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# NEWBURY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



## Newsletter Volume 9, No. 1 Spring, 2012

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### **NEWBURY'S CILLEY TAVERN If These Walls Could Talk. . .**

Newbury is a community proud of its historic heritage: the riches of its natural resources, the perseverance of the pioneers who broke the stony ground to establish homesteads, and the old houses themselves, many standing today in tribute to their strong roots. The Historical Society honors these historic houses in an ongoing program, the Historic House Marker Project, to help encourage documentation and recognition of these tangible links to Newbury's history.

In the heart of Newbury center, at the intersection of Routes 103 and 103A, stands a building whose façade identifies it as "Outspokin'," a store catering to the outdoor sports enthusiast. How foreign today's recreational pursuits would have seemed to the residents almost 250 years ago, when settlers toiled to eke out an existence using primitive tools, backbreaking labor, and Yankee ingenuity.

*The History of Newbury, Part I* indicates that on September 9, 1775, eleven families were given a hundred acres each "for settlement." Charles Emerson, Jr. received land which included the future site of the Cilley Tavern, "lying north of the Province Road and just east of the lake." Most of Charles Emerson's land was on both sides of present day route 103A, including the Birch Bluff area. Records show that the first Town Meeting was held at his house at Birch Bluff on January 17, 1779. Emerson was also town moderator and constable. He sold his property to J. Cutler in 1793.

Lt. Josiah Cutler, who is shown as owner of the tavern property on the 1809 town map, may have built the tavern shortly after acquiring the parcel from Emerson although the property may have changed hands again, since the *History of Newbury* notes that Simon Ayer, "innkeeper," sold to Moses and Ezra Cilley. In any event, the building appears to have been erected in the late 1780s or early 1790s. It was constructed with hand-hewn beams in the pegged post and beam style. A large building by the standards of the day, it was ideally situated to serve both the residents of the town and passing travelers. The two end chimneys, the 12 over 12 windows and front door detailing are representative of the Georgian style of architecture, with neo-classical features. Many of the oldest homes in Newbury exhibit these simple symmetrical lines with balanced windows and fine detailing around the front door. The buildings were utilitarian, but greatly refined from the simple one-or two-room log cottages with lofts that were put up in haste by the earliest settlers.

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### **Events and Programs**

#### **Annual Meeting & Program:**

Make a note on your calendar to join us on Sunday, July 1 at 2:00 PM at the Town Office when Ron Garceau will take us back to the days when Steamboats plied the Lake with their passengers and goods. Ron, one of the area's most popular speakers, will offer a PowerPoint presentation of photographs from his vast collection.

#### **Membership:**

June 1 marks the start of our Membership year and your continued support allows us to pursue a variety of projects. The History Committee continues its work on the Historic Map and South Newbury Projects. Volunteers have traveled to Hillsborough County Registry of Deeds in Nashua and searched for all the Fishersfield deeds recorded between 1771 and 1823. We now have copies of 651 deeds, and this data, along with our genealogical records and those secured from the Genealogical Society of Utah will assist us as we continue to research and document the history of the Town.

Please complete and return the Membership Renewal form inserted in this Newsletter. Remember, it is **your** Society, and your support is crucial to our programs, publications and projects.

#### **Other Dates and Programs:**

**Caboose Museum at Newbury Harbor** will be open weekends, June 1 - Labor day. Check at the Information Booth for access.

**Pulpits and Politics** - Tour seven Meeting Houses including Newbury, Bradford Center, Warner, South Sutton, New London, North Wilmot and Springfield. August 11, 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM. Please view the PALS flyer or visit the Center Meeting House website for more information and to purchase tickets.

**Newbury Goes Caribbean!** Friday, July 13, 5:00 PM at the Center Meeting House and Town Office green. Hors d'oeuvres buffet with drinks accompanied by Mango Groove, an authentic steel band. Tickets are limited and reservations required. Visit the CMH website for ticket information.

Town records show that in 1811, Josiah Cutler "posted an advertisement in his bar room." In 1817, and again in 1828, a license to sell liquor was issued to Ebenezer (Ezra) and Moses Cilley, documenting their long association with the building. They were the sons of Benjamin Cilley, born in 1775 in Weare, NH, who moved with his first wife to property on Baker Hill in 1806. Of his six children from this marriage, Ezra and Moses appear to have been like-minded and remained closely allied throughout their lives.

