

# NEWPORT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

# MILL TOWN MESSENGER

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Volume 7, Issue 2

April, 2013

*From the President's Pen . . .*



by Cathryn Baird

**"Everyone can be great, because everyone can serve."** ~ *Martin Luther King, Jr.*

As president of the Newport Historical Society, I am proud to announce the formation of a Board of Directors comprised of twelve active members who are willing to serve the community to preserve Newport's history and support the NHS mission.

Current executive officers are Cathryn Baird, President, Jerry Hagebusch, Vice-President, Laura Kessler, Secretary, Jackie Cote, Treasurer, and Larry Cote, Museum Director. New board members are Craig Cowing, Priscilla Hagebusch, Virginia O'Brien Irwin, Rita James, Christina O'Brien, Dean Stetson and Stan Sweeney.

Their diversity of background and experience is unified by a common passion for history and a willingness to serve the community. Their contributions will help maximize past memories of local history from which a strong identity and sense of pride can flourish for generations to come. Thank you board members for stepping up to the plate – you are great!

## INTERNET NEWS:

Visit the Historical Society's website [www.newportnhhistory.org](http://www.newportnhhistory.org) to view a ten-minute slide show on Newport, prepared and narrated by Dean Stetson. It features our Historical Society Museum, giving the viewer the flavor of the Museum's interior and historical offerings. At the website, click on the next-to-last menu item "*PSA by Dean Stetson*" to view the video. Thank you, Dean, for creating such a wonderful tribute to Newport and the Newport Historical Society Museum. This video is being shown intermittently on NCTV, and anytime on our website!

## Meeting & Program Times

### BUSINESS MEETINGS

Held at the museum, 6:30-8 PM

**Wed. Apr. 10**

**Mon. May 13**

**Mon. Jun. 10**

**Mon. Jul. 8**

### PROGRAMS

**Wed. May 15, 5PM to 7 PM,**

**NHS Museum** hosts the Newport Chamber of Commerce's

**"Business After Hours."**

**Tues. Jun. 11, 6:30-8PM**

**Richards Library ballroom**

**Barn Talk, by John Porter:**...a chronological walk through time, with photo illustrations of barns around the state that are examples of these eras of agricultural history...

**Tues. Jul. 9 6:30-8PM, TBA**

*All members and public invited to meetings and programs.*



## THE BRADFORD CHAIR by Pris Hagebusch

Sometimes in a family there is an item handed down from generation to generation, with a story. Sometimes the story changes over the years. Verifying the item's provenance is often difficult. Barbara Holden Yeomans donated this chair to the Newport Historical Society this year. Her mother's family, the Cummings, had always referred to it as the Bradford Chair, and presumed a link to Governor Bradford, of the Plymouth colony fame.

With the help of Newport's Reprisal Chapter of the Daughter's of the American Revolution's research, she found that a related Cummings teenager was left with Governor Bradford's family while his father returned to England for a visit. The ship was lost at sea, and the son was raised in the Bradford family. No historical mention is made of a chair such as this, but it is charming to assume that the boy had the chair from the Bradford family.

The Historical Society is delighted to have the chair, and the story, and we, too, can call it "the Bradford Chair." May we save your story?

Does your family have an heirloom you would like to have us preserve for future generations?



# NEWPORT NOTABLES

## Daniel Chase Corbin, II

By Larry Cote

Daniel Chase Corbin, II was the grandson of Dr. James Corbin (1762-1826,) son of Austin Corbin (1791-1876,) and brother of Austin Corbin, (1827-1896), subject of our January 2013 Newport Notables. Daniel was born October 1, 1832, and, like his brother, attended local schools. Little is known of his early life. When interviewed late in life and asked about his early years, he is quoted as saying, "What I did in my youth didn't amount to much of interest to anyone but myself."

Corbin family generational titles and suffixes tend to be confusing. To add to the Corbin naming confusion, Daniel Chase Corbin, II had one son, whom he named Austin Corbin, II. The following listing may help keep them straight:

1. **Austin Corbin, son of Dr. James Corbin**
2. **Austin Corbin, Daniel Chase Corbin (d. early) and Daniel Chase Corbin, II, all sons of Austin Corbin**
3. **Austin Corbin, II, son of Daniel Chase Corbin, II.**

(Helpful information on the usual usage of suffixes and generational titles can be found on

[www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Suffix](http://www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Suffix)

Upon completion of his studies at the age of 20, Daniel (Chase Corbin, II) received a government contract to survey land in Iowa, Minnesota and the Missouri River area in Nebraska. After living in Iowa for about three years, he moved to Nebraska City on the western bank of the Missouri River and dealt in real estate. In 1858 when gold was discovered near Pike's Peak, he visited Colorado and was impressed with the mining operations. Back in Nebraska he set up a freight business to haul supplies to the Army posts and to the miners in Colorado, Utah, Idaho, Montana and Wyoming.

