

NEWBURY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Newsletter Volume 5, No. 2 Summer, 2008

Newbury's Making History!

As reported in the Society's Winter 2008 *Newsletter*, the Town History Subcommittee has held a series of meetings over the past several months to determine the best format for undertaking a town history. Input from the more than 30 town residents attending the meetings suggested that a formal, detailed history would depend on access to the collections housed in Sherman Hall, which will undergo a project to re-house, inventory and catalog these materials over the next couple of years. Meanwhile, the residents agreed, it is important to capture oral histories and pictorial records before they are lost to time.

Meeting attendees enthusiastically supported the proposal to work with Arcadia, a publisher of town histories that uses period images and photographs to tell the story of a particular town or region. The subcommittee would gather the images and write chapter introductions and picture captions. Arcadia would bear all costs of publishing and prepare publicity and marketing plans. The Historical Society would receive royalties from the sales of books and a related package of period postcards.

A formal book proposal with sample images and text was approved by the Historical Society last winter and was sent to Arcadia. The proposal was accepted and a Memorandum of Agreement was signed with Arcadia in April. The completed book will be in their hands for production work by early December, 2008. This timing is ideal, since it will allow us to have books in hand to market for the 2009 spring and summer season with its increased traffic and local special events such as Old Home Day, the Craftsmen's Fair, etc.

The book, which will be titled *Newbury*, will cover the town's history from the time of incorporation (1778) through the Bicentennial (1978). Through its more than 200 images, it will tell the story of Newbury from its earliest days of settlement, the establishment of early
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George Blodgett

President's Message

This is the first time we have used the *Newsletter* to announce our annual meeting and membership renewal. Please check out our meeting date and read the news.

Great things are happening with our cataloging project. We will have the organizing done this year and the data entry next year. We have been able to reduce the costs to some extent, but it is still an expensive project. Donations for this effort will be gratefully accepted.

Our earliest existing town book has been completely restored. Microfilmed copies may be used at the State Archives on S. Fruit Street and the State Library on Park Street in Concord. This preservation project has been made possible through funds received from the sale of the Moose New Hampshire Conservation Plate and administered by the N. H. State Library, a division of the N. H. Department of Cultural Resources.

The Society is coming alive and exciting things are happening. Come and join us.

Bill Weiler, President

Newbury's History continued

farms and community buildings, the attraction of Lake Sunapee and Mount Sunapee, the wonderful era of railroads and steamboats, the settlement of Blodgett's Landing, the impact of the automobile, the development of town government and businesses, and the Bicentennial celebration.

The History Subcommittee is fortunate to have access to photographs in the Historical Society's extensive collection, as well as many which residents have brought to our meetings. If you have any photos covering the topics mentioned above which you would like to share for this project, please contact Dennis Pavlicek (townadmin@newburynh.org) or Bill Weiler (w_weiler@conknet.com). If you have original pictures in good condition and would like to lend them to us for several months, the publisher has promised they will be returned. If you prefer, we can copy your pictures and return them without delay. All pictures which are used in the book will be given proper attribution.

Those who have attended our meetings share our excitement that Newbury will soon be taking its place in the "Images of America" book series. We believe that all of our residents, their friends and families, and tourists who love this area will treasure this visual record of our town.

Shelly Candidus and Dennis Pavlicek

Thank You to our Business Members!

Please join us in expressing your appreciation to our Business Members:

**Lake Sunapee Dawgz
New Hampshire Historical Society
Pat Sherman
Sunapee Glassworks (Robin Seabolt)**

The Newbury Historical Society Web Site Coming Soon!

With the enthusiastic support of the Newbury Historical Society's Board, at the meeting held on May 1, a committee was formed to implement a website. Members of the committee include Bill and Margie Weiler, Rich Cole and Bruce Healey. The purpose of the site will be to showcase, record, and promote the history of Newbury and make this information accessible to the public through web technology.

The committee has plans to meet May 22nd to begin preliminary discussions about the creative process and content required by the site. Additionally, and hopefully at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Historical Society, the website committee will meet with the Board and other members of the Historical Society to discuss any suggestions they may have relative to the site's objectives, content, look and feel, and functionality. Given this "input", the committee will then begin the work necessary to develop a website that will educate and engage our community in our history.

Finally, if you have local historical artifacts, records, collections or pictures, and you are willing to share and preserve them using web technology, we would greatly appreciate the opportunity to discuss these items with you. My e-mail address is: behealey@aol.com or my home phone number is 938-5865.

