

NEWPORT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MILL TOWN MESSENGER

THIS NEWSLETTER GENEROUSLY FUNDED BY LAKE SUNAPEE BANK

Volume 8, Issue 3

From the President's Pen . . .



by Cathryn
Baird

"A Toast or Sentiment very frequently excites good humor, and revives languid conversation; often does it, when properly applied, cool the heat of resentment, and blunt the edge of animosity. A well applied Toast is acknowledged, universally, to soothe the flame of acrimony, when season and reason oft used their efforts to no purpose".

J. Roach, *The Royal Toastmaster*, London 1791

Since the feature article of this newsletter is Colonial Taverns in Newport, it seems appropriate to reflect on the custom of toasting when drinking or "tippling". Alcohol formed an integral part of colonial life; it is estimated that there were more taverns per capita than any other business in colonial America. According to Alexander Hamilton, one was expected to keep pace with their hosts while in the tavern or risk insulting the surrounding company. One of the favorite pastimes was the raising of glasses in a toast. Research shows "To the King's health!" was probably the most common toast. To drink without drinking to the health of someone special was considered an act of incivility. Since a well memorized old toast or newly crafted sentiment is much more effective than the token "Cheers!" the following is a sampling of some toasts from the past for your consideration.

- *Here's to our ancestors! Without them where would we be?* ~Flagon and Trencher
- *Good company, good wine, good welcome, make good people.* ~Shakespeare
- *May you have the hindsight to know where you've been, the foresight to know where you are going and the insight to know you've gone too far.* ~Charles Meyers
- *Be always at war with your vices, at peace with your neighbors, and let each new year find you a better man.* ~Benjamin Franklin
- *Here's to your good health, and your family's good health, and may you all live long and prosper.* ~Washington Irving

So here is a toast to all of the supporters of the Newport Historical Society:

May you live as long as you want to and want to as long as you live!

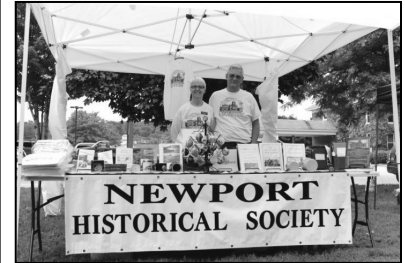


ECON President, Paul Brown, is shown accepting the check from NHS Treasurer, Jackie Cote, and President, Cathryn Baird.

FOURTH MORTGAGE PAYMENT MADE—ONE TO GO!

We are grateful for the opportunity to have purchased the Nettleton House that currently houses the Newport Historical Society Museum. With sincere thanks to ECON (Economic Corporation of Newport), we recently made our fourth mortgage payment.

On May 14, 2014, the Newport Historical Society hosted the Newport Chamber of Commerce "Business After Hours" event during which the payment was made. The final mortgage payment will be made in May of 2015.



Jackie & Larry on Chamber Day

Meeting & Program Times

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

BUSINESS MEETINGS

Held at the museum, 6:30-8 PM

Mon. Jul 14

Mon. Aug 11

Mon. Sept 8

Mon. Oct 13

PROGRAMS

**Tues. July 8, Forgotten Drinks
of Colonial New England** with
Corin Hirsh in The Old Court-
house tent, 6:00-8:00 PM.

**Tues. Aug 12, The History of
the Concord Coach** with Peter
James. Richards Library Ball-
room, 6:30-8 PM

Tues. Sept 9 - tba

Sorry about the time error on the June program!

THE TAVERNS OF NEWPORT

BY LARRY COTE

Tavern isn't a term that we use as much as the founders of Newport, N.H. did back in the late 1700's. Wikipedia defines, "... a Tavern as a place of business where people gather to drink alcoholic beverages and be served food, and in some cases, where travelers receive lodging. In the English language, a tavern was once an establishment which served wine whilst an inn served beer and ale. Over time, the words "tavern" and "inn" became interchangeable and synonymous".

From Wheelers History of Newport, N.H. 1761-1878, "Tradition says the first article of merchandise brought into town was a barrel of rum..."

