

NEWPORT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MILL TOWN MESSENGER

THIS NEWSLETTER IS GENEROUSLY FUNDED BY NEWTON-BARTLETT/CHADWICK FUNERAL HOMES

Volume 9, Issue 3

July, 2015

From the President's Pen

by Cathryn
Baird

*"Between the optimist and pessimist the difference is
droll. The optimist sees the doughnut, the pessimist the hole!"*

~Oscar Wilde

*"As you travel down the road of life whatever be your goal,
Keep your eye upon the doughnut and never on the hole."*

~ Lula Purdy Nelson

This quote of anonymous origins has been paraphrased by many including my grandmother, Lula, who often repeated it to me when as a youngster I watched her make her delicious buttermilk doughnuts. Although I inherited her optimism, I must admit, that I was initially pessimistic when I first heard that Dunkin Donuts was relocating to the Arlington Sample building on Main Street. The loss of the giant maple tree that had graced Main Street for so many years would surely have a negative impact on the landscape. Well, I've eaten my words, as well as a few doughnuts; but we all know that the holes have no calories!

Welcome Dunkin Donuts!

SAMPLES FROM POSTCARD SET #4, NEWPORT'S COVERED BRIDGES

(Bridge name answers found in Treasurer's report on page 3)

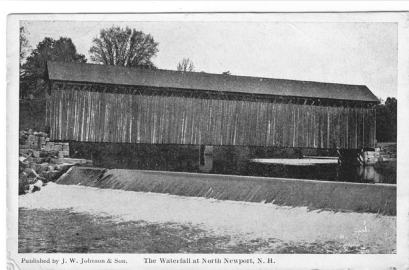
Newport Historical Society's reproduction vintage postcard set of Newport Covered Railroad and Road bridges, out soon, will include these two pictures:



This covered bridge was located between North Newport and Kelleyville crossing the Sugar River. What was its name? Hint: The street sign bearing its name is located in Kelleyville on the right just before the highway bridge.



This beautiful railroad covered bridge was located in North Newport just north of the current "Green Bridge". The picturesque wooden dam in the picture eventually rotted and was washed away.



Published by J. W. Johnson & Son. The Waterfall at North Newport, N. H.

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. July 13

Mon. August 10

Mon. September 14

Mon. October 12

PROGRAMS:

Tues. July 14

"A Soldier's Mother Tells Her Story" presented by Sharon Wood. Richards Free Library Ballroom, 6:30-8 PM

Tues. August 11

History of the local DAR Reprisal Chapter, Summercrest, 6:30-8:00 PM

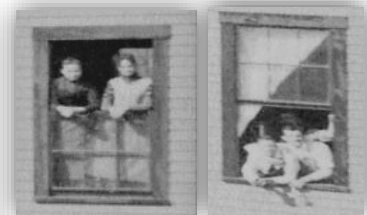
Tues. September 8

Claremont & Concord Railroad, presented by Bruce Davison. Richards Free Library Ballroom, 6:30-8 PM

Sun. October 11

Newport Birthday Celebration with New Museum Displays. Nettleton House Museum, 20 Central Street, 10AM to 2PM.

Newport Shoe Company workers
in company photo, taken 1890+



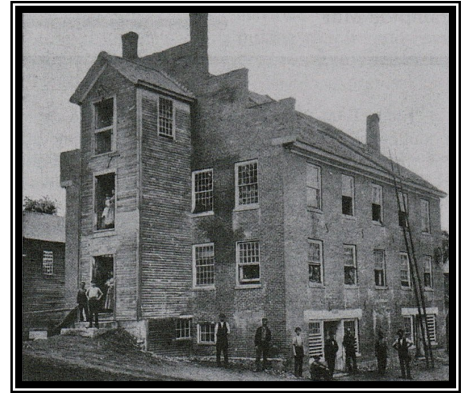
See article on pages 2-3

THE DIAMOND MILL, by Larry Cote

The Diamond Mill building sat on the corner of South Main Street by the bridge and the west end of River Street. It was built in 1836 for a machine shop; history is vague as to how long it was used as a machine shop. We do know that between 1838 and 1850 Newport had a silk industry and the fabric was produced for a time in the Diamond Mill Building.

