

NEWPORT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MILL TOWN MESSENGER

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From the President's Pen



by Cathryn Baird

“Stay-ca-tion, noun: a vacation spent at home or nearby”

Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, 2009

According to Wikipedia, the word *staycation* had its genesis around 2003 and achieved popularity in the US and UK during recent times of economic challenge. The rising costs of gas, meals and lodging have encouraged people to regard staycations as a viable alternative to an expensive vacation.

Contemporary author, Bill Bryson, who has written a great deal about the virtues of both travel and home says, “To my mind, the greatest reward and luxury of travel is to be able to experience everyday things as if for the first time, to be in a position in which almost nothing is so familiar it is taken for granted.” What a wonderful concept to use as you embark on a **Staycation in The Sunshine Town**. If you need an itinerary, go to www.newportnhhistory.org and view the 250th Discovery Challenge link. It offers the perfect guidance to experience the everyday wonders of our community which often are overlooked or taken for granted. So, take time, unwind and enjoy the magic of a staycation.

Bon Voyage!

Staycation Idea! Visit **The Nettleton House**, the new location of the **Newport Historical Society Museum**, 20 Central Street, open Sundays from 10am-2pm. See how the Newport Historical Society engages the past with the present for the future of **The Sunshine Town**.



Thank you to our 2011 volunteers!

Staffing the museum, book sales and newsletter distribution has been made possible due to the generous gift of time from the following members~ Paul Baird, Bud & Judi Berry, Jackie & Gordon Bell, Marie Bugbee, Dottie Collins, Larry Cote, Pris Hagebusch, Michelle Hamilton, Jayna Hooper, Rita James, June & Jack Liberman, Linda Morrow, Pat Rude and Stan Sweeney. The Newport Historical Society Executive Board is most appreciative of your volunteer contributions.

2012 Lecture

Series

(Note meeting times)

Executive Committee Meeting, 6 PM

General Membership Meeting, 6:30 PM

Programs, 7 to 8 PM

Monday, February 6

Tenth Mountain Division, Past, Present and Future

Newcomb Eldredge

Library Arts Center

Monday, March 12

The Newport 250th Discovery Challenge

Dean Stetson

Richards Library Ballroom

Monday, April 9

Civil War Collecting

Neal Boucher

The Inside Scoop

- *Newport 250th Discovery Challenge*
- *The Nettleton Women*
- *Volunteer and Membership forms*
- *Treasurer's Desk: membership and book sales*

Newport's 250th Discovery Challenge 2011 – A Piece Of Time Captured

By Dean Stetson

The 250th Committee of the Newport Historical Society met many times to research, define, and organize the activities that were held this year to celebrate Newport's Semi-Sesquicentennial. One of the ideas that surfaced was to have an activity that allowed everyone to participate and interact with some of Newport's historical treasures.

What evolved was Newport's 250th *Discovery Challenge 2011* – a photo treasure hunt highlighting places of unique interest that make up just a small part of Newport's rich history. Digital cameras or phones provided an easy way for participants on the "treasure hunt" to capture their find and still preserve the artifact, or site, intact.

Participants who took on the *Discovery Challenge 2011* chose from 103 different "treasures" found in our community. The list of clues was released on September 30th at the Town Hall, Historical Society, and Richards Free Library. The list was also made available on The Town of Newport and the Newport Historical Society web sites. The list was broken down into categories that included locations of schools, great industrial facilities, entertainment venues, retail shops, churches, homes, and bridges from different periods of Newport's history. The end result of this contest would be a slide show style presentation to contrast the changes over the years.

With the assistance of Larry and Jackie Cote, the photographic archives at the NHS were searched for historical reference images. Many were found but it was surprising the lack of photos of street scenes, daily life and businesses from more recent time periods.

Many picked up or printed copies of the list, a few ventured to some of the "treasures" and took photos, but four contestants took up the challenge and submitted photos to be judged. Everyone did an outstanding job in correctly identifying the current buildings or sites from the listed clues.

The four contestants or teams that entered were; Anna and Rebecca Robertson, Butch Barrett, Pam LaFountain, and Venita Nudd with Tari Lord MacDonald. The contest ended on October 10th. Contestants were required to drop off a CD disk with their photos at the Richards Free Library where they were picked up, reviewed and judged.

Two winners, Pam LaFountain, and Venita Nudd with Tari MacDonald, were selected and each received a

copy of *Celebrating Community - Newport, New Hampshire: 250 Years and Beyond, 1761-2011*, written by Newport native Jayna Huot Hooper, and donated by the Newport Historical Society.

Jeff Nintzel and his staff at NCTV assisted with the transfer of the digital presentation to a video format that enabled all to see *The Discovery Challenge 2011* beginning early December on local cable access television. On December 12th, a new link was added to the Newport Historical Society Website at www.newportnhhistory.org to view the 250th Discovery Challenge 2011. Thanks go to Ryan O'Brien of *Functional Art Solutions* for his generous assistance.

The goal of this activity was to invoke memories and create new ones. It also provided an opportunity to share or discover oral and documented history and to recognize how the culture as well as the landscape of Newport has changed over the years. The combined efforts of many in our community helped to make this as well as all of the 250th celebration activities a reality. With this small snapshot of our community, it will be interesting to see how things compare with the 300th Discovery Challenge in 2061!

Nine treasures that were elusive to all of the contestants. The correct answers can be found in the slideshow on the NHS website.