In the first fifty years of the town of Newport (1761 to 1811) there were many taverns. A log cabin run by Zephaniah Clark, an inn-holder in 1767, is believed to be the oldest tavern in New-

port. Later David Lyons and Ruel Keith operated a tavern in the house built by Robert Lane very near the site of Clark's log cabin on what is now Unity Road but at that time was Main Street.



Lyons and Keith Tavern, on Unity Road

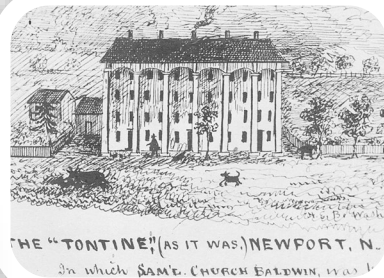
One of the first taverns is believed to be built and run by Benjamin Bragg in 1782. The first building made of logs was burned, and a two-story framed house was erected in its place and used as a tavern. It was located at what is now the northwest corner of the intersection of Pine and Elm Streets.

Perhaps the most famous tavern, the "Rising Sun Tavern" was built by Gordon Buell, in 1811 and is located two houses north of the South Congregational Church. The building still stands in its original location and currently has a lavender front. Sarah J. Buell gave up her private school to help her father run the tavern. It was here that she met David Hale, a new lawyer in town, who was staying at the tavern. They were married at the tavern. Of course, you recog-

nize the bride's name, Sarah Josepha (Buell) Hale! The term "Rising Sun" was a common name given to a tavern at the time.



Gordon Buell's Rising Sun Tavern, on S. Main



Luther Delano kept a tavern for a while at **the Tontine**, on the east side of the Common, approximately where the Methodist Church is located.

Hon. David Allen kept a tavern for many years at his place on the Goshen road. One of his sons, Ebenezer Allen, was the subject of a Mill Town Messenger, Newport Notable, February 2010, and was a very prominent figure in the history of Texas



The Allen Tavern, on Goshen Rd.

In 1798 Peter Wakefield kept a tavern near Baptist Hill in the north part of town known as Northville, now called North Newport.



Wakefield Tavern on Corbin Road

Many more taverns with their locations and proprietors are listed in "**Wheelers History of Newport, N.H. 1761-1878**" p76-78.

(Continued on Page 3)

THE TAVERNS OF NEWPORT (Continued)

Without large flat screen televisions and around the clock news, what did the early residents of Newport do at these taverns (aside from the obvious)? We can assume that they talked about local politics, the weather, crops, maybe about a fish they caught, a deer or bear they hunted for food for their family. They also may have worked tavern puzzles. It was common for the local blacksmiths of the day to bend and forge bands of metal into a mechanical puzzle where the pieces could be removed without force. They are reproduced today and still offer hours of fun. Sources: Wheeler's History of Newport, pages 76-78 and Wikipedia - Taverns.



Tavern Puzzles in NHS collection

FROM THE TREASURER'S DESK

By Jackie Cote

Your continued strong support of our Newport memorabilia sales boutique allows the profit from these sales to fund the operating expenses of the Nettleton House building.

We are excited to share with you many new items now available for sale at our Farmers Market booth, upcoming Apple Pie Craft Fair and at the Museum. The subjects of our two **2014 ornaments**, numbers 16 & 17, are the **Nettleton House** and the **Eagle Block**, home of Salt Hill Pub. Please be aware that **2014** is the last year for the **South Church** and **Sarah J. Hale** ornaments. All ornaments are boxed, bubble wrapped and the price remains **\$12** each.

The **Town Crock** has been redesigned by Salmon Falls Stoneware featuring an elderberry vine instead of a blue heart. The **quart crock** is **\$29**. We now offer a **pint crock** at **\$22**. Please see the recipe at the top of page 4 for a photo of both sizes.

Also new is set #3 of **12 vintage reproduction post cards** of Newport for **\$7** per set. Our third set of five assorted ornament proof **note cards** includes Parlin Field, Sarah J. Hale, Tiger Mascot, Train Depot and Firehouse and sells for **\$5**.