Bruce Healey

The Newbury Cane

The cane honors the eldest resident in the Town of Newbury. The most recent recipient, Helen Appleby, has moved out of town so the Historical Society is currently seeking suggestions for this honor. Please send nominations to Deane Geddes, 763-5104 or e-mail flyinggoose@verizon.net.

**Newbury Historical Society
Annual Meeting
July 20, 2008, 2:00 pm
Newbury Town Office Building**

The program for this year's annual meeting, *Rural Free Black Settlements in Post-Revolutionary New Hampshire: A Study of Six Towns*, will include information about families in Goshen, Lempster, Newport, Sutton, Warner and Newbury.

Our presenters will be Lynn Clark, formerly with the New Hampshire Historical Society and Rebecca Courser, Executive Director of the Warner Historical Society and graduate student in the Heritage Studies Program at Plymouth State University.

Clark, who holds a PH.D. in anthropology from Binghamton University, developed an interest in the state's black history while curator of a small museum in Newport. She joined forces with Courser when they realized their research was overlapping.

A brief business meeting will precede the program and light refreshments will follow. Come join us for another interesting journey back in local history.

Proposed By-Law Change

As the Society grows and takes on more projects, it is going to need a stronger financial foundation. With that in mind, the board of directors voted to present a new dues schedule to the members at the annual meeting. The new rates, effective in 2009, are as follows:

Individual	\$10
Family	\$20
Business	\$50
Life Membership for an individual	\$200

A majority vote by the members present is needed to approve the increase.

**Collection Rehousing and
Cataloging Project**

We were delighted that the voters at the March Town Meeting approved our request for funds to support this phase of our long-term project to improve how our collection is stored and to gain better access by generating a computer catalog of our holdings. This May and June a group of archivists from Museum Collector Resource will be working in Sherman hall on the first phase, which consists of badly-needed rehousing of the materials and generation of an inventory. We were fortunate to be able to purchase almost all of the needed supplies with unexpended funds from the Moose Plate grant to conserve Book C. This has reduced the required Society expenditures by about \$3,500. We also will reduce MCR's travel costs by having them stay at the Weiler house for two nights each week. They will be here on Tuesday through Thursday each week from May 20th until about July 2nd.

The MCR archivists visited us in March to make detailed plans for their work. Among other things, they have recommended that we replace the file cabinets in the vault with steel mesh shelves and store the documents in boxes rather than file folders. The supplies we purchased include the shelves as well as the boxes and many other items.

Historic House Markers

The Historic Marker Committee has mailed letters and applications to ninety nine additional prospective residences in Newbury, and anticipates that 5 - 8 more historic buildings will received this designation by the end of the year. Special thanks to Rich Cole who is making the plaques for each qualifying structure.

Contact any member of the committee by July 15th if you believe that your home was built prior to 1900.

Diana Morris, Judy Healey and Rich Cole



Newbury Historical Society
P. O. Box 176
Newbury, NH 03255

NHS Board of Directors

Term expires June, 2008:
Shelly Candidus, Dennis Pavlicek & Barbara Steward

Term expires June, 2009:
Deane Geddes, Margie Weiler & William Weiler

Term expires June, 2010:
Alice Lynn, Richard Matte & Robert Morris

Dates to Remember

NHS Board Meets (public invited) at 7 pm:
June 5, August 7, September 4 and November 6.

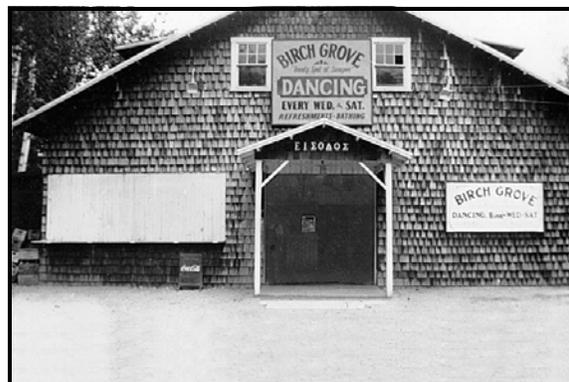
The Annual Meeting will be held July 20 at 2:00.

The PALS Exhibit, 10:00 am to 2:00 pm:
July 12 & 13 and August 9 & 10.

Sherman Hall, South Newbury

Sherman Hall, home to the NHS's collection, will be open to the public by appointment from May through October.

For information please contact Bill Weiler:
603-938-2892 or w_weiler@conknet.com



Birch Grove, a popular dance hall in the 1950's
(Courtesy of Kathryn Holmes)