In 1862 Daniel married Louise M. Jackson daughter of John & Hannah Jackson of Fort Madison, Iowa and within a few months moved to Denver, Colorado. In 1863, his son, Austin Corbin II, (1863-1945) was born. Hearing of rich ore strikes in Western Montana, he moved to Helena, Montana in 1865. Seeing there was money in support of the mining industry, he opened a general store and a freight forwarding business. He later branched off into banking, smelting ore and mining.

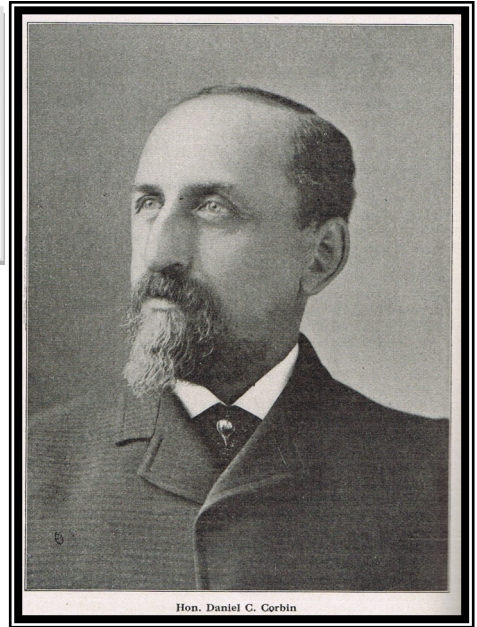
In 1866 a daughter, Louise, was born. Another daughter, Mary, was born in 1872. About this time his wife's health started to deteriorate, requiring that she be confined to a wheelchair. She was eventually diagnosed with rheumatoid arthritis. Daniel sold off his holdings and searched the United States and

Europe for a cure or more favorable climate for his wife. His wife lived in France for the remainder of her life, dying in 1900. His daughter, Louise, married an Englishman, Lord Walpole, in 1888, and Mary married a wealthy Englishman after a divorce from a Spokane architect.

In 1876 Daniel moved to New York to manage the Manhattan Beach Railway for his brother, Austin Corbin. He eventually became the managing director of the whole enterprise including the development of Coney Island and its hotels. Daniel returned to Montana in 1882 and entered his extensive railroad career. Daniel's genius was in recognizing an opportunity, usually related to the mining industry in the Pacific Northwest, and bringing the people together to make the project happen.

He began building a railroad in 1886, starting in Spokane, Washington, stretching eastward to the silver-lead mines in the mountains of the Coeur d'Alene region of Idaho. Rather than running the railroad, he sold it to the Northern Pacific Railroad, realizing that greater profits would be realized in constructing feeder lines from the mines to the transcontinental rail network.

Daniel Corbin became an important figure in the growth of Spokane. Around 1888, he constructed another railroad from Spokane to the Kootenay Lake region of British Columbia, again selling it to Northern Pacific in 1898. In 1905 he built the Spokane International Railway connecting to the Canadian Pacific



Hon. Daniel G. Corbin



Steam locomotive working at Corbin's mine in Crow's Nest Pass, British Columbia.

## Daniel Chase Corbin, II

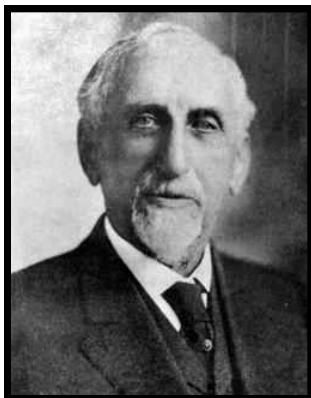
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Railway. When asked by the Commerce Commission what it cost to build the line he replied *“That is none of your damned business”*.

At times, Daniel had 1,500 men working on spur lines. He recognized that some of the feeder lines would be marginally profitable, and since the traffic would be running slow, he told his engineer to go around tree stumps that were more than four feet in diameter, that being more economical than digging out the stumps and filling in the holes.

At this time he also organized a company to work the coal rich seam in Crows Nest Pass in British Columbia which operated until 1935. Another company reopened the mines in the 1970’s and it was still known as “Corbin”.

Daniel had a modest mansion in Spokane and people often said, as he rode by in his carriage, “There goes the richest man in Spokane”. Today his residence is the home of the Corbin Art Center of the Spokane Parks Department.



**Daniel Chase Corbin in later years.**

Daniel Corbin died June 29, 1918, at the age of 85. Newspapers estimated his wealth to be twelve million but historians put it at \$679,564. While in the public eye, Daniel Corbin was a private man, a tough negotiator and was known as a gentleman of the highest integrity and honor. Fascinating and detailed accounts of his life, building of the railroads, mining operations and other matters can be found on the Internet.

