

# Mil I Town Messenger

This newsletter is generously funded by McCrillis & Edredge Insurance

Volume 4, Issue 3 — August 2010

## From the President's Pen ~ Cathryn Baird

"It has been said that, at its best, preservation engages the past in a conversation with the present over a mutual concern for the future."

~ William Murtagh: Keeping Time: The History and Theory of Preservation in America

The National Historic Preservation Act was passed by Congress in 1966 to save the historical and cultural foundations of America. Newport will soon be the proud beneficiary of this legislation.

ECON's recent offer to sell the Nettleton House to the Newport Historical Society for use as a museum not only supports historic preservation in Newport, but also promotes the concepts of sustainable development: reuse, reinvest, retrofit and respect.

Please consider how you can be involved in this renewed focus on Newport's history. Do you have items or pictures that can be used at the museum? Can you invest time, money or shared memories? Are you able to volunteer as a docent or share your skills to build and retrofit displays? Have you thought about becoming an NHS member but just never got around to it? It's never too late! Your increased community involvement is essential to the success and sustainability of Newport's new museum, and we hope you will participate.

Thank you ECON for giving the Newport Historical Society this opportunity to engage the past with the present for the future of the "Sunshine Town."

To contact President Baird for information about joining the Historical Society:  
603.863.5089 ~ [freewillfarm@comcast.net](mailto:freewillfarm@comcast.net)



## Newport historical society history

mary Lou mcguire

Newport has had historical societies in various forms for well over a century. Mention of earlier groups are sketchy at best: a notice in a mid to late 1800's Argus article and another in the RFL vertical file referring to a 1930's society becoming inactive.

Records of our current historical society are far more detailed. Founded in 1973 through the efforts of local artist Dorothy Bartholomew, the motivating factor was to save Newport's historic buildings. In February 1974 the organization adopted the name of Newport Historical Society (NHS). By March there were ten active

and 35 contributing members, and by August formal recognition was sought by sending copies of our constitution and bylaws to the NH Historical Society. The first NHS board of directors included President Frank Edes, Treasurer Mrs. Arthur Shadis, and Secretary Dorothy Bartholomew. Other initial members included Mr. and Mrs. Frye, Katherine Coggeshall, Mrs. Doiron, Mr. Arthur Shadis, Mr. Ryan, Mrs. Soucy, Mrs. Bartlett, Mrs. Tenney, Louis Thompson, Mrs. Frank Edes, Clifford Richer, Roger Edes, Mrs. John Berry Jr., Harold Campbell, and Mr. and Mrs. Thurlow. Those who attended the first three

meetings became Charter Members.

Meetings were held in the Selectmen's Room on the second Wednesday of the month. The first annual meeting on October 6, 1974 celebrated the anniversary of the day Newport's charter was granted, and became the start of the NHS fiscal year. Our first museum was established when the Old Courthouse was renovated, and the late Ann Tenney was very active in creating museum displays. Our current collection, numbering in the thousands, began with donations of old postcards of Newport from  
(continued last page)

Please join us!

### New Program Each Month!

Second Monday  
of the Month

Sugar River Bank  
Community Room  
7:00 pm

August 9 Program:  
New England  
Gravestones

Sept. 13 Program:  
Newport's Little Red  
Schoolhouse

Oct. 18 Program:  
South  
Congregational  
Church

Check our website  
for details:  
[newportnhhistory.org](http://newportnhhistory.org)

### The Inside Scoop

- Museum News
- Pier Bridge Update
- Riverside Trotting Park
- Pine West Personalities: Samuel Church
- The 14th RR Covered Bridge
- Newport Notables: Dorothy Bartholomew

## Museum news

Larry cote

### 2010 Museum Exhibits

This year's major display features the paintings and personal items of Andre Chéronnet-Champollion. Champollion was the grandson of Austin Corbin II and lived in the home Corbin bought for his daughter Mary Corbin Chéronnet-Champollion. This white mansion north of town along Rte 10 just before Camel Hump Road has been known by several names over the years: Sugar River Farm, Pine Cottage, and the Inn at Coit Mountain. Andre was the great-grandson of Jean Francois Champollion, decipherer of the Rosetta Stone which unlocked the mystery of Egyptian hieroglyphics. Visit us to learn more about Andre Champollion who considered Newport his home in the late 1800's until his death in WWI.

Other displays include kitchenalia, featuring tools, recipe books and aprons from the early 20<sup>th</sup> century; items related to the early Newport musical organizations such as the Cornet Band of the 1860's; and the communion ware from the Universalist Church which was donated by the McCrillis family and re-silvered by James Lantz.