The Cilley brothers were active in the town: In addition to their association with the tavern, Ezra was elected Town Clerk in 1837. Moses held considerable land, having bought 250 acres as high bidder in the public sale of land held by his half-brother's wife, Serena Cilley. It appears that the brothers maintained ownership of the tavern for many years, although they apparently rented it out to other proprietors. Census data shows both Ezra and Moses residing in Manchester in 1850, but they were back in Newbury by 1860 and lived out their long lives in town. Both died in the mid-1880s -- Ezra at 86 years, and Moses at 85. The Cilley property on Baker Hill was purchased by the Messer family sometime after 1890.

The title "landlord" was an important one at the time, and kept the Cilleys in the public eye. Taverns were commonplace in the early settlements, and ranked with meetinghouses and country stores as centers for communication and entertainment. (It was at a town meeting at the Cilley Tavern in March, 1831 that the town voted to tear down the 1790s meeting house on Bly Hill and erect a new meeting house near the tavern in Newbury center.) Taverns provided havens for socializing, conducting town business, and offering the solace of various "spirits" to the hard-working citizen. Ezra and Moses had an ideal location for their establishment and it appears to have prospered from the stagecoach to the railroad eras.

As at other public houses, inns and taverns of the time, travelers were made welcome at the Cilley Tavern. The tavern keeper, or landlord, usually lived with his family in part of the building and housekeeping chores and food preparation were family affairs. Sleeping accommodations were spare and usually consisted of only a couple of rooms – one roughly finished for men, and another more nicely finished for ladies, perhaps holding a small table and basin with ewer for washing. Many taverns had an area for dancing, or a barroom or parlor which could be cleared for this activity. By today's standards, the stopover for the traveler would be distinctly

comfortable, with cramped quarters, rustic furnishings, plain cooking, smoky fireplaces and dim candlelight. At the time, however, the tavern provided a welcome respite from a bone-rattling stagecoach ride or hours in the saddle riding over rutted or muddy roads. Unfortunately, there are no records to tell us the number of guests that stopped at the Cilley Tavern over the years, who they were and what their stories might have been.

In time, Ezra and Moses turned the role of landlord over to others. In 1823, George Gunnison was granted a license to sell liquors at the tavern, and in 1826 John Kelly was provided a license "at the store of Ezra and Moses Cilley." In 1847 an advertisement was posted "at the Tavern House of Ezra and Moses Cilley then occupied by George Kennerson, Jr. in Newbury." Sewell Clark was licensed in 1849 "in the Moses and Ezra Cilley Tavern." Finally, in 1856 John Cutler ran it as a store called the Cilley Tavern Stand, described as a general store.

By the 1830s, the town had gone through a period of rapid growth. A new meeting house, more centrally located for the area residents, had been built. Schools were being established. Improved roads made travel less arduous. Town government became more solidified and more services were provided. In 1837, poised for future growth and new directions, Fishersfield was renamed Newbury. Perhaps the most significant of the changes was the coming of the railroad, profoundly affecting the future of the town and with it, the Cilley Tavern. The completion of the Concord & Claremont Railroad in 1872 meant that goods, mail and people could travel at unimagined speed and ease between area towns and into the world beyond. The function of the tavern as a hostel became largely obsolete, and the Cilley Tavern, like many others, adapted by becoming a store.

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Published by E. C. Lear

Old Tavern, Oldest House in Newbury, N. H.

The era of the railroad and steamships brought a new dimension to life in Newbury, and recognition that the town itself was blessed with natural resources that brought new job opportunities and prosperity as the twentieth century came in. With it came still more changes. The railroad, bearing increasing financial burdens, lost ground to the increasingly popular automobile. Ezra and Moses Cilley were long gone, but their building stood as strong as ever waiting for its next reincarnation. In the early 1900s the building was moved back from the road and rotated 90 degrees so the façade faced Route 103A, presumably for better access to traffic and to provide parking for cars stopping at the store. By 1926 Charles Dicey had put it to use as a garage. Newbury's first fire engine was housed there in 1928.