**Citations:**

1. Edmund Wheeler. The History of Newport, New Hampshire, from 1761 to 1878. (Concord, NH: The Republican Press, 1879) 257, 352
2. Henry H. Metcalf: The Granite Monthly, Newport Anniversary August/September 1911. (Concord, NH: The Rumford Press) 256, 257
3. The State of Washington: Corbin, Daniel Chase, (1832-1918) HistoryLink.org Essay 7960
4. The State of Washington: Daniel Corbin and the Spokane Falls & Northern Railway, HistoryLink.org Essay 7528
5. University of Toronto: Corbin, Daniel Chase-Dictionary of Canada Biography Online

## THE MUSEUM REPORT

by Larry Cote, Museum Director



**Want to look something up? Visit the new bookcases for our reference material notebooks on the museum’s 3rd floor.**

We would like to thank Jerry Hagebusch for painting the new reference materials bookcases on the third floor of the museum. And, thank you to Gerry and Harold LaValley, who donated a much needed step-stool after seeing our request in the last newsletter. It will be a great help at the Museum!

As usual, visitation to the Museum is somewhat slow in the winter. But we have received some great memorabilia donations lately. The volunteers have been using their time in reorganizing the third-floor reference library. Come and see our progress.



“Little Godey” icon

We recently purchased a leather bound edition of Goedy’s Lady’s Book, volume # 79, dated 1869. Newport’s own **Sarah Josepha Hale** edited this periodical for 36 years.



**Thank you LaValleys!**

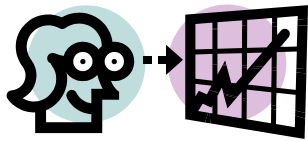
The Museum is open on Sundays, except for holiday weekends, from 10 AM until 2 PM or by appointment. If you want some NHS ornaments, books, or memorabilia for gifts or personal use, you can stop by on a Sunday and find all of them, or, call the appointment number, **603-863-1294**, to stop and pick up a needed item another time. With the coming of spring, we will also see you on the Newport Common at the Newport Farmers Market, starting June 7. Look for our tent with all our NHS items.



**Museum Sales table: Sundays or by appointment**

## FROM THE TREASURER'S DESK BY JACKIE COTE

### Membership Statistics:



In January we mailed a "reminder / we miss you letter" to all who had not yet renewed for the 2012-2013 membership year (10/1/12 to 9/30/13). Approximately half responded by renewing their membership. If you were among this group, thank you so much for your continued support. If you have not yet renewed, it's never too late!!! As of April 5, the NHS member total is 218. Your annual dues, along with special donations and profits from the sale of books, ornaments and other Newport memorabilia, support the Historical Society, the museum, and our programs. Thank you for your participation.

### Museum Improvement Project:

This year we will take on the task of replacing the museum roof. There are some suspicious-looking humps on the west-facing side of the main roof, and the front porch roof leaks already. We have the project out for bids and will be making a contractor decision soon. We hope to be able to pay for this project without special fundraising, but member assistance with this expensive project is always appreciated.

### 2013 Ornament Proofs:

We have received the proofs of the subjects for the two 2013 ornaments from our artist, Joan Dodge. As described in the last issue of the Messenger, we are honoring the Newport Tigers and our Parlin Field airport this year. These new ornaments and our other great ornaments will be available for sale at our Farmers Market booth on the first Market day, June 7.



Tiger design by Jim Chrimes of Bacon Graphics

### Hosting the Chamber of Commerce:

On Wednesday, May 15, the Newport Historical Society will host the Chamber's "Business After Hours" at the Museum from 5 to 7 PM. At that time, we will present our third \$5,000 mortgage payment to the Economic Corporation of Newport (ECON). This payment is the third in a series of five payments on the purchase of the Nettleton House and we thank ECON for working with us to make the Newport Historical Society Museum a reality.

**The Mill Town Messenger is published quarterly by the Newport Historical Society**  
**P.O. Box 413, Newport, NH 03773**  
 Website [www.newportnhhistory.org](http://www.newportnhhistory.org) , Email [newporths1761@gmail.com](mailto:newporths1761@gmail.com)  
**Museum phone number 603-863-1294**  
 Call the Museum number above for appointments to tour the Museum at alternative times  
**Contributors to this issue: Cathryn Baird, Jackie & Larry Cote, Priscilla Hagebusch**

### Newport Historical Society Membership Form

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

New Membership \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_\_\_ Extra Donation \_\_\_\_\_

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 \$ \_\_\_\_\_



**Roof Replacement Project: \$ \_\_\_\_\_**



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

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