

NEWPORT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MILL TOWN MESSENGER

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July, 2013

From the President's Pen . . .



by Cathryn Baird

"A man builds a fine house and now he has a master and a task for life; he is to furnish, watch, show it, and keep it in repair the rest of his days." ~ Ralph Waldo Emerson

As president of the Newport Historical Society, I was recently honored to make the third mortgage payment on The Nettleton House, home of the NHS Museum and a "second home" to 228 society members. This "fine house" was built around 1826 and is a showcase of treasures from Newport's past.



Cathryn Baird presents the third mortgage payment on the Nettleton House, to Town Manager, Paul Brown, representing the Economic Corporation of Newport, as Jackie Cote beams happily in the background.

Consider what your ownership role might be. Do you have items or pictures that would enhance the furnishings? Could you volunteer a few hours as a docent to show the historical artifacts? Can you invest time to help with ongoing maintenance or repairs? With community support, Newport's home and heritage will be kept in repair and preserved for future generations.

Thank you ECON for giving the Newport Historical Society the opportunity to have such a "fine house" and consider making The Nettleton House your "second home!"

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. 8

Mon. Aug. 12

Mon. Sept 12

PROGRAMS

July, No program

Tues. Aug. 13, 6:30-7:45PM

Larry Cote presents "Historic Postcards of Newport," a talk and showing from his extensive postcard collection.

Sun. Sept. 15, 1:30 PM

"A Walk Back Through Time", starts at the green metal bridge on Oak Street, in "North" Newport. See registration insert for details.

PHOTOS OF OLD NEWPORT SERIES:

THE HURD BLOCK

By Larry Cote

Pictured is the Hurd Block circa 1900/1910. It is named for Carlton Hurd, an early Newport druggist. For the better part of seventy years this building was the home to a succession of drug stores. This photo is of F.E. Bronson Drugs. The last pharmacy was Towne's Sugar River Pharmacy. Today it is the home of Alden of Sunapee. It is interesting to follow the name succession for a block. You have the historic name, in this case "Hurd's Block", before that, it was known as Little's Block. Sometimes a block or home is known by its "historic name" and other times by the latest owner or tenant of that building. As pictured, the Hurd Block has a mansard roof, today it has a flat roof, an effort to "modernize" the look of the building.



F. E. Bronson Drugs, in the Hurd Block, where Alden of Sunapee now stands.

THE LEGEND OF TIPPING ROCK

by Larry Cote



TIPPING ROCK
APPROX. 7 1/2 FT. TALL

On the southeast corner of Oak Hill in the town of Newport, New Hampshire, lies a large boulder known in the area as "Tipping Rock" also called "Balancing Rock". It was known by our

ancestors from the late 1700's through the early 1920's and was the site of many picnics. While this "onion shaped" boulder is the size of a small bulldozer, it can be rocked with the efforts of one person.

Sometime in the late 20th century, Oliver "Ollie" Kathan, upon whose property this boulder sits, was visited by a few Native Americans from the Dakota region of the United States, who had heard about this rock. They approached Ollie and asked if they could see the boulder in question. They commenced to tell Ollie that pre-historic Native Americans had placed that boulder in that exact location. They told Ollie that there must be some pointed rocks nearby. Ollie told them there were and took them to the rocks which were about 50 feet away. They told Ollie that the Native Americans would stand these three stones up forming a "Tepee" and would light a fire in front of these stones. They told Ollie that there must be a basin that held water nearby. Ollie took them to a place 10 feet from the boulder and told the Native Americans that he had filled in a hole in the granite ledge with dirt. The basin was about four feet square and two feet deep.

The Native Americans said that their ancestors would place the Chief in the granite "Tepee" with a fire in front of him until he was about to pass out from the heat, they would then dunk him into the water and place him on top of the boulder. The Native Americans said that in this state the Chief could foretell the future from visions that he would see.

The Native Americans said that there must be another large boulder not too far away. Ollie told them that



POINTED ROCKS
NEAR THE TIPPING
ROCK



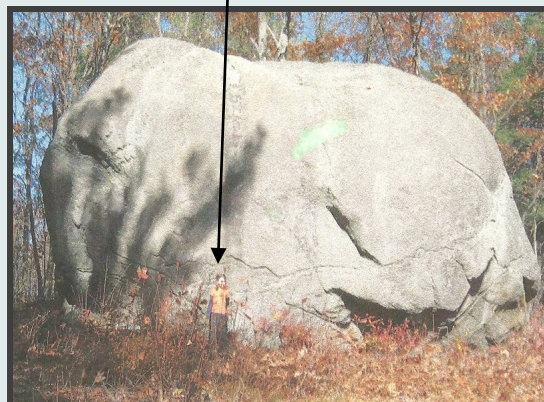
ROCKS FIT TO
MAKE A SMALL
TEEPEE

"Elephant Rock" was on Pike Hill about a mile away. They told Ollie that their ancestors would stand on these boulders to signal each other.

If I had not seen the three pointed rocks and the basin in the granite ledge, I would have dismissed this as folklore. However, because the Native Americans had never been there before and told Ollie that there must be the other geological features nearby, it makes one wonder!

