

MILL TOWN MESSENGER

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

AUGUST 2007

PASTPERFECT SOFTWARE READY TO GO

PastPerfect Museum software is installed and ready to go!

Many thanks go to Todd Coull for building a computer package that will last a lifetime, and to Arnie Hebert for donating and installing a printer/fax/copier combination.

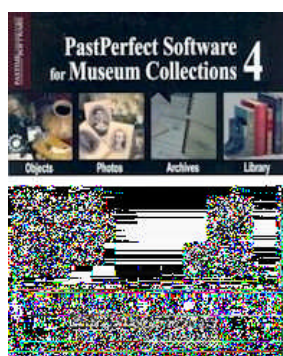
The Museum Board has been working diligently to sort and organize our collection. To date we have rough sorted 90% of the collection. The majority of materials are paper, pictures, letters, newspapers, old town documents, business advertisements and school related data.

We have developed procedures for entering information into the PastPerfect

database. And now we **NEED YOUR HELP!** If you like to work with computers and are interested in Newport history, please call Larry Cote (863-3105) or Mary Lou McGuire (863-5119) to sign up and be part of this essential project.

Once this database is created, we will have documented all objects in our collection; assigned a specific storage location to each object; and will be able to create reports based on keyword searches. The completion of this project will give us something we have never had before: a complete inventory of Newport history at our fingertips.

Special perks associated with this work include close-up looks at original



Newport documents signed by such notables as Benjamin Giles and William Cheney, and the satisfaction of making a grand contribution to the town of Newport and Sullivan County.

The steps for entering data are clearly defined, and anyone who enjoys working with the computer will be an expert in no time. So please call today to offer your help with this important project!

Museum Hours

The Newport Historical Society Museum is open by appointment during the 2007 season. Call the Museum at 863-1294 to speak with a Museum member.

NHS Receives Awards

The Newport Historical Society has twice received local recognition during the month of May for its efforts to save the Pier Bridge. The NHS was given the Newport Chamber of Commerce "Busy Bee" award, as well as the dedication of the annual Town Report.

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- *Museum volunteers needed for data entry*
- *Newport Historical Society Website*
- *New NHS Publication*
- *Newport Gift shop*
- *Reliving New Hampshire's Past*

PIER BRIDGE FUNDRAISER NEARS GOAL:

\$82,437.13 RAISED TO-DATE

STORY ON PAGE 3

State removes July 1 deadline to raise \$100,000.

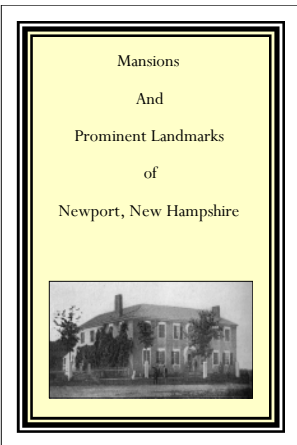
Pier Bridge Preservation Project moves forward.

It's not too late to help!

Please make your check payable to **Pier Bridge Preservation Project** and mail to:

Leighann King
Sugar River Savings Bank
P O Box 569
Newport NH 03773.

NEW PUBLICATION!



Mansions and Prominent Landmarks of Newport, New Hampshire

Do you have your copy of this newest book about Newport history?

Based on thorough research and the expertise of town historians Ray Reid and Larry Cote, this publication contains interesting details about the Newport House, the Cheney Mansion, the Lafayette House and the Richards Man-

sion. Also included is the history of the Civil War memorial, the first two Sullivan County courthouses, as well as other Newport landmarks.

Books can be purchased for \$12.00 at the following locations: Scarlett Drug, Dorr Mill Store, Harrington's Jewelers, Caswell's Barbershop, Hubert's, Debi's florist and the NSO Thrift Shop. After reading this book you will know tidbits of local history such as that the Edgell estate

known as "The Knolls," was located on the Croydon Turnpike, and that the intersection of Main and Elm Streets was once called "Wheeler's Corner."

Pick up several copies today! This is a great gift, and will remind family and friends of Newport's rich cultural heritage.

