

# MILL TOWN MESSENGER

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## *From the President's Pen*

by Cathryn Baird

*So – people a thousand years from now - this is the way we were: in our growing up and in our marrying and in our living and in our dying...Do human beings ever realize life while they live it? – every, every minute?*  
- Thornton Wilder, *Our Town* (1938)

In his play, *Our Town*, Thornton Wilder urges us not only to appreciate the importance of events and traditions but most importantly to seize the day, “Carpe Diem,” and to realize the wonder of the present moment and the value of human interaction. The soon-to-be published story of “Our Town,” Newport, NH, accomplishes both.

*Celebrating Community - Newport, New Hampshire: 250 Years and Beyond, 1761-2011*, written by Newport native Jayna Huot Hooper, in partnership with The Newport Historical Society and the *Eagle Times*, is finished and ready to be published! This incredible masterpiece will reveal to readers how Newport as a community of individual and collective ideas, action or inactions has made history through human interaction. The book will also provide a common understanding of our multi-cultural heritage, re-ignite a spirit of communal pride and help to build a stronger identity that can flourish for generations to come. The story of “Our Town,” past to present, has been well documented thanks to Jayna.

The 250<sup>th</sup> commemorative history of Newport will be available, we hope, for the Apple Pie Craft Fair. Check the home page of our website periodically for availability updates and pricing.  
[www.newportnhhistory.org](http://www.newportnhhistory.org)

## OUR NEW MUSEUM LOCATION – THE NETTLETON HOUSE

By Larry Cote

We are busy at the Nettleton House most days preparing the interior for display set-up. We thank **LaValley Building Supply** for their generous discount on our purchase of interior door levers and new exterior locks. Also thank you to **Paul & Cathryn Baird** for their gift of a vacuum cleaner and to **Lake Sunapee Bank** for their donation of a desk and padded chairs. Thank you to **M J Harringtons** and **Richards Free Library** for their donation of display cases.

We have just a bit of touch-up painting to do and molding to install for hanging pictures. Once this is complete, all three floors of carpeting will be shampooed and we thank **John Wilcox of Steamex Carpet Cleaning** for his generously discounted quote for this service.

We hope that moving and set-up will be complete for an October 5 Grand Opening. More information, including confirmation of this date, will be available in September. **WE ARE EXCITED!!**

## 250th Lecture Series

Executive Comm. Meet. 6 PM  
Membership Meeting 6:30 PM  
Program 7 to 8 PM

### August 8

*The Richards Family Home*

Library Art Center

### September 12

*Harrington Jewelers*

Library Art Center

### October 17

*McCrillis & Eldredge*

*Insurance Agency*

Richards Library Ballroom

### November 14

*Newport Town Records*

Richards Library Ballroom

### December 12

*The Nettleton Family*

Richards Library Ballroom

## The Inside Scoop

- *Nettleton House & Family*
- *NHS Gift Shop*
- *Membership*

### Inserts

- *Book Sponsorship Letter 2011*
- *Sponsorship Participation Form*

## HISTORY OF THE NETTLETON HOUSE

BY CHRISTINA O'BRIEN

References: History of Newport NH from 1766 to 1878, Edmund Wheeler, and the National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form, January 14, 1977, by Kenneth Lurvey

Photograph by Mary Lou McGuire



This year of two-thousand and eleven we celebrate two very special occasions here in Newport – the 250th birthday of our town and the purchase of a new home for our Historical Society Museum. One name that can be considered a common thread both in our early town history and in our new Museum is Nettleton...

Although Jeremiah Nettleton may not have lived here in Newport at the time the town charter was signed on October 6, 1761, he and his wife, Love (Buell) brought their eight children to town from Killingworth, Connecticut in 1779. They had one additional child here in Newport after settling on a farm and purchasing Bald Mountain and 'the land southward to the river'. Although all nine children grew up to have families of their own, two of Jeremiah's five sons were well known and very influential here in Newport.