In the 1940s, the O. H. Lewis Company in Claremont bought the property from Hawes Hallett to establish a local outlet for their gasoline business, and they maintained ownership of the site until 1982. After World War II, Reginald LaPorte brought his family to Newbury to live in the large second floor of the old tavern which was then accessed by an outdoor stairway. His sons Richard and Wayne LaPorte remember that there were two open garage bays on the former first floor of the tavern, and Texaco gas was dispensed. Some sporting goods were also sold there (a foreglimpse of the building's future). After Reginald died in 1966, Richard moved across the intersection to manage a Sunoco station, now operating as Newbury Quick Stop. During the tenure of the LaPortes, a façade was added to the building to create more work space for the busy shop.

Upon departure of the LaPortes, Red LaClaire moved his family into the apartment and ran what was then called the Center Garage. He was followed by Richard Smith, who took over in 1977 and lived in a house now the site of the present day gazebo at the harbor. Richie hired a local 12-year old from South Newbury, Will Hurley, to pump gas and do chores in the garage. When O. H. Lewis sold to Mark Hokanson in 1982, the building went under yet another

transformation and Will Hurley was on the brink of finding a career dealing in sports equipment.

Under Hokanson's ownership, the old tavern was put to new uses. Hokanson and his family lived upstairs. He added a new section onto the front and made the downstairs into a food and snack store on one side and a sports shop – later an antique shop with rented dealer booths – on the other. Video rentals were added to the snack shop in the 1990s. Old garage lifts are still under the present wood floor and hooks in the ceiling beams recall the use of the area as a garage. The beams are solid and the structure is still sound.

Will Hurley, co-owner and General Manager of Outspokin', worked for Hokanson during his college years when sporting goods were sold. He then went to Bob Skinner's where he was able to pursue his interest in working with bicycles. When Skinner's downsized the bicycle business, Hurley worked a deal with Hokanson, who also owned the present-day Marzelli's Deli, to open a bike shop there. Business took off and Hurley soon outgrew that location. Again, in cooperation with Hokanson, he moved into his present location, and the old Cilley Tavern found yet another function.

Hurley's business continues to thrive. His association with the town is life-long, and his establishment at the Cilley Tavern site seems pre-ordained from his boyhood job there. It seems fitting to have him at the old Cilley Tavern, which has been a business center of the town since its beginning. What does the future hold for this enduring structure? Erika Hokanson and her brother Curtis inherited the building upon their father's death in 2002. Erika recently renovated the second floor apartment to make it ready for yet another tenant. "I grew up here with my family," she says. "It's a wonderful old building that maintains its character despite changes and upgrades to modernize it. There's some really old wallpaper in the entry utility area. I think I'll leave it just as it is."

Excerpted from SooNipi Magazine, Fall, 2007, article by Shelly Candidus (Continued Page 5)



The Cilley Tavern transformed into the Texaco Station prior to the addition of the façade. Photo by John W. Sargent, Soonipi Publishing, 1949-50.



The building as the Center Garage with the new façade. The Cilley Tavern shows clearly above the bay doors.



The Cilley Tavern today as Outspokin'. The Texaco sign has been replaced but the post and bracket remain.

## **The Free Will Baptists of Newbury, NH**

Who were the Free Will Baptists and what did they advocate for New Hampshire citizens? How large a group was this and how did they differ from prevailing political and religious beliefs?

From 1648 to 1798 almost all of New Hampshire, indeed most of New England, was Congregational. Methodists, Quakers, Unitarians and Catholics were few in number. Two major principles were the unity of church and state (legal support of religion) and the uniformity of public worship. Members of certain sects such as Quakers on occasion were mistreated and advocates of separating church and state, such as Roger Williams and Ann Hutchinson, had very early been exiled to Rhode Island. Local taxes in New Hampshire were used to compensate ministers as late as 1819 when the New Hampshire legislature passed an Act of Toleration ending taxation for church salaries.

The Congregationalists believed that once an infant was baptized, he or she was destined for salvation. The child then became a member of the Elect and was bound to the church for life. Not so, suggested the Free Will Baptists, who believed that salvation had to be freely sought and one had to be born again as a adult Christian and voluntarily agree to a "total immersion" baptism.