LAKE SUNAPEE BANK EXHIBITS

Since February the Newport Historical Society has presented two exhibits at the Lake Sunapee Bank. The first exhibit focused on Newport's business history; the second exhibit continues that theme by displaying local advertising calendars.

"The Mysteries of History" spotlighted our recent discov-

ery of an artistically rendered calligraphy book advertising historic Newport businesses. The "mystery" of this historical find was in trying to determine who created the book, it's historical time period, and the purpose for its existence. The exhibit brought viewers through the steps used to try to identify the above.

The current exhibit "Glimpses From the Past" shows the artistry that once upon a time formed the basis of local advertisements. Depicted on colorful calendars, business cards and blotters that were once distributed by local merchants, are scenes of beautiful New Hampshire.

Also included in the present exhibit is a close replica of Newport's first "Golden Eagle" which adorned the Eagle Block in 1829. The original was carved by Stephen Hasham of Charlestown, NH, and was described as "...a mighty wooden eagle, bronzed, of exceptionally graceful and compelling design."

SOCIETY GIFT SHOP FEATURES NEWPORT LANDMARKS



To support its fundraising projects the NHS has available several items for purchase, including a series of hand-painted Newport landmark ornaments. The 2006 ornament features the Pier Bridge; on the 2007 is the 1827 courthouse, home of the Courthouse Restaurant and the Newport Historical Society Museum. Watch for yearly additions and be sure to collect them all!

Pier Bridge items include: sweatshirts and T-shirts, coffee mugs, note cards, and postcards.

Corbin Bridge items include: a children's book entitled *The Corbin Bridge; Replicate: The Rebuilding of the Corbin Covered Bridge*; a video of the rebuilding process; a Corbin bridge print; the booklets *Covered Bridges of Sullivan County* and *Spanning Generations*; and a bronze bridge pin.

If you do not own a copy of Wheeler's *History of Newport* now is the time to get one, along with our new book *Mansions and Prominent Landmarks of Newport, New Hampshire*. All items can be purchased most Fridays and Saturdays at the Sugar River Savings Bank or the Lake Sunapee Bank. For mail-order, contact Treasurer Jackie Cote at 863-3105 or ljcote@iglide.net.

VISA/MC accepted.

PIER BRIDGE

Since June 2006, NHS has been working diligently to raise \$100,000 (20%) of a \$500,000 NH Transportation Enhancement Grant. The state's portion of \$400,000 became available to Newport on July 1, 2007. Work will begin this fall to install fire suppression including No-Char fire retardant, a fire alarm system and a dry sprinkler system. Repairs will be made to the roof, timbers, siding and flooring.

Completion is expected in late 2008.

A second grant of \$111,000 will add fire suppression to Wright's Bridge, located one mile downstream from the Pier Bridge. The Pier & Wright's bridges are two of only eight railroad covered bridges surviving worldwide. These two bridges are located on Chandlers Mills Road in the Kellyville section of Newport.

It's not too late to help!

Please help us reach our goal by making your check payable to the *Pier Bridge Preservation Project*, and mail it to:

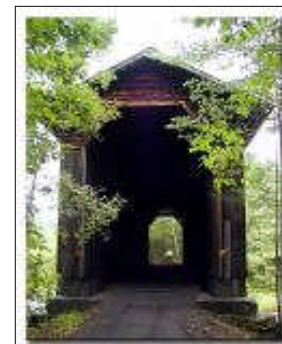
Leighann King
 Sugar River Savings Bank
 P O Box 569
 Newport NH 03773.

For credit card contributions call Jackie Cote at: (603) 863-3105.

Pier Bridge



Wright's Bridge



Photos courtesy of John Waldron

NHS WEBSITE

The NHS has received a grant from the NH Charitable Foundation to fund a dynamic website. Committee members Stan Sweeney, Jackie Cote, Todd Coull and Christina O'Brien are developing guidelines and determining the content for each page.