Aaron, Jeremiah's eldest son (born on Nov. 11, 1766) married his wife Mehitable (Dow) on March 5, 1793 and they had 3 sons and 3 daughters. Aaron was known to be an excellent farmer and later became the first Sheriff of Sullivan County.

Aaron's three sons, Jeremiah D., Aaron Jr., and Bela, were also very active in Newport life. Jeremiah D. (born April 10, 1794) was a town selectman, later a state senator and was very devoted to the Baptist Society. In 1837 he was also one of three Newport residents appointed to divide the town into school districts, which remained intact until 1876.

Aaron Jr. (born July 8, 1799) was a trading merchant at the Nettleton Block (which burned in 1885 and is now the Lewis Block, where Petal Patch is located) and later a post master of Newport until his death. He married Sarah (French) on Dec. 22, 1825 and they had two children

Following in his older brothers' footsteps, Bela (born July 5, 1801) was a merchant, a postmaster, a selectman, a sheriff, a school teacher and a school superintendent. He married Sarah (Boynton) on January 1, 1835 and they had two children.

The patriarch Jeremiah's second oldest son Joel was born on February 6, 1778. Joel married Elizabeth (Dow) on March 5, 1805 and together had six children. Joel was a stage proprietor and later purchased the Newport House and became its landlord. In 1830 he was one of the top ten residents to pay the highest town taxes totaling \$20.68.

Joel's son Daniel (born Feb. 6, 1821) also ran the Newport House for several years and later purchased and ran the town sawmill, which was located across Central Street from the Nettleton homestead.

Joel Nettleton's homestead was built around 1830 either by himself or by Samuel George. George was a prominent cabinet maker and painter in Newport but the connection between George and Nettleton is not yet known by the author. The house helped create 'Court Square' which, in addition to itself, consists of the current day County Records building, the Opera House, the Fire Station, the Town Offices and the Old Courthouse Restaurant.

The main brick house is a twenty-six foot by forty foot structure that was added onto with an ell, a carriage barn and a shed some years later. It remained a private residence for about 100 years and was turned into apartments in the 1930's. After a period of neglect and deterioration, the ell, carriage barn and shed were torn down in 1976 while the brick structure became eligible for the National Register of Historic Places on November 16, 1977. Since then, the home has seen many repairs and improvements by the wonderful generosity of several devoted Newport residents.

On May 17, 2011 the Newport Historical Society became the proud owners of the Nettleton House and will use it as their new Museum. An October, 2011 grand opening is being planned in honor of the October 6th birthday of Newport and a December presentation will describe the Nettleton family, their homestead and their important role in the Newport community in much greater detail. More details will follow and we look forward to seeing you soon!

**One-Stop Shopping at the Newport Farmers Market**



You can now purchase Historical Society gift items and 250th Anniversary memorabilia at the Historical Society's booth at the Newport Farmers Market, every Friday from 3-6PM, on the Newport Common, through October 7.

Other sales venues include "Finn Day" at the Senior Center in Newport, on August 20, and the Newport Apple Pie Craft Fair, on Aug. 27.



**AUGUST 27**

**Show your 250th Pride at the Apple Pie Festival**

**Just the right size to enjoy your favorite old or new beverage!**



The 250th anniversary items will be available only while supplies last. They include our bell (you'll need this for the week of October 6) \$7.00, 250th buttons \$1.00, 250th tee shirts \$15.00 and sweatshirts \$30.00, and our 250th drinking glasses \$7.00.

**FOR CHRISTMAS ORNAMENT COLLECTORS AND GIFT GIVING: TWO NEW ORNAMENTS!**

We still have the **250th Anniversary ornament** at just \$12.00. This ornament will be available **ONLY** during the remainder of 2011. If you are collecting the series, this is a **must have!**

The 2011 edition in the Historical Society's Ornament series is the **South Congregational Church** in winter, with choir members out front in commemoration of their remarkable Area Choir.



