

NEWPORT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MILL TOWN MESSENGER

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Volume 11, Issue 2

April, 2017

From the President's Pen

by Cathryn Baird.....

"If we had no winter, the spring would not be so pleasant; if we did not sometimes taste of adversity, prosperity would not be so welcome."

~ Anne Bradstreet (1612-1672)

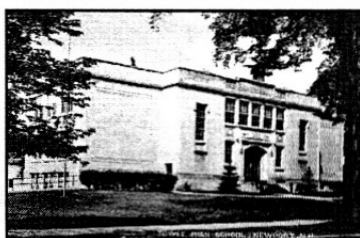
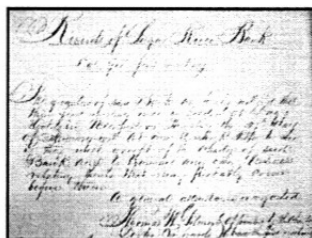
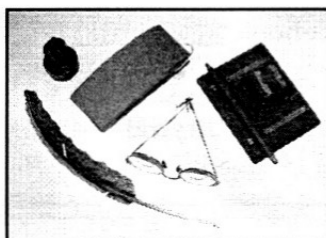
Poet, Writer, First Woman To Be Published in Colonial America

It has been said that the first day of spring is one thing and the first spring day is another! This year, spring days seem to be later than usual. I think we are all ready for the season of change and warmth. As Mother Nature runs her course, thawing out the frozen ground and bringing forth new life, take time to reflect on how to approach this new season as a chance for personal renewal and contribution to your historical Society.

Now is a great time to do some spring-cleaning, downsizing and donating! Donations of Newport related artifacts and ephemera are always welcomed additions to the museum. Remember the pre-computer days when you had to write in long hand with a pen? To highlight the "adversity" of penmanship, a collection of fountain pens is being started and your pen donations will help to highlight the "good old days" pre-text, tweet and twitter!

Also, please consider joining or renewing your membership to the Newport Historical Society. Even if you cannot be an active participant, your membership is important to help support the ongoing exploration and collection of town history.

Serving my ninth term as president of the Newport Historical Society, I continue to be honored to work with a small group of historic-minded individuals who are dedicated to preserving the past to make positive impact with each changing season. Happy Spring!



Meeting & Program Times

All members and the public are invited to all meetings and any of these free programs

BUSINESS MEETINGS:

NHS museum, 6:30-8 PM

Mon. Apr. 10

Mon. May 8

Mon. Jun. 12

EVENING PROGRAMS: 6:30-8 PM

Richards Free Library Ballroom

(unless otherwise noted)

⇒ Tue. May 23, Library Arts Center:

Waffle Irons thru History. Dr. Deborah Stone displays and discusses her extensive collection of antique waffle irons. Modern waffles will be served!

⇒ Tue. Jun. 6, Moved and Seconded: Town

Meeting in New Hampshire, the Present, the Past and the Future, by Rebecca Rule.

⇒ Tue. Jul. 11, Poor Houses and Town Farms:

The Hard Row for Paupers, by Steve Taylor

⇒ Aug. 8, New Hampshire's One Room Rural

Schools: The Romance and the Reality, by Steve Taylor

AFTERNOON PROGRAMS

12:30-2 PM In the Newport Senior Center.

⇒ Tue. Apr. 11, Discovery Challenge from

2011 Anniversary Celebration, by Dean Stetson.

⇒ Tues. April 25, East Side Store Fronts, by Arnie Hebert.

⇒ Tues. May 9, Newport Schools, by Arnie Hebert.

⇒ Tues. June 13, Corbin Park, by Arnie Hebert

NEWPORT NOTABLES: Dr. Thomas P. Sanborn, MD

by Larry Cote

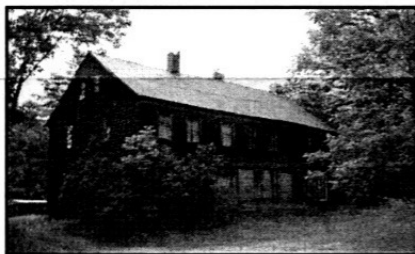
Dr Thomas P. Sanborn was born in Sanbornton, NH, on September 26, 1811, the only son of Christopher Smith Sanborn, a farmer. The town was named after his ancestors, who were early settlers of that town. He attended local schools during the winter sessions as was the custom of farm boys of that time and later attended the local academy. When Thomas was 16 years old, his father drowned. For the next five or six years, Thomas remained on the farm assisting his mother and sister with farm duties.



In 1831 he worked at a mercantile business in Lawrence, Massachusetts, but found it not to his liking. He then turned to the occupation of his grandfather, Dr. Benaiah Sanborn, who was a highly-esteemed physician. In 1833 he studied under Dr Thomas P. Hill in Sanbornton, attending lectures at the Maine Medical School in Brunswick. In 1839 after a five or six-year break, he studied medicine for two years with his brother-in-law, Dr. W. H. Hosmer, of New London, New Hampshire, while attending two courses of lectures at Dartmouth Medical School. He then studied under Dr Gilman Kimball of Lowell, Massachusetts, and received his medical degree from Dartmouth in 1841. He practiced medicine in Goshen, New Hampshire, until 1843, when he moved to Newport where he resided until the end of his life.

