research and Documentation for the work that went into collecting and interpreting primary and secondary materials to create the book *Billy B. Van: Newport's Sunshine Peddler*, by Jayna Huot Hooper, and, 2. Public Programs for the accompanying program.

NEWPORT NOTABLES: Hervey D. Thatcher

by Larry Cote



Hervey D. Thatcher

Who was Hervey D. Thatcher and what did he do? *Wheeler's History of Newport, New Hampshire 1761-1878* only tells us that Hervey Thatcher, son of Calvin & Hannah (Meserve) Thatcher, was born in Newport on December 10, 1837 and was a Druggist in Potsdam, New York. We may have known nothing more about Hervey Thatcher had we not found an article from the **Argus-Champion** dated April 6, 1961 written by Major Sam H. Edes. In the article we are told that the Potsdam, New York Teachers' College named their new 500 seat dining hall in honor of Dr. Thatcher.

The article goes on to say that Hervey Thatcher was born in Newport, N.H. on Thatcher Hill (located in the southeast section of Newport accessed by Turkey Hill Road) and that he invented the milk bottle. Indeed, if you go to the internet and query "Who Invented the Milk Bottle" you will find several articles that state that Dr. Hervey Thatcher of Potsdam, New York invented the "milk bottle" or that he is "considered the father of the Milk Bottle". Like most things in history, you may find articles of differing opinions.

An article titled "*Some Milk Bottle History*" by Steven C. Scales states, "On March 23, 1880, the Warren Glass Works Co. of Allegheny, Maryland, patented a "Warren Milk Bottle: the first known milk bottle patented". The article also states that shortly after this Dr. Thatcher invented a covered milking pail to help eliminate mud and loose hair that was often found in 19th century milk. "In 1884 Dr. Thatcher invented what is probably the most famous milk bottle-the "Thatcher Milk Protector." Dr. Thatcher is also credited for several other inventions: a new baking powder, Thatcher's orange color butter patented in 1881 (the first vegetable butter color ever used in the United States placed on the market in 1860), the uniform milk bottle thickness so you were ensured that you got the quantity of milk that you purchased, the cast seat and reusable disc for the milk bottle and the "Milk Protector" which was a covered pail for milking.

Per local legend, Thatcher became interested in sanitary conditions in the milk trade when he observed a little girl drop a soiled rag doll into the open ten gallon container of milk that the milkman was using to deliver milk door to door. "Prior to the invention of the milk bottle, dairy wagons delivered 'loose' milk in large metal containers.

At each stop, the milkman would use a dipper to transfer milk from the cans to a housewife's pitcher".

In a letter written by Dr. Thatcher on July 1, 1919, he recalled a conversation with a local dairyman. "He said when he started to deliver milk in the morning, cream would rise to the top (the dip can) so that the first served got a surplus of cream, and as he each time removed the cover, some dirt from the street, some hair from the horse would each time sift into the milk, so that when he reached the last customers, they were served skim milk with all kinds of foreign matter that had sifted in while on his route."

Dr. Thatcher turned out a wooden mold on his lathe. He knew that advertising would be an important link in the success of his bottle invention. He took the wooden mold to a local wood carver, Henry Batchelder, who carved a scene of Dr. Thatcher milking a cow, using his covered pail. On the neck of the bottle was embossed "*Absolutely Pure Milk*" and, at the base of the bottle, the words "*Thatcher Milk Protector*", were embossed. (see photo)

Dr. Thatcher married Miss Olivia Adelaide Barnhart on October 4, 1865. Her brother, Harvey Barnhart, worked closely with Dr. Thatcher and was responsible for some improvements and marketing. Mrs. Thatcher died on September 14, 1912 and Dr. Thatcher died on May 24, 1925. He was living at an office in his factory after a fire at his home. A fitting footnote to the life of Dr. Thatcher reads as follows "Dr. Harvey Willey, who was a famous pure food expert, once said, "Thatcher's glass bottle did more to benefit the health of the human race than any other thing ever perfected in the dairy industry". This was also a man who calculated how much time it took to lace his boots and from that time on he never wore boots with laces!



Valuable antique. Have you got one?

Citations:

Wheeler's History of Newport, N.H. 1761-1879 by Edmund Wheeler

The Dating Game: Thatcher Glass Mfg. Co by Bill Lockhart, Pete Schulz, Carol Serr & Bill Lindsey

Some Milk Bottle History by Steven C. Scales

Thatcher's Milk Bottle by the Potsdam Public Museum

The Argus Champion, April 6, 1961, by Major Sam H. Edes

On the Life of Dr. Thatcher by William E. Sawyer

From the Treasurer's Desk, by Jackie Cote, NHS Treasurer

The Newport Historical Society Board ushered in 2017 by asking each member to choose a goal to pursue. My personal goal during 2017 is to encourage the business community in Newport to join the Historical Society, or, at the very least, to donate a business card, letterhead, or some other identifying souvenir from their business, to document their existence in our wonderful town. I will likely not be able to contact everyone during the year, and it will be an ongoing personal goal.

