

# MILL TOWN MESSENGER

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Volume 2, Issue 1 February 2008

## PIER BRIDGE PROJECT FINAL TOTAL: \$142,000

The Newport Historical Society (NHS) volunteered to raise \$100,000 (20% of a \$500,000 Transportation Enhancement Grant) by a July 1, 2007 deadline. The State of New Hampshire removed the deadline in May 2007. Our effort continued, and we reached a grand total of \$142,000. In past newsletters we have

thanked local contributors and covered bridge and railroad enthusiasts from across the nation for their support. In this newsletter our thanks go to the five grant organizations that brought us over the top! In June, the Mascoma Savings Bank Foundation awarded \$1,700. This foundation was established in 1988 in order

to return an "ongoing dividend" by way of grants to the communities responsible for the Bank's prosperity. We received two grants in July. First, \$5,000 from the Newport Charitable Fund. A Division of the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation, this organization provides grants in support of many purposes, including

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## MEMBERSHIP DRIVE RESULTS: 40

The first annual Newport Historical Society Membership Drive was conducted during the month of November. We gained 40 new members, bringing our membership to 119.

The Drive's major activity was a raffle; the winners were drawn at the Decem-

ber 4th REVITE with these results:

1st Prize - Edith Walsh  
2nd Prize - Gordon Flint  
3rd Prize - Ted Niboli  
4th Prize - Nancy Huot

Our thanks go to Harrington's Jewelers, Hubert's Department Store, Salt Hill Pub, and Shaw's Supermar-

kets for their generous contribution of raffle prizes.

The Newport Historical Society gratefully thanks every person or business who became a 2008 member. We truly appreciate your support of our ongoing work to preserve Newport's history!

## FREE ORAL HISTORY WORKSHOP: APRIL 19, 2008

We are hosting an all-day, interactive workshop on Saturday, April 19, 2008 from 10:00 to 4:30 at the Sugar River Bank Community Room, located at 10 N. Main Street. This event is sponsored by the UNH Center for Humanities and the NH Humanities Council. Leader Jo Radner - folklor-

ist, oral historian and storyteller - will cover all aspects of recording oral histories. Registration deadline is April 1st. NHS members Connie Frappiea and Linda Chmielewski are donating the workbooks, which allows us to offer this program free of charge. **THANK YOU** Connie and Linda!

You can sign up by calling 863-6905 or emailing Jackie Cote at [ljcote@iglide.net](mailto:ljcote@iglide.net) or Christina O'Brien at [christina@ski-n-ride.com](mailto:christina@ski-n-ride.com). This workshop is open to everyone, and we invite the members of our extended local community to take advantage of this opportunity.

Please join us!

**Monday Night**

**Programs**

**Open To All**

**Library Arts Center**

**February 11 7PM**

*Lynn Clark/Rebecca Courser:*

Post-Revolutionary Rural Free Black Settlements in New Hampshire

**March 17 7PM**

*June Liberman:*

Newport Through the Years

**April 21 7PM**

*Neal Boucher:*

1st NH Cavalry

### The Inside Scoop

- NHS Website
- January Program Report
- November Program Report
- More Kelsey Genealogy
- Newport Gift Shop
- Newport Notables:  
*William Cheney*
- Membership Form

## NEWPORT HISTORICAL SOCIETY WEBSITE



<http://www.newportnhhistory.org>

This panoramic photograph of Main Street, circa 1915, on our Home Page sets the scene for historical Newport. On the same page is an impressive image of a painting of the Old Courthouse by the late Cliff Trefethen.

Follow the links to find information on these pages:

**Current Projects, Committees, the Museum, a printable Membership Brochure, copies of our Newsletters, and Contact Information** for the Society and the Museum.

Also included is our mission statement: *The mission of this corporation shall be to bring*

*together those people interested in the history of Newport, New Hampshire and Sullivan County, New Hampshire. This mission includes collecting, preserving and displaying objects of historical significance, providing educational programs, supporting historical research and fostering public interest in and support of*

*the Society and the Newport Historical Society Museum.*

Visit often to see what's new, and be sure to check out excerpts from *Mansions and Prominent Landmarks of Newport, New Hampshire* on the Museum page!

## PIER BRIDGE CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the arts and humanities, education, environment, health and social services, recreation and civic improvements. The second July grant was \$5,000 from the David Greenwall Charitable Trust. This private trust targets arts, education, health organizations, historic preservation and historical societies.

In September we received a grant of \$3,800 from the

National Railway Historical Society. The NRHS supports the preservation of railways and railway heritage.

