

NEWPORT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MILL TOWN MESSENGER

Volume 12, Issue 1

January, 2018

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

"America's doctors, nurses and medical researchers are the best in the world but our health care system is broken." ~Anonymous

Since the feature article of this newsletter is Dr. John Cain, who practiced in Newport during the latter part of the 19th century, it seemed appropriate to briefly reflect on the current state of healthcare. Does the healthcare delivery system need to be so complex and expensive? Back in days of Dr. Cain, the main impediment to accessing health care was whether or not the doctor could access the patient! Payment was not an issue. How times have changed. We've shifted from house calls by horse & buggy to virtual appointments via cyberspace. TV abounds with advertisements telling viewers what medications & treatments they need to request from their doctor but the real challenge is getting access to the doctor in a timely manner and then how to pay the bill. It's been said that in the future we will all be entitled to our 15 minutes of fame but we might not be able to access or afford 15 minutes of healthcare. Humorists have joked that a hospital bed is a parked taxi with the meter running!

So perhaps, as Lord Byron said in the 18th century, "Always laugh when you can. It is cheap medicine."

Meeting & Program Times

All members and the public are invited to all meetings and any of these free programs

BUSINESS MEETINGS:

6:30-8 PM, NHS museum,

Mon. Mar. 12

Mon. Feb. 12

Mon. Apr. 9

EVENING PROGRAMS:

6:30-8 PM Richards Free Library Ballroom

Tues. Apr. 10 Bill Bartlett shares stories and slides of his 1980 Iditerod run, the 1100 mile Alaskan dog-sled race!

THE WAKEFIELD FAMILY STAFFORDSHIRE CHINA, NOW ON DISPLAY AT NEWPORT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

History of their Family's Staffordshire 'Shanghae' Pattern Earthenware Dishes

by Judy Hurlbut Rogers & Dorothy Collins

Marcia A. Wakefield Kaler was born on December 16, 1845 to Sylvester and Louisa (Ryder) Wakefield and raised in Newport NH. To our knowledge she was the first in the family to own these beautiful dishes. Upon her death, she bequeathed these dishes, a "decorated tea set", to our mother, Goldena Hurlbut, Marcia's great-niece. Goldena was born on August 19, 1906 to Walter Ross and Eva Wakefield Ross. She lived her entire life in Newport and became "Citizen of the Year" in 1991.

These dishes have decorated our home all the time we were growing up. Mother loved these dishes. On special occasions we were allowed to eat birthday cake from the plates; but, only Mother could wash and dry them. At Mother's death, they went to the home of one of her Newport daughters, Dorothy Collins, who cherished them for the next 25 years. The appropriate place for them now is the Newport Historical Society Museum where they will have a home and everyone visiting can enjoy them.

These beautiful dishes were produced by Thomas Till, Sytch Pottery, Burslem, England. Some pieces were made prior to 1861, other pieces produced later. Info on these and other English pottery can be found at <http://www.thepotteries.org>.



Shanghae pattern



Display at NHS Museum

NEWPORT'S DOCTOR CAIN BY LARRY COTE

We have all heard the stories of our parents or grandparents having to walk five miles to school, and it was uphill both ways, or the ones about the old family doctor who made house calls. It appears the stories about Dr. John Leavitt Cain give credence to the stories of the old family doctor.

Dr. Cain was born in Goshen, N.H. on September, 26, 1856 to George Washington and Cynthia Jane (Leavitt) Cain. He grew up in Croydon, N.H. Like many children of the day, he attended the local schools and Kimball Union Academy. He attended Dartmouth College and Dartmouth Medical School and a post graduate class at Bellevue Medical College in New York City.



In 1883 he began his practice of medicine in Grantham, N.H. where he remained until 1887 when he moved to Newport, N.H. where he practiced and remained for the rest of his life. Here is where the legend of Newport's old family doctor begins. It is said that if you were down and not feeling well and met Dr.

Cain on the street, his keen wit and humorous stories put you on the track of recovery. He was often seen coming out of stores with his arms laden with food or clothing. When asked what he was doing with them, would reply, "Nice day, isn't it."; and, he would deliver the items to his patients who were in need.