It is important that we acknowledge our November 10, 2017 Membership Drive Raffle winners with thanks and appreciation to the merchants who supported this endeavor. Merchants and winners of \$25 gift certificates are:

Dorr Mill Store – Mandy McMahon,
Kathan Gardens – Gerry LaValley,
Shaws Supermarket – Andrea Thorpe,
LaValley Building Supply – Marie Flint,
The Old Courthouse Restaurant -Donna Monroe.

We currently have 215 members and are diligently working toward a minimum of 256 members, as in 2017, Newport will celebrate 256 years since our Charter was issued. We hope to surpass this and again reach and exceed our membership-high count of 263 members, reached at the end of our 9/30/15 membership year. Sincere thanks to all who support this goal. Reminder letters have been mailed to last year's members who have not yet renewed their membership. For those who do not renew, this issue of the newsletter will be the last they will receive in the mail.

We also appreciate all who have supported us during the past year with purchases from our gift shop in the museum office or at several offsite venues from the end of May through Christmas. We try to provide books of historical interest and other useful gift items. Museum Director, Larry Cote, built two new risers for the product table in the office in his "spare time." The new, longer table and both risers extend from the end of the desk to the wall resulting in much more space to display our books and other offerings. Big thank you, Larry!

Since my October newsletter column, the Fundraising Committee has chosen two new ornament scenes for 2017—the *Little Red Schoolhouse* on Route 10 south and the *Sibley Highway Bridge* aka, "The Green Bridge" in North Newport. This bridge will be replaced within the next few years. These two ornaments will be available hopefully in June of this year. We also have 6 postcards of varying Newport subjects and more coming soon. In addition, two new books became available just before Christmas.

The latest addition to the NHS product line is handmade **Photo Pillows**, featuring photos of familiar scenes of Newport. These pillows are priced at **\$29.00** each. The pillow is designed with an "envelope closure" on the back so that the pillow inside can be removed and the outer cover can be hand-washed with care. Pictures of these may be seen on page 2 of this sheet.

The **Photo Pillow** subjects are:

by **Beth Rexford Photography** (postcard photos);

Skating on the Common,
the Corbin Bridge (Foliage side view)
Ice Rink at Twilight

by pillow designer, **Linda Davis**

Opera Hall Clock Tower,
First Baptist Church,
Corbin Bridge (Portal view),

by **Jonathan Ryba Photography**
Main Street Double Rainbow

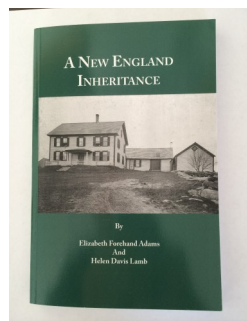
Photos of our new postcards are also pictured on the reverse side of this sheet along with our new photo note cards of **Skating on the Common**. Several new postcard scenes will be available soon. **Postcard prices are \$.50 each or 3 for \$1.00.** **Note Cards** are still priced at **\$5.00 for 5 cards with envelopes**. What a great way to share Newport with your friends when writing a quick note!

PHOTOS ON REVERSE SIDE OF THIS PAGE

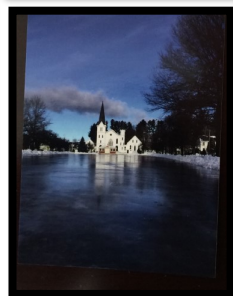
NEW ITEMS FOR SALE BY NEWPORT HISTORICAL SOCIETY



PHOTO PILLOWS: (in order) Opera House Clock Tower, Ice Rink at Twilight, Corbin Bridge (portal), Skating on the Common, Corbin Bridge (foliage side view), First Baptist Church.



NEW ITEMS ABOVE: New England Inheritance, & Written In Stone, new publications; *Skating on the Common* note cards; The Double Rainbow photo, soon to be available as a Photo Pillow and a Color Postcard.



NEW COLOR POSTCARDS

Skating on the Common
Corbin Bridge side view
Corbin Bridge portal view
Gazebo on Common
Corbin Bridge with foliage
Baptist Church on Common

Gift Shop area in Historical Society Museum



New risers and Pillow display

THE MUSEUM REPORT By Larry Cote, Museum Director

2016 was a good year for the Newport Historical Society's 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 year's 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 in 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 a safer environment for our collections.

We have started to organize our collections in the "Annex", our storage area above the Courthouse Restaurant. Funds have been donated to purchase wire frame rolling carts for this purpose. This will help us better preserve our collection and make it easier to locate items when we are changing displays. The cost for a wheeled rack with six shelves is approximately \$100.

Our membership is strong and we have a small, but dedicated group of volunteers staffing 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 mak-

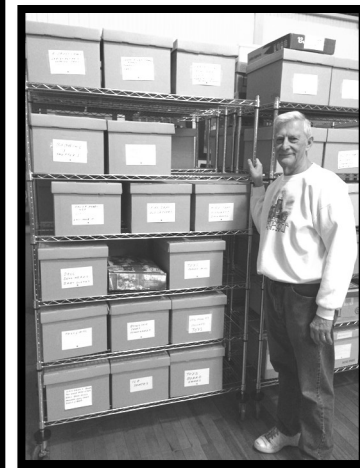
ing arrangements. A couple weeks notice is suggested. We welcome new members, and for those who wish to volunteer to staff the Museum on Sundays, training will be provided, which enhances your own understanding of Newport's past. We believe you will find it an enjoyable experience.