On November 14, 1844, he married Harriet Allen, the daughter of Hon. David Allen, of Newport. David Allen had a farm and hotel on

the Croydon Turnpike near the Newport-Goshen town line. The house was located across the road from Blooming Acres and was recently razed. They had five children: three

**Allen Farm and Hotel**

daughters, Harriet, Mary & Kate; and two sons, Thomas B. Sanborn and Christopher Sanborn, both of whom became doctors.

In 1853 he traveled to Europe visiting medical schools, hospitals and museums in England, Scotland, France and Belgium. He was a Representative to the State Legislature in 1857 and 1858.

In 1855 he performed what was referred to as a "plastic operation" on 10-year old Jane Johnson of Newbury who

was badly burned at age four. I will not describe the girl's facial deformity as it was severe and the description unsettling to read. The outcome was very successful and was published in the New Hampshire Journal of Medicine in May of 1855.

Dr Sanborn was appointed as the Surgeon for the 16th Regiment of New Hampshire Volunteers and served with distinction with the 19th Army Corps in Louisiana during the Civil War.

Dr Thomas P. Sanborn lived in what was originally Colonel William Cheney's Mansion, now the McCrillis & Eldredge Insurance Com-

**The Cheney Mansion**

pany, selling it to Dexter Richards in 1872. He then moved into the "Mansion" on the south side of the Richards Free Library known today as the Lucas home. He also owned the old Dr. James Corbin farm on Oak Street and later the Gordon Buell farm on Maple Street Extension near the Wendell-Newport town line in the Guild section of Newport.

Dr. Thomas P. Sanborn died on July 23, 1875 at the age of 64 having lived the last 30 years of his life in Newport. His son, Thomas B. Sanborn, graduated from Bellevue Medical College in New York in 1876 and took over his father's practice of medicine in Newport in 1877 where he remained until his death on June 30, 1894.

Citations:

Celebrating Community, Newport, NH, 1761-2011, 250 Years & Beyond, by Jayna Hooper

The History of Cheshire & Sullivan County, Newport section written by Joseph Parmelee

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Website www.newportnhhistory.org Email newports1761@gmail.com Facebook [NewportHS1761](https://www.facebook.com/NewportHS1761)
Call the Museum number above for appointments to tour the Museum at alternative times

Contributors to this issue: Cathryn Baird, Jackie Cote and Larry Cote.

THE HISTORY OF THE CORBIN COVERED BRIDGE; When was it actually built?

By Jackie Cote

Over the winter, we were asked for information on the



Corbin Covered Bridge

Corbin Covered Bridge. We didn't know much except the name and that it was built circa 1835.

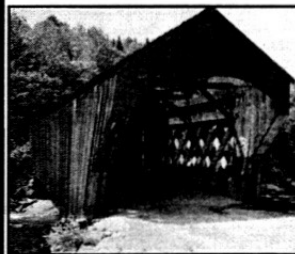
Wheeler's History of Newport states that the oldest covered

bridge was the Kelleyville (highway) bridge built in 1839. That being true, the circa 1835 date for the Corbin Covered Bridge could not be correct. The following information was discovered by Larry Cote, Museum Director, in the 1844 Town Report, the oldest Report in the Museum archives. The following information is listed in chronological order by date worded exactly as found in the Town Report under **Roads and Bridges** listing each provider in parentheses and the amount paid in bold. At that time, monetary amounts were written with no dollar sign using a comma to separate the dollars and cents instead of a period as we do today. As indicated below, the total cost of the bridge was 408,30 1/2.

- March 1843 – 1 day to sell the building of the Corbin Bridge (Joseph Hoyt) **1,00**
- March 1843 – 1 day to sell the building of the Corbin Bridge (James Hall) **1,00**
- March 1843 – 1/2 day settling with **A. Warren** for Corbin Bridge (Nathaniel White) **,50** (Hoyt, Hall & White were Selectmen in 1843)
- April 21, 1843 – To advertise notice to build Corbin Bridge (Carleton & Harvey) **,75**
- May to August, 1843 – Paid Abner Hall for work and timber about Corbin Bridge (Armoni Sweet) **4,52**
- May to August, 1843 – Paid Nathan Taylor for 5 days work at Corbin Bridge (Armoni Sweet) **3,51**

- July 1, 1843 – To 4 days drawing stone for the Corbin Bridge (David Presby) **3,00**
- July 5 to 7, 1843 – To 3 days digging stone for Corbin bridge (L.L. King) **2,25**
- July 10, 1843 – To 1 day drawing stone for the Corbin Bridge (David Presby) **1,00**
- July 8 to 14, 1843 – To 4 days drawing stone for the Corbin Bridge (David Presby) **4,00**
- August, 1843 – To 7 days building buttments at the Corbin Bridge (Jonathan Emerson) **7,00**
- August 17, 1843 – To 1 day taking down the old Corbin Bridge (David Presby) **1,24 1/2**
- August 26, 29, 1843 – To 1 1/2 days work at the Corbin Bridge (Walter King) **1,12**
- Summer, 1843 – 2 days work of oxen drawing stone to the Corbin Bridge (Anson Warren) **1,00**
- October 10, 1843 – To finding Materials and **building Corbin Bridge (Anson Warren) 370,00**
- Sept/Oct, 1843 – To 5 days work at the Corbin Bridge (John Jones) **2,07**
- January 22, 1844 – Paid Jeremiah Adams for 6 1/2 days work on Corbin Bridge (Nathaniel Presby) **4,34**