Besides posting basic information about the Society such as meetings, location, officers,

and contact information, this website will promote interest in the history of Newport and Sullivan County. Information about Society events, programs and fundraisers, plus an online gift shop will help support the many projects the Society sponsors.

Direct contact with the NHS Museum will be facilitated by online information request

forms, links to historical information, and donation forms. As our membership grows we will be able to complete projects enabling us to provide searchable genealogical information such as birth, marriage, death and census records.

The website will be designed by locally based Functional Art Solutions.

**AS OUR
 MEMBERSHIP
 GROWS WE
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 TO PROVIDE
 SEARCHABLE
 GENEALOGICAL
 INFORMATION**

RELIVING NEW HAMPSHIRE'S PAST

June 2, 2007 dawned bright and clear for "Reliving New Hampshire's Past." This event was located in three areas of town: the Opera House, the Common, and Parlin Field.

Historical societies set up in the Opera House to share the stories of their community. Over eighteen attended, from as far away as Berlin, NH.

Thirty-five traditional vendors set up on the Common, creating an interesting as well as a festive attraction. Among the featured crafts were hand weaving, pressed flowers, and woodcarving.

Fritz Wetherbee's entertaining presentation at the Opera House took place from 10:00 - 12:00, and he walked the Common afterwards.

Also appearing throughout the day were Steve and Sharon Wood as Sarah Joseph Hale and Abraham Lincoln. A fireman's muster took place at Parlin Field.

Whole-hearted thanks go to Kathy Butcher for the many hours she devoted to organizing this huge event.



Fritz has covered New Hampshire for more than half a century.

NEWPORT HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

PO Box 413
Newport, NH 03773

Phone: 603-863-1294

Local History: Our Guide to the Future

NEWPORT HISTORICAL SOCIETY ~ MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION /RENEWAL

Date: _____ New Member ____ Renewal ____

Name(s): _____

Address/City/ State/Zip: _____

Email: _____ Telephone: _____

Membership fee is \$15.00 per person. _____ @ \$15.00 totals: _____

I would like to make an additional donation to the:

Museum: \$ _____ Operating Expenses: \$ _____ Pier Bridge: \$ _____ Building Fund: \$ _____

Payment method: _____ Cash _____ Check (payable to Newport Historical Society) Total Enclosed \$ _____

Mail to: Newport Historical Society PO Box 413 Newport, NH 03773 Rcvd by _____

NEWPORT NOTABLES

Edmund Burke arrived in Newport in 1834. A lawyer by profession, he first served the people of Colebrook, NH for three years before becoming the editor of Claremont's *Argus* in 1833. He moved to Newport with the *Argus* in 1834, remaining its editor when it shortly thereafter joined with the *Spectator*.

As an avid supporter of the Democratic Party Burke gained a strong political reputation, and in 1837 was offered the editorship of the Nashville, TN *Union*. The people of New-

port were unwilling to lose so esteemed a member of their community, and offered him a congressional nomination. In that year he also became the commanding adjutant of the New Hampshire Militia, and was promoted to Brigade Inspector of the Militia in 1838. Elected in 1839 as a representative for New Hampshire to the US Congress, he served in that capacity for six years. During those years his reputation as a significant political figure grew, most notably with the delivery of his Rhode Island report

concerning the Suffrage movement.

Upon completion of his Congressional service, Burke served as Commissioner of Patents under President Polk during the years 1845 - 1849. Retiring to Newport in 1850, he once again offered legal services to the community. He was an expert on patent law but also assisted residents such as Lois Corbin (widow of our first physician, James Corbin) in matters such as obtaining pensions from the military.

Born in Westminster, VT, he



E. Wyatt Kimball portrait

Edmund Burke
(1809-1882)

married Ann Matson from Stoddard, NH in 1840. They had one daughter who became Frances Matson Dana. In 1866 he married Mary E. Whitney. Burke is buried in the Maple Street cemetery.

Sources: Wheeler's *History of Newport*; Pillsbury's *New Hampshire; resources, attractions, and its people...* (1927), v4; *Who Was Who in America, 1607 - 1896*.