Who were the early Free Will Baptists and when did this sect arrive in Newbury? Benjamin Randall of Portsmouth was the first New Hampshire Free Will Baptist preacher and missionary advocate. During the 1780's Randall helped found the first twenty Free Will Baptist Churches reaching as many as 2000 souls. In 1801 Newbury started a Free Will Baptist church, one of 36 in the state including Sutton and Lebanon that same year. Warner and Unity had established similar churches a few years earlier.

The new church gained stature and respectability within two decades after the American Revolution. By 1804 the state legislature recognized officially the Free Will Baptist Antipede Church (Antipede means opposed to infant baptism). This act allowed local citizens to qualify for an exemption from paying taxes to support a Congregational minister.

The Free Will Baptists had no bishops or hierarchy or seminaries for formal training. The governance of the sect was by Quarterly Meeting, of which Newbury hosted one in 1802, attended by ministers and ruling elders who were laymen. This group could ordain or deny ordination to would-be

Ministers, write covenants (charters) to guide new chapels, and collect funds voluntarily for ministerial salaries and for the poor. Their religion and church services were evangelical, full of shouts and singing, a search for the joy of saints, the optional washing of feet to show humility and the giving personal testimony about the Lord.

In 1808 a Newbury woman announced she was getting "Messages from Heaven," falling prostrate on the ground and telling of conversations with angels. Several other women and one man also reported a similar experience. An "Angle Society" was formed to build on this intense excitement. This was possibly a harbinger to the Spiritualist enthusiasts on Lake Sunapee later in the century.

In 1829 Baptists from Newport, Warner and other towns attended a full-scale Newbury Revival. By 1830 the Free Will Baptists claimed 450 churches, 375 ministers and 21,000 members, the faith having spread to Maine, Vermont, Massachusetts and beyond. The Newbury Baptist minister Reverend William Dodge (1781-1859), after his ordination in 1809, helped found churches and encourage new members in Vermont and Massachusetts.

Reverend Randall died in 1808. The War of 1812 unleashed secular passions which undermined religion in the United States. Even so, the Baptists in America became a powerful force, founding such universities as Brown, Wake Forest, Vassar, Bucknell, Baylor and Colgate. John D. Rockefeller later founded the University of Chicago and supported the first president, William Rainey Harper, a Baptist leader.

Baptists supported temperance and deplored the drinking of hard cider and rum, including the popular custom of serving such beverages at funerals. They opposed fighting and wars, the bearing of arms and the growing resort to lawsuits to resolve disputes. They supported raising funds for the support of the poor.

The Free Will Baptist Magazine was published in Rhode Island for only a few years, 1826-31. Missions were established in North Carolina and the West Indies, but the abolitionist and slavery issues of the 1850's and 60's split the national Baptist alliance. 857 churches (of 1100) joined the Northern Baptist Conference. The Black Baptists formed their own separate group in the South.

As recently as 1978 the Free Will Baptists claimed

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### Free Will Baptists Continued

236,000 members, nine approved schools and 2000 missionaries. The United Free Will Baptists, 199,000 strong, include the Black Baptists of North Carolina, Texas and Georgia.

Overall, the Baptists in America include 27 denominations, 94,000 churches by the 1970's and 27 million members which represent one third of all American Protestants and one half of African-American Protestants.

The strengths of the Free Will Baptist movement include the simplicity, energy and emphasis on personal choice. The weaknesses included lack of funds, limited impact in urban areas, minimal entrance requirements for ministers, and a lack of books or magazines for most of the century. Newbury citizens played a significant role in the Free Will Baptist movement in Western New Hampshire. Four Free Will Baptist legislators fought hard to enact the Laws of Toleration in 1819 which guaranteed religious freedom and the separation of religion from state or local taxation to the present times.

Joseph M. Cronin

(The NH State Library has a copy of The History of the Freewill Baptists by the Rev. I. D. Stewart, Volume I, 1790-1830, Dover, Freewill Baptist Printing, 1862)

### Cilley Tavern, Continued from Page 3



Erika Hokanson (left) receives an Historic House Marker from Gay Sheary for the Cilley Tavern.