Our final two grants came in October. NH Land and Community Heritage Investment Program granted \$40,000. LCHIP is an independent state authority matching grants to NH communities and non-profits to conserve and preserve NH's most im-

portant natural, cultural and historic resources. Lastly, we received a \$10,000 grant from Tourism Cares. Their primary consideration is to fund projects and programs for capital improvements which serve to protect, restore, conserve and/or educate host communities and the traveling public about sites of exceptional cultural, historic or natural significance.

A sincere and heartfelt thanks go to all of these wonderful organizations for collectively contributing \$65,500 of our \$142,000 total.

We are indebted to everyone who helped, especially an anonymous donor who sponsored the services of Catherine Hogan, a talented grant writer. We couldn't have done it without you!

## JANUARY PROGRAM: BUDD BEVERAGES 1916-1972

Many thanks to Daniel Budd for providing an engaging talk, which covered the history of Budd Beverages, at our January 21 program.

First established by his grandfather, Alexander Budnitz, as a grocery store to serve the needs of Polish immigrants, by the 1930's Budd Beverages was renown for producing many popular sodas. Their special

flavors included *Dartmouth Dry*, *Fruit Bowl*, and *Old Sol*. Budd's also distributed *Moxie*, *Ted's Root Beer* (in honor of Ted Williams) and *Coke*.

Mr. Budd related the story of a very successful advertising campaign for a franchised drink, *Lola Cola*. For weeks before this new soda went on sale, ads in the Argus hyped that "Lola" was coming to

town. Everyone expected to see showgirls on Main Street, and were surprised when they did not appear on the appointed day.

Budd Beverages served an area radiating from Newport to include Keene, Henniker, Hanover, Lebanon, and west to Windsor and Brattleboro Vermont.

With a bowling alley on the top floor to carry them over the slow winter months, Budd remained in business at 89 Sunapee St. until 1972.



## NOVEMBER PROGRAM: LARRY ZULLO AND NEWC ELDREDGE

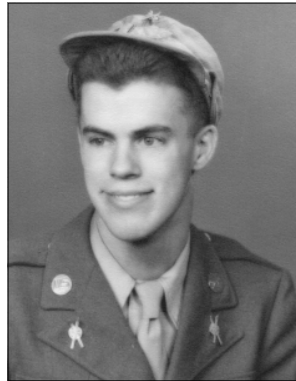
On November 12 the citizens of Newport were treated to an informative and moving program about World War II.



Larry Zullo shared his experiences as a Marine

Gunner in the South Pacific while stationed on the *USS Hancock*. A long-time resident of Newport, Mr. Zullo enlisted in 1943 at the age of 19. He saw action in the Philippines at Leyte; Iwo Jima and Okinawa. Several first-hand accounts included a bombing by the Japanese off the coast of Okinawa which set his ship afire. He received a Bronze Medal for his heroic service, which helped save the *Hancock* from destruction. Mr. Zullo also told of his experiences in Hiroshima soon after it was

bombed on August 6, 1945.



Newport native Newc Eldredge served in the 10th Mountain Division. He explained that the Division's roots stem from a National Ski Patrol meeting.

Mr. Eldredge related detailed information about the rigorous training undergone by the 10th Division at Camp Hale, Colorado. Training included carrying a 90 pound pack at 13,500 feet wearing bear trap ski bindings. Upon completion of his training in 1944, Mr. Eldredge served in the Italian Apennines.

Many thanks to Larry and Newc for sharing their war-time experiences with us.

## MORE KELSEY GENEALOGY

The following stories were passed down through the years by Kelsey family members, and are here related by NHS member Marjorie Sawyers.

Original settler Roswell Kelsey owned Lot 21; his land spanned both sides of Belknap Avenue down from his Pine Street cabin. He pastured his cows on the north end of today's Common. Pictured here is the



wooden mortar and pestle used for grinding corn and flour in his original log cabin.

There were at least two, possibly three, houses built on the N. Main Street side of the Common: one was owned by Roswell Kelsey, Jr. When the town created the Common, these houses were moved to the south side of Sunapee Street. Roswell Jr.'s house, a small one-story cape located at the corner of Cross and Sunapee Streets, was demolished several years ago.

Roswell Jr. eventually built the brick house on the west side of Spring Street, more currently known as the Gov. Murphy house. When Roswell became too infirm to care for it, he sold it to the Herrick's. He lived there for the rest of his life, cared for by the Herrick family. It has undergone several additions through the years.