At one time Newport had six highway covered bridges. We currently know when the Kelleyville (1839) and Corbin (1843) were built. As time permits, we will continue to

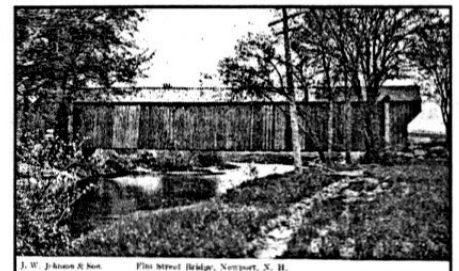


Ayers Covered Bridge

review town report records looking for the years in which the Elm Street, Ayers, and two Oak Street covered bridges were built. The Ayers highway covered bridge connected North Newport and Kelleyville crossing the Sugar River between those two locations. You will note that Ayers Road at Kelleyville still exists but is now a Dead End road.



Two views of the Elm Street Covered Bridge.



J. W. Johnson & Son. Elm Street Bridge, Newport, N. H.

NHS Board Members: Cathryn Baird, Pres.; Jerry Hagebusch, V. Pres.; Larry Cote, Museum Director; Jackie Cote, Treas.; Jayna Hooper, Secretary; Priscilla Hagebusch, Arnie Hebert, Rita James, Laura McCrillis Kessler, Dean Stetson, Stan Sweeney, Arthur Walsh

THE TREASURER'S REPORT by Jackie Cote

THE MUSEUM REPORT by Larry Cote

Winter is always a quiet time for our Fundraising Committee, a time to rest and gear-up for the busy season ahead. **Newport Farmers Market** begins on Friday, **May 19** from **3 to 6 pm** on the Common. June will be busy as we will be present at two additional venues, **Open House at Parlin Field**, on June 3 from 8am to 3pm and **Chamber Day**, June 17 from 9:30am to 1:30pm on the Common.

For those who may not be aware, Newport has been visited by a **Great Grey Owl** that has attracted hundreds of observers from New England and beyond. NHS will be adding an owl postcard and a note card assortment of 5 various owl photos taken by locals and professionals with their permission.

Our beige Town long sleeve tee shirts and sweatshirts are on sale to reduce our inventory. Sizes available are medium, large and x-large. Sale prices are **\$8.00 for long sleeve tees** (Reg. \$13) and **\$10.00 for sweatshirts** (Reg \$16). This is a good time to shop early for birthday or Christmas gifts.

We currently have **242 members** with a goal of 260 by 9/30/17, the end of our membership year. Thank you to all who have renewed or are new members.

NHS wishes to thank **Igor Blake, Rita James, Barbara Huff, Jean MacConnell and Dick Gassett** who each sent \$100 for the **purchase of a roll-around cart** to help us organize our collection in the annex on the second floor of the courthouse. In addition to the carts already purchased, we hope to add 7 more during the year. Donations for this purpose would be greatly appreciated.

We look forward to seeing you at our offsite venues and invite you to visit the gift shop at the museum on Sundays from 10am to 2pm, or by appointment by calling the museum 603-863-1294, or emailing newporths176@gmail.com. Thank you for supporting the endeavors of the Newport Historical Society!

The promise of spring is in the air. While the winter Museum visitation has been good we are looking forward to the spring and summer Museum traffic. Donations of artifacts are strong for the first quarter of 2017 and we are very pleased. While all donations are treasured, the recent donation of items from Pollards Mills is really welcome and has about doubled what we had.

We are always looking for pictures of Newport from all years, but, the Sunapee Street area from the 1930's through the 1970's is a high priority. We get a lot of requests for pictures of the businesses along Sunapee Street. While Sunapee street was a center for strong family run businesses during these years, photographs seem to be minimal.

We have been working on organizing and preserving the artifacts that we have stored on the second floor of the Old Courthouse. It takes a large volume of items to be able to change displays once a year and not repeat a display within a five-year period. You are making this possible with your donations.

The addition of a photograph from the 1890's of the "Newport Rifles" has opened up a whole new subject of interest. It seems they were the "National Guard" of that day. They were commanded by Captain Ira Stowell, had three officers and thirty-six enlisted men. Searching the archives of the Argus-Spectator and the Republican-Champion has revealed little other than to verify they were a Newport Company. If you have information on the "Newport Rifles", please share it with us.

Harold Perkin's work on Newport genealogy is now at the Museum and available for you to search. His work was very extensive, we are grateful to have it.

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 \$ _____ Buildings _____

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

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