He kept few records on what he was owed and instructed his wife to destroy any outstanding bills to the poor after his death. He often adjusted his fees downward when the poor approached him with payment for his services.

He kept two teams of horses and drivers. After he finished his day at the office, he would climb into the carriage and drive out into the countryside to visit the sick and poor. He instructed the sick to put a lamp in the window if they needed his help; and, he would stop and administer to

them. It is said that he would nap between stops and often return to his office just in time to start his day seeing patients. He is credited with delivering fifteen hundred babies into this world and it is said he never lost a child. A humorous story recited by Carl Bugbee of North Newport, "Dr. Cain was invited to supper and the man of the house was choking on a piece of meat lodged in his throat. Doc Cain



Dr. Cain's electric car in winter

went out to his buggy, got his whip and stuck the end of the whip down the mans throat, dislodging the meat and saving the man's life." Two accounts from the Argus-Champion Show Book: "Dr. Cain

was observed crawling on his hands and knees up a steep embankment on Summer Street with his black doctor's bag in hand trying to reach a sick patient." And, "Dr. Cain kept a patient who had severed his hand in a sawmill accident in his home during the first two weeks of his recovery". Now that is country medicine!

Dr. Cain's home is now the Newton-Bartlett Funeral Home. He had a small office in what is now the driveway. In later years he had a model "T" Ford and equipped it with skis and tracks so he could make his rounds in the winter.

Dr. Cain continued his practice of medicine until the Saturday before his death. He died on September 22, 1927.

Citations:

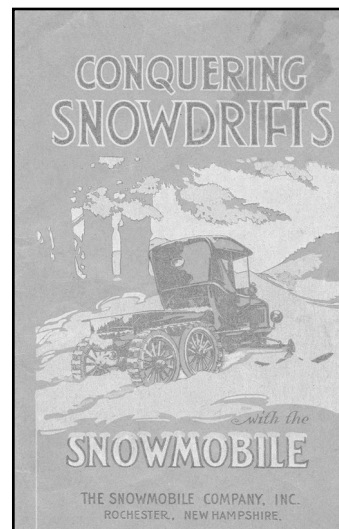
Carl Bugbee notes October 30, 1986

Argus-Champion Show Book

One Thousand N.H. Notables



Dr. Cain's home and Model T.



Manual for Dr. Cain's Model T.

Corbin Covered Bridge Event Announced- Spanning another Generation by Dean Stetson

The Corbin Covered Bridge was destroyed by arson on May 25, 1993. Newport residents voted overwhelmingly to replace the Corbin Covered Bridge with a replica of the original one-lane covered bridge. Less than 1 year after the commitment by the community and after 3 days of ox-drawn inching over the Sugar River, the bridge came to rest. 9,000 people came from all over New England to share in the three day event.



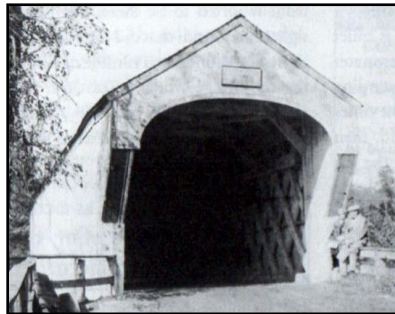
Soo-Nippi 1994 photo

October 2019 will mark 25 years since the Community of Newport came together to rebuild the bridge that stood guard over the North Branch of the Sugar River for approximately 158 years. The Newport Historical Society has begun preparations to celebrate this anniversary event.

Events at the site of the Corbin Covered Bridge are targeted for only one day -**Saturday October 13, 2019.** Additional community sponsored activities around the Saturday event at the Site will make ***"The Corbin Covered Bridge Festival"*** an event suitable for a weekend destination. The festival will also provide a venue to display our

local culture through "Living History" exhibits and community sponsored activities and provide an opportunity to showcase offerings and the skills of our local community artisans.

Organizational Meetings are usually held at the Newport Historical Society Museum. Dean Stetson is acting as



Corbin Covered Bridge as it once stood.

coordinator for the ***Corbin Covered Bridge Festival*** event. If you would like to join a committee, volunteer, support or sponsor, please contact Dean at 603-477-6277 or dean@advernuts.com.