- #37. Where was the location of the "Yankee Grill", then "The Green Bonnet"?
- #69. Where was the location of The First National Store on Main St.?
- #73. The first resident doctor in Newport was Dr, James Corbin. Where was the site of his house?
- #79. Where did famous vaudeville performer Billy B. Van live when he first came to Newport?
- #81. Where was Franklin F. Rowell's home on North Main Street?
- #89. Where was the location of another canal that helped provide power to the Sibley Scythe Shop in North Newport?
- #90. Where was the box culvert for a cow crossing under the Claremont Concord Rail Bed between Belknap Ave. trailhead and North Newport?
- #99. Where is the foundation for an anti-aircraft gun built during WWII for National Security?

The Nettleton Women

By Christina O'Brien

Photo courtesy of *Mansions and Prominent Landmarks of Newport, NH*



Our July, 2011 *Mill Town Messenger* featured an article called “**History of the Nettleton House**”, which described some of the Nettleton men and their important roles here in Newport: Jeremiah and two of his sons Aaron and Joel and Jeremiah’s grandsons Aaron, Jr., Bela, Jeremiah D. and Daniel.

But behind every man is a great woman! Jeremiah’s wife, Love, who came to Newport with Jeremiah and their eight children in 1779 from Killingworth, CT, was a well respected midwife. She is said to have been drawn on a hand-sled by four men to assist a patient in New London and is also known to have walked three miles on snowshoes to visit another. It is believed that Love’s brother was Gordon Buell, the father of Sarah Josepha Buell Hale. Gordon Buell’s family came to Newport from Killingworth, CT just before 1780.

Jeremiah and Love’s eldest daughter, Mabel followed in her mother’s footsteps. Mabel was known in town as ‘Aunt Mabel’ and was one of Newport’s very first physicians. Love’s great granddaughter, Lucy (Joel Nettleton’s granddaughter and Daniel’s daughter) married Arthur Bradley. Arthur was a lawyer originally from Brattleboro, VT who came to Newport in 1873 and married Lucy in 1881.

They moved to New York City shortly afterward and Arthur became superintendent of his brother’s chemical company. He made his fortune patenting the process to make lead paint and decided to have a summer home built for himself and his bride in Newport.

Arthur hired his old college classmate, Stanford White to design this summer home for them on a lovely piece of property on Pine Street. That summer home (now known as Woodlawn Care Center) became Lucy and Arthur’s primary residence after they came back to live in Newport permanently in 1892. Arthur opened a law office on Main Street and was very active in town. He died in 1911 and Lucy stayed in the home until 1916.

At that time Lucy sold the home to George Dorr and moved to California to be closer to her brother, where she died in 1918. The Dorr’s owned the home until 1952 when the new owners, Leland and Amelia Whipple began converting it into a rest home and later into the nursing home that we know of today.

There are plenty more stories about the Nettleton daughters and wives and we will continue to search for and share them with you. And in the meantime, if any Newport women (or men) are interested in volunteering their time at our new museum at the old Nettleton homestead on Central Street, we would love to have you. We are open on Sundays year round from 10am-2pm. You can contact Christina O’Brien at 863-6905 or christina@ski-n-ride.com for more information. There are plenty of interesting projects to work on and so much more rich Newport history to reveal!

Volunteer Opportunities with the Newport Historical Society

I would like to be contacted to volunteer in the following area(s):

Docent at the Nettleton House (open Sundays 10-2PM and by appointment) _____ *Docent training provided!*

Working at the Historical Society’s Sales table at various public venues throughout the year _____

Bringing refreshments for monthly meetings _____ Writing/suggesting articles for the Newsletter _____

Providing/suggesting a meeting program (topic: _____) _____

Research projects at the museum, working with Museum holdings _____

Assisting with cataloging and preserving Museum holdings _____

Mail to: Newport Historical Society, P. O. Box. 413, Newport, NH 03773 or call Christina O’Brien 603-863-6905

FROM THE TREASURER'S DESK: BY JACKIE COTE

Results from our FY2012 Membership Drive and the 250th Book Sales

We now have exactly 200 members of the Newport Historical Society!

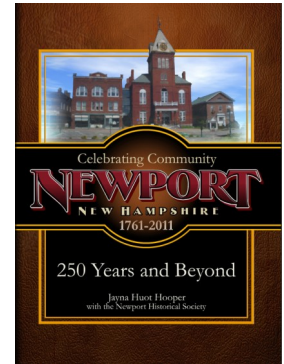
When Larry and I joined the Society in the summer of 2005, we had 13 members; and not all of them were actively involved. The Pier Bridge Preservation Project propelled NHS forward in the area of public awareness. People wanted to participate in some way and our organization grew.

Since then, each year our membership has increased significantly. While we did not reach the 250 member goal that we had hoped to achieve by the end of 2011, Newport's 250th anniversary year, I think you'll agree that growing our membership from 13 in 2005 to 200 in 2011 is quite an accomplishment!

While many members are able to only participate as "passive patrons," and we highly value their membership, an organization also needs active volunteers. Included in this newsletter is a form to indicate an area of interest where you might be able to lend a hand if you are so inclined. Please give it consideration.

Sales of "Celebrating Community, Newport NH, 1761 to 2011, 250 Years and Beyond."

My records show that to-date we have sold 549 books in three months, a true testament to the hard work and amazing talent of author/editor, Janya Huot Hooper! Feedback from those who have purchased the book has been highly complimentary; and, we look forward to continued strong sales.



For those who live outside our local area, the book may be purchased by mail-order. Please visit our website at www.newportnhhistory.org and click on the home page link located under the picture of the book for instructions or email us at newporths1761@gmail.com. Please include your name and address and how many books you wish to purchase. We will respond with the total including shipping that you will need to remit.

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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