We have a new **Camp Mug** with the **Nettleton House** etched image available in cobalt blue, burgundy and hunter green for **\$12**. From the same company, we now offer a **14 oz heavy bottom drinking glass** with the etched **Opera House** image also for **\$12**. This is the same image that previously graced our Camp Mug.

"The Corbin Bridge" a children's book, authored by Sharon Christie is back, hard bound for **\$20**. In 1961 for Newport's 200th anniversary, Raymond Holden wrote a wonderful, lengthy poem about the settlement of Newport titled **"The Last Fire-Haunted Spark"**. With permission from Barbara Holden Yeomans, we offer this limited quantity literary work at **\$5** each.

THE MUSEUM REPORT

By Larry Cote

David Kittredge has finished replacing and re-pointing damaged bricks as needed on the Nettleton House Museum building. The majority of the damage was caused by back splash from water dripping off from the roof. The rain gutters we installed last fall should correct this problem in the future.

We are told both by David and the New Hampshire State Historic Resources that the bricks are a soft variety and were always intended to have a lime parging (white wash) covering. While we would like to retain the beautiful red brick appearance of the building, a close inspection reveals that in the past this building did have a lime parging protective coating. This will be investigated further.

A second water issue with the building was revealed when David removed some bricks on the East side of the building. The bricks were wet on the inside surface. He inspected the area for the cause and found that the asphalt between the building and the short wall separating us from the town's access to the parking lot behind the town offices is graded in a way that directs the water toward the building. If gone uncorrected, in time it will cause the brick foundation on this side of the building to fail. We are reviewing a very attractive offer to correct this problem as well as other solutions.

The last maintenance issue with the Museum will be window replacement. We are in the very early stage of investigating alternatives.

Museum visitation is picking up with several class reunions and a family reunion scheduling visits to the Museum. These are always fun.

Donations of artifacts are coming in and are always interesting such as a recent donation of a pair of 1890's Dutch wooden ice skates donated by Heidi Bartlett. They will look great in a planned Winter Carnival display.

(Continued on Page 4)

BAKING IN THE NEW TOWN CROCKS

Old-Fashioned Brown Bread in the new Newport Town Cocks!

Use the old rhyme:

2 of sweet, 1 of sour, 2 of meal, 2 of flour, 1 of Molasses to make it sweet, soda and salt to make it complete.

OR:

2 C. sweet milk

1 C. buttermilk (or sour milk)

2 C. yellow corn meal

2 C. rye flour or all purpose flour



1 C. molasses

1/2 tsp salt

1 tsp baking soda

Mix well, pour into greased cans (or the Newport Town Cocks) leaving a half inch space at top. Cover with foil and tie with string. Put in kettle of hot water, cover kettle and boil 2 1/2 to 3 hrs. Cool and shake out.

Recipe by Eva Robbins in "The Best Cooking in Newport" by the Society of Christian Service, Church of the Good Shepard, Methodist. Date Unknown.

(Note: Cut recipe in half, as this makes a LOT!)

Teddy Roosevelt White House Biscuit Tortoni recipe.

3/4 C. crushed almond macaroons
(D. Lazzaroni & Co. Amaretti are best—find at Co-op!)

3/4 C. cream

1/4 C. powdered sugar

Let these soak for an hour.

In mixer bowl, whip until thick but not stiff:

1 C. whipping cream,

1 tsp vanilla.

Fold into soaked macaroons and spoon into small cups. Top with a Maraschino cherry half (and maybe crushed almonds) and freeze until firm. Makes only 4 servings.

MAKE MORE!

From 1963 Edition of the *Joy of Cooking*

MUSEUM REPORT CONTIUED FROM PAGE 3: As always, we are looking for volunteers to cover the Museum on Sundays from 10 A.M. until 2 P.M. Training will be provided; and, you will find it interesting and rewarding. We are still looking for Newport High School Year Books, and Winter Carnival items. Surprise us with interesting donations of items from Newport's past! They all help to tell the story of Newport. What better place to archive your family's history than the Newport Historical Society Museum?

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

Museum phone number 603-863-1294

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

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

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 \$ _____ Building \$ _____

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

Please mail to:

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