Visit the Museum for additional information, our many publications and memorabilia about The Corbin Covered Bridge.

2017 MEMBERSHIP RAFFLE WINNERS

Every new or renewal Newport Historical Society membership is entered in a raffle for great prizes, provided by our gracious local merchants. Look for your 2018 letter!

LaValley \$25 gift card - Susan Connary, Huberts \$25 gift card - Diane Rochford,
Shaws \$25 gift card - Larry Britton, Grazi's/Newport Meat Market \$25 gift card - Nancy Meyer,
Courthouse Restaurant Sunday Brunch for Two—Dottie Collins

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.

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)

Here's my additional donation to the: Museum \$_____ Operating \$_____ Building\$_____

Life Membership (\$250) _____ (Never have to renew again!)

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

Please mail to:

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

THE MUSEUM REPORT by Larry Cote

2017 was a very good year for the Newport Historical Society Museum. 291 visitors signed the register. However, we feel that only about 50% of the visitors sign the register. Donations of artifacts were at an all time high at 123 individual donations. Some donations were for one item, while others numbered into the hundreds, totaling 1,667 items. Whether a single item or dozens, all donations are equally appreciated. It takes a very large inventory of items to be able to change displays in the museum once a year and not repeat a display for a period of five years.

This year we had the wall on the east side of the building capped with granite which greatly improved its appearance and longevity. We installed spotlight fixtures in both halls. All spotlights have been changed to the new L.E.D. bulbs improving the viewing of all displays.

In December we were told that the furnace/air conditioner located on the third floor needed to be replaced. It will be accomplished in January. The furnace in the basement is allowing us to remain open during this time.

Our current displays include:

- * A refreshed bedroom with many paintings by local artists
- * A basket display and some rare photographs
- * Two halls displaying more works by local artists
- * A refreshed kitchen display
- * A music display featuring manikins dressed in Newport High School Band uniforms, along with some rare photos depicting bands and music from Newport's past.
- * Both bathrooms have interesting displays.
- * The Champollion paintings are a permanent display with some changes to keep it refreshed.
- * The third floor Library/Reference Room is constantly being added to as donations come in.

We are always looking for volunteers to help host visitors on Sundays. We are open on Sundays from 10 AM until 2 PM except for holiday weekends. We can accommodate visits at other times by appointment. Call the Museum (863-1294), leave a message, and we will call you back. We invite school visitations including visits from children being home schooled. They will get a new perspective of Newport and its rich history.

THE TREASURER'S DESK by Jackie Cote

The winners of our Membership Drive Raffle are listed elsewhere in this newsletter. While renewals and new memberships have been strong, there are still several past members who have yet to renew. We need your help to keep us on track financially and insure our ability to sustain our past practices and programs. If you do not renew your membership, this January's newsletter will be the last that you will receive in the mail. Our total membership as of 9/30/17, the end of our membership year, was 275!

Profits realized from the sale of our Newport related products were strong during the 2017 calendar year. During the summer, we decided to release for special fundraising, nine of our retired/no longer available, hand-painted ornaments at a price of \$25 each. Included are the Courthouse, Richards School, Town Hall/Opera House, Richards Library, Mary's Lamb, Skating on the Common (all-time

best seller), special 250th anniversary ornament, South Church and Sarah J Hale. When we began offering these ornaments in 2006, we decided to set aside 10 of each to be released for sale in the future. If your collection does not include some listed above or if you have broken an ornament, now is the time to take advantage of this offer.

The Fundraising Committee is working on Corbin Covered Bridge Festival commemorative items for the October 2019 event. Specific information will be forthcoming in future newsletters.

In late December, we learned that the almost 20 year-old furnace-a/c unit that serves the second and third floor must be replaced. The scheduled date is January 17 at a cost of \$6,199. Specific contributions towards this unexpected expense would certainly be appreciated.

Wishing all a happy & healthy 2018!

Contributors to this issue: Cathryn Baird, Jackie Cote, Larry Cote, and Dean Stetson

The *Mill Town Messenger* is published quarterly by the Newport Historical Society
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Museum phone number 603-863-1294
Call the Museum number above for appointments to tour the Museum at alternative times.

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