Other exhibits include gentlemen's hats from the early 1900's, military items from the Revolutionary period through the Civil War, and a display of toys from the early

1900's to the 1960's.

The Newport Historical Society Museum is located at 30 Main Street above the Old Courthouse Restaurant. It is open every Friday and Saturday from 10am until 2pm June –September, or upon request by calling Larry Cote at 863-1294 or 863-3105. Please come for a visit –there's a little something for everyone!

### Winter Carnival Programs

As we approach the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Newport's charter (October 6, 1761) our thoughts turn to museum displays for the 2011 season. A celebration of Newport's Winter Carnival comes immediately to mind as it is the oldest Winter Carnival in New England. We need to develop our Winter Carnival collection, and would appreciate your assistance with our collection of Winter Carnival programs. We are missing 1916, 1919-1921, 1923-1943, 1944-45, 1947, 1948, 1951, 1954, 1957, 1959, 1973, 1974, 1979, 1981, 1988, 1991-2003. Any other items or information you can provide would also be appreciated.

### Winter Carnival Buttons

One focus of this exhibit is to display a

complete collection of Winter Carnival buttons. Harold Perkins began our collection of buttons during his tenure at the Museum, and we ask your help in completing it. The oldest pin we have is from 1941.



Do you know if they were used before that time? We need buttons (if they exist) from the first years, 1916 through 1940, and for the years 1943 - 1950, 1952 - 1958, 1964, 1965, 1967, 1973 and 1977. If you can donate or lend any buttons from these years please call Larry Cote (863-3105) or leave a message at the Museum (863-1294.)

---

### A Short History of Pin Back Buttons

First introduced as campaign buttons, the first time a photograph was used on a pin was during Lincoln's 1860 run for the Presidency. President McKinley's campaign of 1896 produced the first modern style buttons. By 1910 cigarette companies picked up on the idea as an advertising item, and since then they have been used to advertise just about everything.

## Pier /wrights bridges preservation begins

Jackie Cote

Work on these two rare railroad covered bridges, located on Chandlers Mills Road in Newport, commenced on June 2. As of the June 30 site construction meeting the following tasks have been completed:

- Mobilization
- Clearing on both bridge abutment areas and Wrights trail
- Siding removal on Wrights bridge skirt siding around bearings [beams] and interior portal siding on Wrights
- Cleaning on both bridges (high pressure air)
- Siding replacement on Pier skirt siding and

long siding with reused boards from Wrights bridge

- Nochar (fire retardant) on interior and exterior of the Pier Bridge
- Bearing beam replacement on Pier Bridge

A change order is out for approval due to additional rot found at Wrights bridge in the upper chord area and in the portal areas on the down-river side of the bridge, which has extensive sun exposure. Hopefully, the November newsletter will report of project completion.

Again, our thanks to everyone whose contributions have made the preservation of the Pier and Wrights Bridges possible!



Siding repair area of Pier Bridge

## Riverside trotting park

Kevin Sargent

The next time you drive to Guild on Sunapee Street, look for the bridge crossing the Sugar River which used to lead to the Riverside Trotting Park, a popular recreational area from the late 1878 to 1902. Announcements in the Argus Champion from late September to late October, three to four weekends in a row, advertised what area businessmen called a "Drivers Meeting" on weekends at the race track. Special trains made an extra run between Claremont and Newport or the Wendell train depot for a fare of 50 cents each way. A special train

from Concord also made the trip on race weekends for \$1.00. Racing events were well attended, with some people traveling from as far away as 100 miles. Cash payouts were made for drivers placing 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, or 3<sup>rd</sup> in their class. Some races paid as high as \$250.00 on very special occasions. Most races paid \$100, \$50, or \$25 for placing respectably. On some weekends they would hold foot races, sack races and three-legged races, paying \$1.00, \$2.00, and \$3.00 for the top places. Once in a while a bicycle race was held —on one event the pay was \$5.00 to

win, but no bicycle racers showed up. Some stores in Newport mentioned that if you bought \$3.00 or more of goods they would provide free entry to the trotting park event. Unfortunately this property was sold in January 1902 and the races were moved to Highland View Farm in Claremont, owned by William Moody. The September 2, 1902 front page of the Argus Champion listed the first Sullivan County Agriculture Fair and Races which were held at that location.