Roswell Jr. was a builder and built several houses in

town. One was the house and barn located at the top northeast corner of Belknap Avenue and Pine Street. Built for Josiah Stevens, Deacon of the first church in Newport, it later became the Aiken farm.

Today a ranch style home exists on this spot.

Roswell Jr.'s son James owned the two-story brick house on the north side of Sunapee Street just beyond Cross Street at the wide curve.

James' son, Roswell James, owned a one-story cape with a large detached barn on the north side of Sunapee Street where today the C & R Service Center is located. This Roswell was a soldier in the Civil War, Company K, 9<sup>th</sup> Regiment, NH Volunteers. He arose long before dawn on the day designated for townsmen to enlist, intending to be first in line. Upon his arrival

he discovered Edward Nettleton there before him. While serving his second year, a high ranking officer offered the soldiers a deal: if they voted for Abraham Lincoln, a Republican, they could terminate their enlistment and return home. After the battles they had fought, this was especially welcome, and many decided to do so. Roswell, a die-hard Democrat, refused and continued to serve two more years. He returned home missing part of one ear, the result of a gunshot wound. In his later years, after retiring from work in the Richards woolen mill, Roswell sat in front of his barn and counted the autos that passed on Sunapee Street. Marjorie has a receipt for a man's suit from a Chicago company, which on the back has a pencil mark for each auto that passed. There are two separate columns on the paper recording 165 and 176 marks.

## Newport Historical Society Membership Form

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address/City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

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 Fund \$\_\_\_\_\_   Operating Fund \$\_\_\_\_\_

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

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

### NEWPORT HISTORICAL SOCIETY GIFT SHOP

Many thanks to all community members who purchased items from our "Newport Boutique" in the foyer of the Sugar River Bank!

Originally created as a way to raise money for the Pier Bridge Preservation Project,

proceeds now support other HS programs and projects. We will reopen in early May 2008 with new items reflecting Newport's history.

Our 2008 Newport Landmark Christmas collection will include three new orna-

ments: the Town Hall /Opera House, our beloved Corbin Bridge, and the original Richards School.

We will continue to offer the Newport Town Crock, available with the original heart design or an image of the Cor-

bin Bridge. Please let us know if you have other ideas for Newport pottery.

A special and heartfelt thanks goes to the management and staff of the Sugar River Bank for their hospitality in allowing the use of their foyer.

### NEWPORT NOTABLES: WILLIAM CHENEY

William Cheney was born in Alstead, NH in 1776. Although from a family of carpenters, he became a merchant, opening shop in Newport in 1807. He remained in Newport for the rest of his life, and during his lifetime was the major contributor to the town. His first store was located in the Enoch Noyes house at the base of Claremont Hill. In 1810, soon after the Croydon Turnpike was created, he built the original business block on the present day site of the Richards Block.

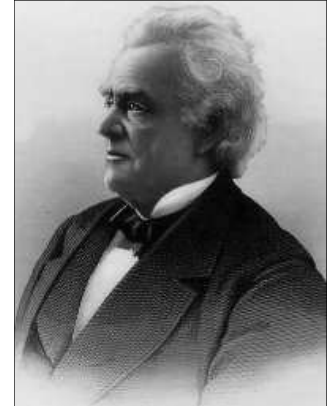
One of his major accomplishments was the establishment of Sullivan County, in 1827, and securing Newport as the shire town. He was both moderator and selectman for

Newport, and was elected State Representative six times between the years 1816 and 1827.

His many business interests included building the Nettleton Hotel (1814-15) on the site of the old Newport House, and the Tontine (1818) a large building housing stores and tenements on the east side of the Common where the Methodist Church now stands. In 1815 he built the canal and dam which formed the village Mill Pond. There he established a cotton mill and linseed oil mill.

Many other mills were located there, including the Eagle and Newport Mills. In 1819 he bought rights to all the water power at Sunapee Harbor.

His contributions to Newport include the land for the Common. His first offer to donate the land was not accepted at town meeting due to stipulations requiring that elm trees be planted. However, the town voted to purchase the land the following year, in 1817. A deacon of the Baptist Church, he donated land north of the Common for the present church, which was designed and built under his supervision. He donated the Revere bell for its tower, and was present in Boston when it was cast. A member of the Masonic Lodge, meetings were held in his house. Cheney died in 1830, leaving a widow and eleven children. He is buried in Maple Street Cemetery.



Col. William Cheney  
1776 - 1830

Sources: Wheeler's *History of Newport*;  
*The Granite Monthly*, v43 n8: Aug-Sep  
1911; Ray Reid, *Newport Historian*

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