We are always accepting donations of Newport-related items, as we need a large inventory to be able to change displays every year. Call us at 603-863-1294 to arrange to make artifact donations outside of normal museum hours.

What is a Newport-related item?

- ⇒ Anything made in or by someone from Newport or something owned by someone from Newport.
- ⇒ Family photo archives. The Museum is a great place for your family pictures. Too many pictures of ancestors are thrown into the trash for various reasons, especially, lack of identification.
- ⇒ Newport postcards and photos of Newport through the years, are always welcomed.
- ⇒ 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?

We have several new items on our gift table (see the enclosed insert,) stop in to see what is new. A visit to the Museum, at 20 Central Street, is free, handicapped-accessible, and open on Sundays, from 10 AM to 2 PM. We believe you will enjoy it.



ROLLING CARTS MAKE ARTIFACT STORAGE EASY!

In the past 9 months your Society has purchased 17 wire-frame plated carts, 4' wide 6' tall with six shelves for organizing and storage of our artifacts at the Annex on the second floor over the Old Courthouse Restaurant. Being on wheels allows for easy moving.

Funds for 15 of the 17 carts were donated by the late Lt. Col. Tom Shadis, Newport Rotary Club, Jan McMahon, Class of 1960 and Louise Crone Russell. Thanks to all of you for making these purchases possible. Museum Director, Larry Cote could use at least 12 more carts. Donations for more carts, which cost \$100 each, would be greatly appreciated.

NHS Board Members: Cathryn Baird, Pres.; Jerry Hagebusch, V. Pres.; Larry Cote, Museum Director; Jackie Cote, Treas.; Jayna Hooper, Secretary; Priscilla Hagebusch, Arnie Hebert, Rita James, Laura McCrillis Kessler, Dean Stetson, Stan Sweeney, Arthur Walsh

TWO NEW ORIGINAL BOOKS FOR SALE BY NHS

by Jackie Cote

A New England Inheritance

by Elizabeth Forehand Adams & Helen Davis Lamb

This 205 page book is about the **Oliver Forehand family of Croydon, NH** and the **David Andrews family of Berlin, VT** whose oldest children, Lloyd Forehand and Elizabeth Andrews, met and married in 1870 in Iowa then moved to Kearney, Nebraska.

Part I chronicles **life on the Forehand Croydon farm**, including Oliver's travels by ship to the California gold fields for a period of four years. Particularly **interesting chapters** of this section are **# 7, Farm Routine & #8, Within the Home**, describing the life of a typical N E farm family.

Part II tells of the **Vermont Andrews family** who left N E by train in 1866 **traveling to the Colorado gold fields** where they lived for a year before settling in Grinnell, IA due to his wife's poor health.

Part III is the story of the **war years of Lloyd Forehand of Croydon**. Highlights of the section include his **Civil War enlistment** at age 16, **combat years-wounded twice**, assigned to **special guard duty** at President Lincoln's **White House**, **introduced** by Lincoln's wife, Mary, **to a confederate spy** (unknown at the time) whom **he married then divorced** a year later, **present at Ford Theatre** when the **assassination** occurred, **accompanied** the train with **Lincoln's body to Springfield, IL**, **traveled to Grinnell, IA** where he **met and married Flora Andrews** eventually settling in Kearney, NB.

Included are wonderful stories of life on the plains where they met other families from Croydon who had settled nearby. A fascinating book based on family diaries and verbal accounts, well worth your time! **Available from Newport Historical Society - \$15.**

Written In Stone

by Brenda Curtis and Mary Lou McGuire

This 78 page book is the result of a two year comprehensive study of Newport's Pine Street West cemetery, the oldest in Newport.

Quotes from Back Cover: "Inside this book you will find the history, art and science of an early New England graveyard. And, since the birth of many children who died an early death were not always remembered by future generations, there is unrecorded genealogical information inside this book."

Excerpts from Introduction: "When we decided to document the remaining stones in order to preserve their information, to our delight, we also embarked on an adventure with some of the most interesting individuals in early Newport history."

A portion of other interesting information includes Gravestone Art in the cemetery, stone carvers of the cemetery, early funeral customs, diseases and a map of the cemetery.

Thank you to Brenda and Mary Lou for the many hours of research, photographs and documentation contained in this historical book. **Available from Newport Historical Society - \$10.00**

The *Mill Town Messenger* is published quarterly by the Newport Historical Society
P.O. Box 413, Newport, NH 03773, Museum
phone number 603-863-1294

Website www.newportnhhistory.org Email newports1761@gmail.com Facebook [NewportHS1761](https://www.facebook.com/NewportHS1761)

Call the Museum number above for appointments to tour the Museum at alternative times

Contributors to this issue: Cathryn Baird, Jackie Cote and 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 \$ _____

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

Please mail to:

Newport Historical Society, PO Box 413, Newport, NH 03773