Amos Little, a Newport hatter, (*see April 2015 Milltown Messenger for more information*) also dabbled in politics. In 1843 it is said that he attended a session of the Legislature in Concord, New Hampshire dressed from head to foot in silk garments made from Newport silk fabric.

In 1867, the Diamond Mill Building was converted to produce flannel cloth, the machinery supplied by Jordan & Marsh of Boston, Ma. In 1876 the machinery was moved to the Granite State Mill in Guild. In 1881 it was converted to manufacture "Satinet" cloth which is similar to Satin. In 1882 it was again converted to produce "Shoddy" which is similar to Muslin.



*The Diamond Mill building,
built in 1836*



Newport Shoe Co., after 1890

tion. It appears that the building had been remodeled and enlarged as seen in the accompanying pictures. See Insert photos of some of the people in windows on page 1.

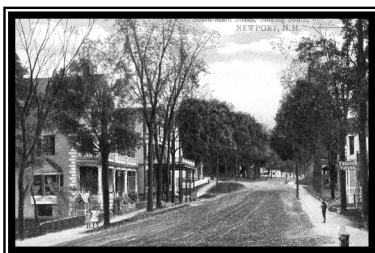
In 1906 the Brampton Woolen Company was founded and they purchased the old shoe shop. It would appear that the building was again remodeled and enlarged to a three story building about this time.

A new steel and cement building was built on the South side of River street in 1946. To make room for this new building, the Hubble & the Howard Blocks were razed. These two buildings had been rooming houses under many different names over the years: the Hub Hotel, the Sugar River Inn, the Brampton Inn to name but a few. The Brampton Woolen mill ceased operation in 1970.

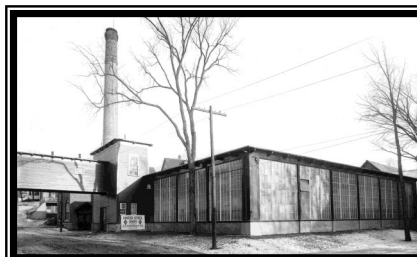
The Diamond Mill building was sold in 1885 and converted to making shoes. In 1887 the Knipe Shoe Company was established and operated in the Diamond Mill building. The Knipe Shoe Company changed its name in 1888 to The Newport Shoe Company. The old Diamond Mill building had become an eye sore and was razed in 1890. A new building was built upon the old loca-



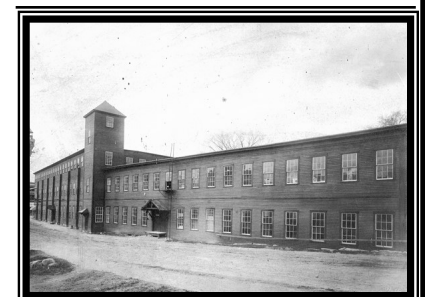
*1906 remodeling by Brampton
Woolen Company*



*Rooming houses on South Main St.,
razed for the 1946 Brampton expansion.*



*1946 steel & cement addition to back of the
Brampton brick building*



*Back side of 1906 Brampton
Woolen Company building*

THE DIAMOND MILL, (Continued) by Larry Cote

In 1971, The Arlington American Sample Book company purchased the old Brampton Mill complex. The oldest buildings along the river were razed in 1972. Arlington Sample Book ceased operation in 2007 and the building was sold in 2012.

During the past year, the older buildings in the back, the office area in the front and a small addition on the south side were removed along with the huge, old tree in front, making way for 2015 renovations! Today, Newport has a beautiful "New" building featuring **Dunkin' Donuts**, with space for several other businesses!