ELEPHANT ROCK

Elephant Rock, on Pike Hill, is a mile away from the Tipping Rock. Here, a girl stands at the base to



THE EDGELL CONNECTION:

George Stephen Edgell, and the Knolls

by Larry Cote

George Stephen Edgell was born in St. Louis, Missouri on July 2, 1847. After graduating from Dartmouth College in 1870, he returned to St. Louis and was engaged in the steel business for several years. George married Isabella Corbin, the second daughter of Austin Corbin and Hannah M. Wheeler. George and Isabella had three children; Corbin, Stephen Maurice and George Harold. They moved to New York City and George entered the Corbin Banking Company, of which his father-in-law was the head. George later became the President of the Manhattan Beach Company, better known as Coney Island. He was the Secretary, Treasurer and a Director of the Blue Mountain Forest Association, known in this area as Corbin Park. He was President and Director of the Marginal Railroad Company, President and Director of the Marine Railroad and Vice-President and Director of the Mercantile Finance Company.



His country home was known as "The Knolls" (above). which was located on the Croydon Turnpike, now NH Route 10, north of town, across from Parlin Field. The large red and white barn known today as the Sichol barn was part of the Knolls property.

In 1902 when visiting Newport, President Theodore Roosevelt was the guest of George & Isabella at The Knolls. The house was dismantled in 1926. George died on October 8, 1915 and is interned in Woodlawn Cemetery in New York City.



Welcoming President
Roosevelt to the Knolls.

THE MUSEUM REPORT

by Larry Cote, Museum Director

VOLUNTEERS: Thank you to the volunteers who staff the Museum on Sundays: Cathryn Baird, Jackie Bell, Dotty Collins, Larry Cote, Priscilla Hagebusch, Jerry Hagebusch, Virginia Irwin, Rita James, Laura Kessler, Christina O'Brien, Liam O'Brien, Susan Ordway. Regular Docent Training is held for members who wish to help with staffing the Museum's Sunday hours. The docents report that it's fun to share our lovely museum with visitors. Come join them!

DONATIONS: We would like to thank the ten people who have made donations to the Museum since the last newsletter. Our collection continues to grow, in quality and quantity, thanks the generous donations from the Newport community. Call Biddy Irwin, 603-863-1294 to become a docent.

Stan Sweeney, ten Newport business related items,

The Edgell Family, 43 Edgell/Corbin family items,

Ann St. Martin Stout, a copy of her photo book of members of the Newport Greek community,

Barbara Kvetcovsky, 11 Newport School Year Books,

Dick & Joan Hastings, business-related items,

Anne Kathan, 12 old hand tools,

Dan Budd, a US postal workers badge,

Virginia & Peter Irwin, 44 Soo Nipi magazine back issues,

Linda Morrow, seven old Newport postcards,

Pris Hagebusch, a 1960 American Flag.

PURCHASES: We purchased an early hand-cranked bread maker and a beautiful oak icebox, for display in our museum's kitchen. Stop by and see these new items.

NEEDS: We are still looking for: Newport School year books from the 1950's & 60's; Newport business directories; old photographs of the businesses along Sunapee Street; as well as more family genealogies, histories and photographs.

We would love to have some nurse's uniforms and caps from the past, for a planned future exhibit of medical items, as donations or on loan

WALKERS: Newport Historical Society participated in the Turning Points "Steppin' Up to End Violence" fund-raiser walk on Sat, April 20 in Claremont.

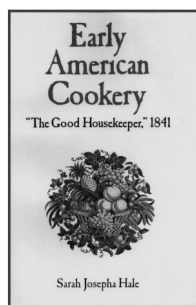
Pictured walkers are Rita James, Laura McCrillis Kessler, Cathryn Baird, Larry and Jackie Cote, Virginia Irwin, and Jerry Hagebusch.



FROM THE TREASURER'S DESK by Jackie Cote

NEW SALES ITEMS FOR 2013

- ◆ The 2013 ornaments pictured in the April newsletter, Parlin Field and Newport Tiger, are now available for sale. The price on all of our ornaments is still \$12.00 boxed and bubble wrapped. The box is sturdy enough for the ornament to be mailed and the bubble wrap protects it well.
- ◆ New this year is a Sarah Josepha Hale cookbook, *Early American Cookery (Good Housekeeper) 1841*, soft cover, 144 pages giving the reader insight into recipes and the "how to" of the 1800's. The price is \$10.00.
- ◆ A new set of Vintage Post Cards from Museum Director, Larry Cote's, personal collection, will be available soon and still priced at \$7.00 for a set of 12.
- ◆ We are also working on a new set of five note cards of the Parlin Field ornament scene priced at \$5.00.
- ◆ We are most excited about the new tee shirt design that will be available for the July 5 Farmers Market. The white tee shirt with graphics in color is pictured



here. The price will be \$17.00 for medium, large and X-large, and \$20.00 for 2X-large. Sweatshirts will be offered later this summer.



We hope that you will visit our booth at the Farmers Market and on August 24 at the Apple Pie Craft Fair. Our full assortment may also be purchased at the Museum on Sundays from 10 AM to 2 PM.

The contractor for our museum roof replacement project will be chosen at our July 8 Board meeting. Cost of the project will be met from our current funds.

Our annual membership drive will begin in September with our usual raffle drawing available to all new and renewing members. Several of you have already renewed your membership for the October 1, 2013 to September 30, 2014 membership year. See my note in the left margin, if you have already renewed. We currently have 228 members, for whom we are thankful. Have a great summer!

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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 & 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 Categories: ____ 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