### Historic House Marker Project

The goal of this ongoing project is to encourage research into the age and diversity of architectures in Newbury, and to incorporate it into our history. Each home or public building has its own fascinating story to tell and we want to share these with our residents.

Homeowners continue to come forward and apply for one of our attractive wooden markers. To date we have recognized 35 individual structures. If your home was built between 1700 and 1899 please check with us and see what is required to qualify for an historic marker. We are presently doing a great deal of deed research and some of it might be of use to you.

For more detailed information on the Historical Society's Historic House Marker Project, visit our website at [www.newburyhistorical.org](http://www.newburyhistorical.org) or contact committee Chairs Gay and Marty Sheary at (603) 763-4746.

### ***It's All About Newbury - A Speaker Series Presented by The Center Meeting House.*** **Saturdays in June, 9:30 - 10:30 AM, free and open to the public. Refreshments will follow.** **All presenters are Newbury residents and members of the Adventures in Learning faculty.**

June 2: *Religions of Newbury* - Rev. Chuck Kennedy

June 9: *The Hay Family in Newbury* - David Bashaw

June 16: *How Lake Sunapee Shaped Newbury* - June Fichter

June 23: *The Poets and Writers of Newbury* - Dianalee Velie

June 30: *The skies over Newbury* - Tom Vannatta

(The Newbury Historical Society is a co-sponsor of this series)

### First Dog Officer - 1891

To Laurel S. Peasley of the town of Newbury

We hereby appoint you special police officer of said town to enforce the provisions of an act entitled an act to prevent the destruction of sheep and other damages by dogs passed at the January session of the general court 1891, and we hereby direct you to proceed either to kill or cause to be killed all dogs within said town not licensed and collared according to the provisions of said act, and to enter complaint against the owners or keepers of any such unlicensed dogs.

Witness our hands this fifth day of May 1891

Hiram B. Cheney, Richard T. Muzzey, Joel Gillingham - Selectmen of Newbury

Newbury, N. H. May 5<sup>th</sup> 1891

Personally appeared Laurel S. Peasley and took the oath of office as special police officer.

Before me, Wesley E. Cilley, Justice of the Peace

*Copied from Town Record Book "K", page 29.*



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

#### **NHS Dates/Events**

##### **Newbury Town Office unless otherwise noted**

Board Meetings, 7:00 PM: Sept. 13, Nov. 8 & Jan. 10.  
It's All About Newbury: Saturdays in June, 9:30 AM, **CMH**.  
Annual Meeting Program: Sunday, July 1, 2012, 2:00 PM.  
***The Steamboat Era on Lake Sunapee***, Ron Garceau

#### **NHS Board of Directors**

Term expires June, 2012:  
Deane Geddes, Margie Weiler, William Weiler  
Term expires June, 2013:  
Paula Falkowski, Gay Sheary, Mary Thayer  
Term expires June, 2014:  
Shelly Candidus, Barbara Steward, Claire Vannatta

**E-mail: [info@newburyhistorical.org](mailto:info@newburyhistorical.org)**  
**Website: [www.newburyhistorical.org](http://www.newburyhistorical.org)**

#### **Steamboat Notes**

1884: Edmund Burke built, 87 feet long.  
1889: Edmund Burke renovated to 900 feet long,  
18 foot beam, capable of transporting 600.  
1887: Armenia White built, 101 feet, 23 foot beam,  
holding 650 passengers.  
1892: Lake Sunapee Station opened for business on  
May 30th.  
1892: Lake Station water tank installed in July.  
1897: Kearsarge built, 70 feet, 18 foot beam,  
250 passengers.  
1902: Weetamoo built, 50 feet long, 15 foot beam,  
capacity of 150 passengers.

**Ron Garceau presents *The Steamboat Era on  
Lake Sunapee*, July 1st, 2:00 PM, Town Office.**

**Thank you to our Business Members.**

**Please join us in expressing your appreciation through your support.**

**Davis Cabins  
On Lake Sunapee**  
25 Birch Grove Road  
Newbury, NH 03255

(603) 763-4494  
Open late June to late September

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