Brampton office building in 1950's



Citations:

Wheeler's History of Newport, N.H.
1761-1878 Edmond Wheeler

1961 Bicentennial Booklet

Celebrating Community Newport, N.H.
1761-2011 Jayna Huot Hooper

FROM THE TREASURER'S DESK

By Jackie Cote

We are thrilled to report that all 23 replacement windows have been purchased and installed and all pledges have been paid! Once the new windows have been painted, brass plaques with the donor's name will be attached to the window sills. A huge **THANK YOU** to all who made this project possible including LaValley Building Supply for working with us on the windows purchased. During the replacement process, we discovered that at some point carpenter ants had gained access to the window in the Corbin/Champollion gallery on the first floor. Based on recommendations from the exterminator, the grass will be removed from the area next to the foundation and replaced with stone.

The NHS now has 261 members, exceeding the 254 member goal for this year! Why 254, you ask? This year is Newport's 254th anniversary of its founding in 1761. Your membership is vital to our continued mission of preserving our Town's history.

New items for sale:

- The new ornaments for this year, *Towle High/Elementary School* and the *Newport House*, are now available.

- We have obtained a supply of two new (to us) books, donated by Joyce LaPorte. Joyce's husband, Richard, spent his early years growing up in North Newport. He subsequently became a Bush Pilot and guide flying fishing and hunting groups in his converted Cessna seaplane into far northern Quebec and Alaska. These books, titled *The Adventures of a Bush Pilot* and *The Adventures of a Bush Pilot II* contain a compilation of short stories of Richard's escapades and harrowing incidents. Each sells for \$10.
- Set #4, of 12 different Newport reproduction vintage postcards, featuring the Highway and Railroad Covered Bridges of Newport, will be available soon. A sampling (*the Ayers Covered Bridge* and *the Sibley Railroad Covered Bridge*) appear on page 1.
- We have a limited quantity of "**Town of Newport**" tee shirts, long sleeved tees and sweatshirts in beige with sizes medium, large and X-large. Prices are \$10 for tees, \$13 for long sleeved tees and \$16 for sweatshirts. These shirts are going fast at these great prices, so don't delay if you think you want one.
- All items can be purchased at the museum on Sunday, or at the Farmers Market, on Friday from 3 to 6 pm. Thanks so much for helping support our Museum building!

MUSEUM COMMITTEE REPORT

By Larry Cote

The 23 new windows have been installed in the Museum. The wood outside around the windows has been wrapped with white aluminum making the outside maintenance free. We are hiring a painter to paint the inside of the windows, as they are faced with wood, primed and ready for the final coat.

The 100th anniversary of the Newport Winter Carnival will occur in 2016. We believe that Newport has the oldest continuously held winter carnival in the country. Others may have started before Newport; but, for one reason or another skipped a year or so in between. With that in mind, the Historical Society is planning on a winter carnival display and is putting out a call for winter carnival related items.

Our oldest winter carnival pin-backed button is from 1941. Does anyone know if this is the first year that buttons were used for the Newport winter carnival? If you have the answer, please call the museum at 603-863-1294 and let us know. To complete our collection, we are looking for winter carnival buttons from 1943 through 1957. If you can help fill out this collection, it would be most appreciated.

We have one Princess Crown that was donated last year. If you have a Queen or Princess Crown and are willing to donate or loan it for the year, it would really help make an interesting display. The crown with a photograph of the recipient would make a great display.

As always, the Museum is open on Sundays from 10 AM until 2 PM or by appointment. For an appointment, please call the Museum at 603-863-1294, leave a message and we will get back to you.

We always invite class reunions to make a visit to the Museum as part of their festivities. You may just learn something about your town that you didn't know. We are looking forward to having the Class of 1965 visit in August. Have a great summer.

Remember, a gift of a Historical Society membership gives twice, once to the recipient, and second to the Historical Society's mission of preserving Newport's past.

Excerpt from the August 30, 1872 edition of the NH Argus & Spectator quoted exactly as it appears:

Corbin's Wines *From Connecticut Grape.*

Recommended by Doctors for the debilitated. Sought for communion services. Made by the subscriber at Newport, N. H. A pure article equal to any on the market. Also for particular purposes, the Elder and Blackberry Wines.

AUSTIN CORBIN
Newport, June 18, 1872

**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 Facebook [NewportHS1761](https://www.facebook.com/NewportHS1761)

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

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**