

Newport Historical Society Monthly Board Meeting
Monday, June 13, 2016
The Nettleton House

1. **Call to Order** by President Cathryn Baird at 6:35 p.m.
2. **Members Present:** Cathryn Baird, Jackie Cote, Larry Cote, Dick Gassett, Jerry Hagebusch, Priscilla Hagebusch, Jayna Hooper, Rita James, Dean Stetson.

Public Present: Maura Stetson, Dr. Arthur Walsh
3. **Public Forum:**
 - Jackie and Dick shared that Bruce Davison had a major heart attack but is improving. Bruce is a good friend of many NHS members and a specialist on the Claremont Concord Railroad.
 - Steve Taylor of the New Hampshire Humanities Council will present in July on New Hampshire's Agricultural Fairs.
 - The 500- to 600-foot long historic AmTrak train will be at the Claremont Depot on Saturday, June 18. It will be open for the public to go through. Dick, who has dedicated his time and knowledge as a member of the committee responsible for preparing for this event, will be displaying his collection of train photos at the Lambert Auto showroom across the street.
4. **Minutes** of the May 9, 2016 board meeting were moved by Jackie, seconded by Larry, and approved unanimously.
5. The **Treasurer's Report** was shared by Jackie Cote, with the following account summaries reviewed in detail:
 - i. Accounting Summary of 5/1/16 - 5/31/16
 - ii. Main Operating Account, Fiscal Year ending 9/30/16: *May 2016 Income and Expenditures were reviewed.*
 - iii. Nettleton House Account, FY ending 9/30/16: *May 2016 income/expenditures reviewed.*
 - iv. NHS Budget Comparison Operating Acct. – Income, 10/1/15-9/30/16: *May 2016 income reviewed.*
 - v. NHS Budget Comp. Operating Acct. – Expenses, 1/1/15-9/30/16: *May 2016 expenses reviewed.*
 - vi. NHS Budget Comp. Nettleton Acct. – Income, 10/1/15 – 9/30/15: *May 2016 sales/donation income reviewed.*
 - vii. NHS Budget Comp. Nettleton Acct. – Expenses, 10/1/15 – 9/30/15: *May 2016 building expenses reviewed.*
 - viii. Farmers' Market / Apple Pie Craft Fair 2012-2016: *Comparison of revenue reviewed.*

Jackie shared that the furnace has been repaired.

The NHS is \$1100 over and above projected donations for the fiscal year.

Dick made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report; Rita seconded; approved unanimously.

6. The **Fundraising Report** was given by Jackie Cote.
The **Emerson book** may be printed at \$11 per color copy, or \$4.29 per black and white with color on the front. After discussion, it was determined that the NHS would like to make its books affordable so that more of them are accessible to the public. Further, Jayna feels that black and white copy would in no way detract from the information or presentation of the book. Before the Emerson books are printed, however, Jayna still needs to check on copyright protocols concerning a number of images selected for use in the book.

The museum has received additional **queen ornaments**. Recently, 50 queen ornaments were shipped out to a patron in California.

More "A" and "B" set **notecards** have been ordered, as well as sets "3" and "4" of the **vintage post cards**. New **"Peek..." books** will be printed for future sale.

More "Finn" books will also be needed soon. Ron Garceau has requested that the printing of the "Finn" books become the NHS's responsibility; Town and Country Graphics in Concord may serve as a good partner in this undertaking. **Olli Turpenien**, author of *The Finns of Newport*, has been awarded a \$5 royalty in the past for every book sold by the NHS. Jackie made a motion to pay Olli the \$5 royalty up-front for the number of books the NHS has re-printed for sale. Rita seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

3-D ornaments from Gourmet Garden (New London) will no longer be carried by the NHS.

Jesse Scott books have all been sold. Maxine Houle, Jesse's daughter and author of the book, has donated a total of \$500 to the NHS through the sale of these books.

Membership currently stands at 236 members. David Birse, a missionary in the Philippines reapplied for membership and anonymous donors supplemented \$10 to cover the balance of a standard membership for him.

Jackie made a motion to donate **\$50 to the International Work Camp** that Newport will be hosting from July 22nd to August 6th. Newport is host to the longest consecutive work camp in the country, which began around 1985. The workers, from all over the world, stay at the high school and various town organizations host and/or sponsor them for meals. This year, the work camp will paint the NHS ramp, among their various other activities.

7. The **Museum Report** was given by Larry Cote.

The museum had 18 visitors sign the visitor's book through the month of May. Visitors remarked how impressed they were that the NHS has available "so many wonderful things that are so affordable."

The museum purchased five **photo postcards of the 1911 150th Anniversary parade** from Barbara Kresse for \$8 each. A **1939 Towle pin** (\$10), and a **souvenir bowl** (\$20) and **plate** (\$10) were also purchased.

The museum was pleased to receive **2 donations**: a Moore fountain pen display case and a second hall/armed dining room chair. The fountain pen display was originally from the Corner Pharmacy. The chair, which is from the Corbin collection and may date to the Middle Ages, is a long-term loan.

The museum has purchased 6 **LED "daylight"-style light bulbs**. These have been installed in the Corbin-Edgell-Champollion room. Larry is very pleased with the brilliant white glow that these lights give. LED lights protect fabrics and art from fading.