**Past Collectibles in the Series:**

This is the **final year** that the **Richards School** and the **Opera House** ornaments will be available. Last year the **Courthouse** ornament was retired and we have only four left.

**Historical Society Gift Shop Order Form**

- Ornaments \$12.00 each. Specify # and design(s)**
- 250th Anniversary
  - So. Cong. Church
  - Richards Library
  - Mary's Little Lamb
  - Corbin Bridge
  - Opera House
  - Richards School
  - Old Courthouse
  - Newport Town Crock \$28.00
  - Pier Bridge Mug \$5.00
  - Newport Afghan \$45.00 (2 red & 6 green left)
- Books:**
- Mansions of Newport \$12.00
  - Streets, Roads, & Byways \$15.00
  - Covered Bridges of Sullivan County \$1.50
  - Wheeler History reprint, 8.5 x 11 \$45.00
  - Wheeler History reprint, half size \$35.00
  - Wheeler Index \$10.00
  - Spanning Generations (Corbin) \$1.50
  - Rebuilding of the Corbin Covered Bridge \$10.00
- 250th Anniversary Memorabilia:**
- Bell \$7.00
  - Drinking Glass \$7.00
  - Button \$1.00
  - T-Shirt \$15.00 (med. to XL) 2XL is \$17.50
  - Sweatshirt \$30.00
- Mail to: NHS, PO Box 413, Newport, NH 03773**  
**Phone: 603-863-1294**  
**Email: NewportHS1761@gmail.com**  
**Include your own name, address, phone number**

## 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\$\_\_\_\_\_ Cemetery \$\_\_\_\_\_

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

Please mail to: Newport Historical Society PO Box 413 Newport, NH 03773

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**Contributors to this issue:** Cathryn Baird, Jackie & Larry Cote, Mary Lou McGuire, Christina O'Brien

### FROM THE TREASURER'S DESK: MEMBERSHIP BY JACKIE COTE

**Our goal is to have 250 members by the end of 2011 in celebration of Newport's 250th anniversary.**

#### "We are well on our way to achieving this goal.

As of July 8, 2011 we have 172 members, of which 80 are new members.

However, we have 36 members who did not renew their membership this year. **We miss you** and we sincerely hope that you will rejoin us. If you are not sure whether you did or did not renew your membership, I have written a note in the margin to the left if you have not renewed. If all 36 of you renew, we would be just two shy of 200 members!

Our membership year coincides with our fiscal year, beginning October 1 and ending September 30. Anyone who joins NHS in August and September is considered to also have paid their dues for the following year. For example, if someone joined NHS on August 5, 2011, their membership is extended until **September 30, 2012**. You will also automatically be included in our membership drive raffle drawing this fall.

For those who want to rejoin, please use the form above. Any membership dues received in July will be held until August 1 so that you may extend your membership until the 2012 date underlined above."

#### How important are individual or family dues to our organization?

Dues paid by our members constitute the main source to fund our current operating expenses. Dues allow us to:

- provide programs,
- host our website,
- distribute our quarterly newsletter (the printing of which has been generously paid by several NHS members and businesses),
- have a telephone and computer system at the museum,
- have membership in other important like-minded organizations,
- buy postage and envelopes for our membership drive,
- cover other incidental expenses that allow us to grow and increase our offerings in accordance with our mission statement.

Without your financial support, the strides that we have made since 2005 would not have been possible. Some people feel that since they do not have time to be active in the Society, their membership would not be valuable. Most of our current members are "*Passive Patrons*," that is, folks who are not active but appreciate what we do and support us with their dues. We are most grateful to all of our members for their support.

In closing, may I suggest this—call a friend or relative and encourage them to become a member, not only to help us reach our goal of 250 members in 2011, but to support our mission of educating our community and preserving the history of Newport for future generations.

Join Us!