## Pine west personalities: Samuel church 1749-1828 Brenda Curtis

Samuel Church was born in New London CT on April 14, 1749. He came to Newport as one of the early settlers in 1780 and built on the spot where the Wheeler Block now stands. A blacksmith by trade, he became a prominent and influential member of the Newport community. He served as Town Clerk in 1795 and Selectman for 11 terms (1786 to 1811.) On June 26, 1769, he married Martha Comstock and they had 8 children over a period of 17 years. Two of his daughters died in their early 20's and a son died young. John, his fourth child worked with him as a blacksmith to carry on the trade.



### Gravestone Inscription

Samuel Church  
A Revolutionary Soldier.  
and an early settler of Newport  
Was born in New London Ct  
April 14, 1749  
DIED  
June 28, 1828  
AE 79

## The Fourteenth Railroad Covered Bridge Larry Cote

While researching the Draper section of North Newport we made a new discovery! The railroad covered bridge shown in this picture was thought to be the Sibley Railroad Covered Bridge. However, it is really a very short covered bridge that once spanned the canal connecting the Dodge Brook with the Draper mill. We owe this discovery to Dr. Arthur Walsh who noticed that the relationship of the Story store and Post Office to the covered bridge was facing southwest rather than northeast as had always been assumed. Bill Caswell of the Covered Spans of Yesteryear project came to check out this discovery, and agrees with our conclusion. Bill, a contributing writer for the National Society for the Preservation of Covered Bridges newsletter, wrote about this discovery in their July newsletter. (<http://coveredbridgesociety.org/newsletters/summer10.pdf>)

We now need to verify this observation through documentation. Our best guess is that this covered bridge was replaced by the Boston & Maine railroad with a deck plate girder structure circa 1906 when they upgraded the bridges along the Concord to Claremont line. This change was required to carry the heavier loads of the day. The discovery of the bridge in question raises the number of railroad covered bridges from the Sunapee-Guild town lines to the Kelleyville-Claremont town lines to fourteen. Adding to this number the six highway covered bridges makes a total of twenty covered bridges that once existed in the township of Newport.



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

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

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

The Mill Town Messenger is published quarterly by the Newport Historical Society, P O Box 413, Newport, NH 03773. Contributors to this issue: Cathryn Baird, Larry Cote, Jackie Cote, Kevin Sargent, Brenda Curtis and Mary Lou McGuire, editor.

### Newport historical society history

continued

(continued from page 1)

Mrs. Kenneth Bogle of Kelleyville, a four pound cannon ball found in the Sugar River, a small silver garment brush, early medicine bottles, old cookbooks and Billy B. Van posters.

NHS has a long tradition of increasing interest in local history through monthly programs. Anthony Maiola presented the

first program with a display of early Fire Department records. This was followed by Ann Tenney's program on Newport trails, and Soterios Saggiotes' presentation of random Newport facts.

We invite everyone to become a member and support the renewed and revitalized Newport Historical Society as we begin a new chapter in our history!



The Nettleton House:

### Newport Notables: Dorothy Daly Bartholomew 1908—1997



*Dorothy Bartholomew*

Artist Dorothy Daly Bartholomew moved to Cheney Street in Newport in 1961. Mrs. Bartholomew became active at local and state levels in many areas: art, education, and historic preservation. Locally she became the moving force to save historic Newport buildings. Her work to protect Newport's history began when the Lafayette

House was sold and removed to Quechee, VT. It became known that other historic buildings were in danger of demolition or removal: the Old Courthouse (a purchaser wanted to move it to the Southwest) and the Primary School (considered unsafe and scheduled for demolition) which was eventually renovated to house the Town Offices. Unfortunately, Mrs. Bartholomew and her group were unable to save the Streamliner Diner on Main Street, which was moved to Atlanta, GA.

Mrs. Bartholomew helped to establish the present Newport Historical Society and the Historic District/Heritage Commission. She opened the first art gallery in Newport, Bartholomew Gallery, in 1963, and successfully proposed Mount Sunapee State Park as the site of the yearly League of NH Craftsmen's Fair. She also was instrumental in making art a required subject in NH schools. Dorothy Bartholomew was born in German-

town, PA on January 1, 1908. She trained as an artist at the Pennsylvania University of the Arts, the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, the Barnes Foundation, and Catholic University in Washington, D.C. She taught art in New York, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts and New Hampshire, and her awards include three from Hofstra University (two gold, one silver), and Best of Show in the Pennsylvania Arts Alliance. Her work Manayunk is included in Philadelphia Images, published in 1990 (available at the Richards Library, see p.70.) She also participated in a group show in New York which included Jackson Pollack and Andre Racz. Her works are in the permanent collection of the Museum of Modern Art and the Pennsylvania Academy of Art.

Sources: Argus Spectator, Bartholomew file at Richards Free Library, <http://www.rafa.com/bartholomew.html>