The **desktop computer** that was custom-built for the museum in 2007 failed on June 6th. Cathryn Baird donated a newer working desktop computer and also arranged for a **commercial printer** from Summercrest to be donated to the museum. The computer has been installed in the office, and the printer has been installed on the third floor. The cost of toner and cartridges will be looked into. EssCor Electronics has looked at the old desktop computer and determined that the motherboard needs replacing. Because such a replacement is not available, if they were to repair the computer, they would also have to replace the operating system after extracting the hard drive data. The estimate for this is about \$110, depending on the amount of data that needs to be extracted. Larry directed EssCor not to repair the computer but to extract the hard drive data and write it to a thumb drive so that the NHS can write it to the new computer that Past Perfect is now installed in. The old computer will be saved and stored.

The **pest control** service has emailed the NHS to ask about spraying for ants as ants have been bad this year. So far, however, the stones that were put in place to reduce moisture and deter ants from getting into the building, are fulfilling their function. It was determined that spraying is unnecessary, but Jerry will go around the building perimeter with granules.

Laura McCoy's daughter, Abigail, is interested in becoming a museum **docent**. Abigail is a graphic designer and may be interested in assisting the NHS with various projects.

8. **Old Business:**

Larry will be delivering a **postcard presentation** at the library's ball room on Thursday, June 16th as part of the NHS's monthly programming.

Chamber Day is Saturday, June 18th. Larry will prepare a photo board. The NHS will not be participating in the Farmer's Market on June 24th.

Cathryn will confirm with **Paul Rheingold** concerning his availability on August 9th for the **Billy B. Van** presentation. The Sunapee Historical Society will also be invited to take part. Mr. Rheingold is an attorney in Manhattan who donated a substantial sum to have a proper headstone erected for Billy B. Van in the Pine Grove Cemetery. Dean expressed interest in performing a character part but is looking for a script. Cathryn has acquired a copy of Van's book "*Snap Out of It!*". The NHS is looking for a copy of Van's book *The Seriousness of Being Funny*. Larry was authorized to search on Ebay for any Billy B. Van items. **Joan Dodge** has create a portrait ornament – 1 for Paul Rheingold and 1 for the NHS archives.

Billy B. Van is credited with coining Newport's nickname, "**The Sunshine Town.**" He owned a Guernsey **dairy farm** on Spring Street, which later became the production site of his **Pine Tree Products** business. Van bought an old book for 10 cents, called *Chemistry at a Glance*, and then experimented mixing products to make his Pine Tree soap. Van was also a nationally-known **motivational speaker**. Before he was involved in any of these undertakings, however, he was a **vaudevillian** and **Broadway actor**. He lived in **Georges Mills** in the early 1900s and nicknamed the village "**Van Harbor.**" His best friend was Lee Collins, who went on to become a choreography for the Ziegfeld Follies. Later, Collins took over his father's clock museum in Georges Mills. As an actor, Van coined the word "**skidoo,**" related to "skedaddle" and "23 skidoo," meaning "get out of here." Cathryn has come up with an alphabet acrostic by which to remember some of Van's activities:

Actor
Burlesque
Comedian, Casino owner
Dancer, Dairy, "Dick Dead Eye"
Equity Motion Picture founder (precursor to MGM)
Fellows Gear Shaper WWII worker
Guernsey cows
Honorary Mayor, Humorist
Justice of the Peace
K
Lucky Hoodoo
Minstrel
Newport's Nickname
Pine Tree Products – "will clean everything but your conscience"
Quick wit
Radio fan

Skidoo
Tuberculosis Survivor
Unofficial mayor of Newport
Vaudeville, Van Harbor
Writer, Will Rogers friend
X
Yankee Goodwill Ambassador
Zulu Warrior silent film

The **Eagle Times** is moving to Crescent Street in Claremont's downtown, to the old A.G. Edward's building. Wayne McElvry of the Claremont Historical Society is giving to the NHS bound *Argus* issues.

The Sunapee Historical Society offered to purchase the Abbott library for \$243,000, plus one dollar to the town.

9. **New Business:**

Dean Stetson presented an idea for a future NHS program to feature this area's wellspring of **Yankee ingenuity**, as evidenced in its many and varied **precision manufacturing businesses**. Carrie Brown of "Humanities to Go", who is also a researcher and curator of the American Precision Museum in Windsor, Vt., may be a possible lead presenter in such a program. The Ruger company might also be interested in participating in such a program, which could detail the history of interchangeable parts, for example. This could be a way for the NHS to partner with businesses that have provided primary support for our community. Due to the sensitivity of the topic of firearms in the aftermath of recent national tragedies, this idea was tabled, although Dean was encouraged to make contact with the management of Rugers to discuss future possibilities for educational programming partnerships that remains true to the NHS mission of bringing together those people interested in the history of Newport, New Hampshire and Sullivan County, New Hampshire.

The **September** program will feature a **Round Table discussion** about various topics and stories from Newport's history. It may also serve as an opportunity for interested persons to identify photographs.

10. **Meeting Adjourned:** 8:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jayna H. Hooper, Secretary